

Luddesdown Parish Council

Email: clerk@luddesdown-pc.gov.uk Website: www.luddesdown-pc.gov.uk



Minutes of a meeting of Luddesdown Parish Council held on Monday 18th November 2024 at 7:30pm in Luddesdown Village Hall

Members Present:

Cllr P Crow
Cllr L Martin
Cllr M Newnes
Cllr J Rossouw
Cllr M Beresford

In Attendance:

Charles Amis – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
One member of the public

Item 1: **Apologies for Absence: To receive and accept apologies**

F.C. 17 Cllr Samir Jassal, Cllr Dakota Dibben, Cllr Brian Sweetland

Item 2: **Declarations of Members' Interests: To receive declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for this meeting**

F.C. 18 There were no declarations of interest.

Item 3: **To approve minutes of the previous Annual Parish Council meeting held on 15.07.24**

F.C. 19 Some amendments needed to be made to the minutes for the 07.10.2024 meeting before they could be approved. It was agreed to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting to be held on 20.01.25.

Item 4: **Highways Improvement Plan**

F.C. 20 There appeared to be more road works in Luddesdown Parish. The road closures and diversion routes do not appear to be thought out. There had been a series of road works along Henley Street where Southern Water had been repairing a leaking water main. **Action:** Clerk to write to Southern Water regarding LPC's concerns on the number of road works.

F.C. 21 LPC had raised their concerns with Emma Tilbury about the removal of the advisory lorry restriction signs. The lorries that were delivering to Silverhand came from the A228 and along Bush Road and Warren Road. The road bridges across the Chatham main line at Henley Street and Batts Road did not have signed weight restrictions although they were on single track roads. **Action:** Clerk to ask Network Rail if there are weight restrictions for the Henley Street and Batts Road bridges.

F.C. 22 KCC Highways had responded to a request from LPC to resurface Lockyers Hill saying that it is on their list to be repaired. The road surface at Lockyers Hill is full of potholes and the verge has collapsed and it could be dangerous for a cyclist to ride down the hill. KCC Highways have resurfaced Leywood Road twice recently. It was noted that KCC Highways had left some potholes unfilled whilst filling in nearby potholes. **Action:** Cllr Rossouw to send Cllr Sweetland photographs of the road surface at Lockyers Hill.

Item 5: Public Session & External Reports

5.1 Public Session

- F.C. 23** A parishioner had asked if LPC had received a planning application from Silverhand for the installation of 50 new wine vats. LPC had not heard or received anything from GBC Planning Department.
- F.C. 24** It was asked if the Luddesdown Rights of Way Group attended the Gravesham Rights of Way Committee (GROWC) meetings. Sally, a parishioner, and Noel Clark, a previous Chair of LPC, had represented Luddesdown at the meetings. **Action:** Sally to ask Ian Sheridan if he attends the GROWC meetings. Cllr Crow offered to represent LPC at the GROWC meetings.
- F.C. 25** The owner of Meadow View wants to divert footpath NS228 so that the right of way passes through a pedestrian gate to the side of the main gate. This will enable the owner to lock the main gate and secure their property whilst allowing pedestrians access to Footpath NS228. It had been raised that mobility impaired people are likely find it difficult to pass through the pedestrian gate but it was noted that the footpath beyond the gate would also be difficult for them to use. All of the parish councillors supported the diversion of Footpath NS228.
- F.C. 26** The Clerk had spoken with Tony Cunis about an exhibition at the 2025 May Fair for the 40th Anniversary of the Ministry of Defence withdrawing their plans for a tank range. Mr Cunis was in full agreement for this course of action. Cllr Marian Beresford had spoken with the Luddesdown Society. A marquee with the memorabilia will be set up at the May Fair.
- F.C. 27** It was suggested that the fly tipping cameras could be set up. However, fly tipping was less of an issue after a serial offender had been prosecuted. The litter picking sessions usually take place in Spring and Autumn. Silverhand are likely to be clearing the litter from their verges. **Action:** Clerk to organise a litter pick for a Saturday in March.
- F.C. 28** There will be a pre-Christmas litter pick in the winter followed by refreshments. **Action:** Cllr Newnes to speak to the local farmers regarding cutting back the hedges.

