

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 7th October 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
Two members of the public

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

F.C. 1 Cllr Samir Jassal, Cllr Dakota Dibben

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

F.C. 2 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. 3 It was agreed to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 15.07.24.

PROPOSED: Cllr Rossouw. SECONDED: Cllr Crow. All in favour.

Item 4: **To co-opt Marian Beresford as a Parish Councillor**

F.C. 4 It was proposed that Marian Beresford be co-opted as a Parish Councillor. All in favour.

Item 5: **Highways Improvement Plan**

F.C. 5 Cllr Crow, Cllr Martin and the Clerk had a meeting on Teams with Emma Tilbury at KCC Highways to set up a new Highways Improvement Plan for Luddesdown Parish. Several traffic issues were discussed. Service Contractors who close the roads did not consider the diversionary routes which could be unsuitable for heavy traffic and the signage for the diversion did not always show the whole route. Luddesdown seemed to have a lot of road closures lately. The advisory unsuitable HGV signs at the entrance to Gold Street at the Sole Street junction had been removed because KCC Highways did not want to encourage HGVs to travel through The Street at Cobham.

It was suggested that village gateways could be installed but there are so many entrances to the village.

The emergency winter plan included farmers offering to help. KCC used to supply grit and snow ploughs for farmers to keep the roads clear.

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It was suggested that Silverhand may be purchasing a field by the war memorial with a long-term aim of turning that into a car park. Henley Street can appear to suffer from speeding traffic although according to KCC Highways, vehicles had been travelling at 29.2 mph. The verges can become overgrown and a boundary along the edge should be left.

Action: Cllr Crow to put a survey on to the website to ask residents the actions they would like to see taken. Cllr Newnes offered to help.

Item 6: Public Session & External Reports

6.1 Public Session

F.C. 6 Luddesdown Rights of Way Group had written to GBC Planning Department objecting to the permitted development rights for the new storage and bottling plant at Cobham House Vineyard. Gold Street is too narrow for HGVs but KCC Highways has said that Gold Street is suitable but Henley Street is not. There had been an objection. **Action:** Cllr Newnes offered to check the 2021 Planning document for the proposed Meopham Vineyard.

Silverhand are running a community event on the 25th and 26th October at Luddesdown Court. Luddesdown Rights of Way Group said they had not heard about any planning applications from Medway Council.

F.C. 7 A parishioner asked if Silverhand had applied for planning permission for the restaurant extension at the Lion PH. Pre-planning was growing through.

F.C. 8 A parishioner asked if LPC would be producing a newsletter this year. There were no plans for a newsletter but LPC may produce a newsletter in the Spring 2025.

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. 9 There was no Borough Cllr or County Cllr present. Nothing to report.

6.3 Police and Community Warden

F.C. 10 There was no Police or Community Warden present. Cllr Hammond runs a surgery at the St John's Centre, Meopham, on Friday mornings on a monthly basis. The Rural Crime Team had pulled in and confiscated a vehicle in Meopham.

Item 7: Planning Applications:

20240773 Little Gables, Wrangling Lane – The owner wishes to install solar panels to a rear flat roof. LPC had no objections.

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20240869 Old Rectory, Luddesdown Road – The owner wishes to demolish the existing orangery and to erect a two storey side and rear infill extension plus the installation of new timber sash windows to replace all of the existing windows and the erection of a link structure between the current house and the existing outbuilding at the front. LPC had no objections.

Action: Clerk to ask GBC Planning Enforcement for an update on Greenacres and Oakenden.

Item 8: Clerk's Report: To receive a report of items for information from the Clerk

F.C. 11 8.1 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Luddesdown – A former resident had wanted to celebrate the 40th Anniversary when the Ministry of Defence decided not to set up a tank training range along the Bowling Alley. A former resident, Tim Cunis, would like an event organised to celebrate the 40th Anniversary. It was suggested that the celebrations could be made a feature at the May Fair which should be taking place on 6th May 2025. **Action:** Cllr Beresford to ask the Luddesdown Society if they would like to help organise an event. Clerk to speak to Tony Cunis about the suggestion for the May Fair.

8.2 Remembrance Day 11th November – The Clerk had ordered wreath with the LPC logo for the Remembrance Day at Luddesdown War Memorial.

Item 9: Council Finance

9.1 Schedule of Payments: To approve the schedule of payments up to 07.10.24, in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.2

F.C. 12 The following cheques were signed at the meeting by Cllr Newnes and Cllr Rossouw.

Clerk's Mileage £12.87

Clerk's Salary for July, August and September £1,029.60

HCI Data Ltd for the renewal of the domain name for 2 years £114

Zurich Municipal Insurance £264

Shaun Fishenden, the former Clerk, will need to refund LPC £615.20 after not cancelling an existing standing order that had been set up to pay their salary.

Action: Clerk to ask Hugo Fox Ltd what the benefits LPC receive from their monthly subscription.

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

F.C. 13 The R&P report was circulated at the meeting. All were in favour.

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

F.C. 14 The Unity bank statement as of 15.07.24 was noted. Everyone was in agreement.

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9.4 Preparation for the Budget Meeting

Action: Clerk to prepare a questionnaire in Survey Monkey to add to the LPC website for local residents to feedback their comments on what they would like to see LPC doing.

9.5 Grant Application from Luddesdown Parochial Church Council

Luddesdown PCC had asked for a grant of £400 towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard and Luddesdown and a further grant of £118 for providing residents with a free copy of the Cobham & Luddesdown Parish Magazine at Easter and Christmas. All were in favour for Luddesdown to receive the grant.

9.6 Grant Application from We are Beams

Clerk to ask We are Beams how many families are supported by them in Luddesdown Parish.

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

The fence beside the pond at Henley Street is dangerous and needs replacing. The overflow water from the pond needs to be directed towards the nearby drain. It appears that KCC own the pond. **Action:** Clerk to report to KCC.

F.C. 16 Cllr Martin had spoken with Silverhand about the removal of the ragwort as it is poisonous to animals. Silverhand said they could not remove the ragwort as it was a pollinator for insects.

Item 11: **Scheme of Delegation**

F.C. 17 The limit for the scheme of delegation is £250. **Action:** Cllr Price to send the Scheme of Delegation used by Meopham Parish Council.

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that due to the confidential nature of the next item, the public and press are asked to leave the meeting.

Item 12: **Unity Trust Bank**

F.C. 18 The Clerk was still waiting for their own login details. **Action:** Clerk to write to the Unity Trust Bank for Cllr Newnes and Cllr Rosseuw to sign.

Item 13: **Clerk's Salary and contract**

F.C. 19 All of the Parish Councillors agreed that the clerk's hours would remain at five hours per week and the clerk's salary would be £17.16 per hour. The Clerk will

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be drafting a contract of employment. The Clerk had received training from MI Payroll on how to use Basic Tools when declaring salary and tax to HMRC.

The meeting closed at 8:58pm