6.2 Borough Councillors and County Councillor

- F.C. 29** There was no Borough Cllr or County Cllr present. Nothing to report.

6.3 Police and Community Warden

- F.C. 30** There was no Police or Community Warden present at the meeting. A new beat officer, PC Joe Dallarda, had joined PC Jo Hammond to cover the rural areas of Gravesham.

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Item 6: Update on Planning Applications:

F.C. 31

Oakenden – GBC Planning Department have prepared an enforcement notice which is with GBC's legal department. The owner had been changing the profile of the land

Greenacres – The owner had made several requests to register their land as an official address with GBC. GBC has so far turned down the owner's requests.

Silverhand – Silverhand had been turning off their sign in the evening since the July LPC Full Council Meeting.

Item 7: Clerk's Report: To receive a report of items for information from the Clerk

7.1 Community Warden –

F.C. 32

The other five parish councils in Gravesham were considering to sponsor a Community Warden that could be shared amongst the parishes. The community warden who is currently based at Meopham and Vigo parishes will be redeployed by KCC to cover the Singlewell and Coldharbour wards at Gravesend and would share the workload with the Community Warden in Dartford. Luddesdown Parish did not have access to a Community Warden for a long time and it was questioned what the benefits to the parish would be. LPC would need more information on the situation and there would need to be further discussions. The existing Luddesdown Parish Whats App Group is working well.

7.2 Meeting to discuss the setting up of Kent Downs National Nature Reserve –

F.C. 33

Cllr Dymond had organised a meeting for Tuesday 19th November at Luddesdown Village Hall. Mike Phillips, who is a consultant working for the Kent Downs National Landscape. Mike will be speaking about the setting up of the National Landscape/National Nature Reserve. All of the Parish Councils in Gravesham had been invited to attend. Meopham Parish Council have their full council meeting on the same evening. It was suggested that LPC contribute £20 towards the hiring of the village hall. **Action:** Laraine Martin and Marian Beresford offered to attend the meeting.

Item 8: Council Finance

8.1 Schedule of Payments: To approve the schedule of payments up to 18.11.24, in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.2

F.C. 34

The following cheques were signed at the meeting by Cllr Newnes and Cllr Rossouw.

HMRC Payment £242

Clerk's Salary for October and November £686.40

Clerk – reimburse for A4 Paper and plastic pockets £6.65

Royal British Legion – LPC Wreath for Remembrance Sunday £27.50

Grant to Luddesdown PCC for grass cutting at Luddesdown Churchyard £400

Grant to Luddesdown PCC for a free Christmas and Easter edition of the Parish Magazine £118

- F.C. 35** Shaun Fishenden, the former Clerk, had refunded LPC £615.12 after not cancelling an existing standing order that had been set up to pay his salary after he had resigned as clerk.

8.2 Receipts & Payments Report: To note the receipts and payments report up to 07.10.24

- F.C. 36** The R&P report was circulated at the meeting. All were in favour.

8.3 Bank Statement: To receive the bank statement as of 15.07.24

- F.C. 37** The Unity bank statement as of 18.11.24 was noted. Everyone was in agreement.

Item 9: Budget Setting for 2024-2025

9.1 Budget

- F.C. 38** LPC had £17,576.20 in their bank account and cash reserves of £10,000.

9.2 Precept

- F.C. 39** It was agreed to keep the precept, £8,295, the same for 2025-26.

Item 10: Items for Information: To receive reports from all councillors for noting only

- F.C. 40** Cllr Crow had attended, on behalf of LPC, the Remembrance Day service at Luddesdown War Memorial. There were 10 attendees in total.

- F.C. 41** The Clerk had been given the books and papers that had been held by a former parish councillor, Anne Griffiths. **Action:** Clerk to review papers.

The meeting closed at 9pm