

Luddesdown Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Luddesdown Parish Council held on Monday 20th November 2023 at 7:30pm in Luddesdown Village Hall

Members Present: Cllr P Crow
Cllr L Martin
Cllr M Newnes
Cllr C Price
Cllr J Rossouw

In Attendance: S Fishenden – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Three members of the public

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

F.C. 79 Apologies had been received from Adam Holloway MP and PC Jo Hammond

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

F.C. 80 There were no declarations of interest received.

Item 3: To approve minutes of the previous Full Council meeting: 04.09.23

F.C. 81 This item was deferred until the meeting as councillors reported not receiving a copy of the draft minutes.

Item 4: Public Session & External Reports

4.1 Public Session

F.C. 82 No members of the public wished to speak in public session

4.2 Borough Councillors and County Councillor

F.C. 83 There was no Borough or County Councillor present.

4.3 Police and Community Warden

F.C. 84 There was no Warden or Police Officer present.

Item 5: Clerk's Report: To receive a report of items for information from the Clerk

F.C. 85 The Clerk gave the following verbal report:

- The Clerk had completed the FILCA qualification
- The Clerk and Chairman of Council had met with the Planning Enforcement team recently, they had explained the enforcement process and also will be planning to hold training for parish councillors
- The Big Conversation event had been held in Meopham in November. It was well-received.
- The Chairman of Council had attended the Luddesdown remembrance service

- Item 6: Planning Applications: To agree responses to any planning applications received**
- F.C. 86** It was agreed to make the following responses on applications under consideration:
- 2023116 – Land to the East Of, Brookers Farm, Luddesdown Road, Luddesdown, DA13 0XE**
Retrospective application for the necessary engineering operational works to construct a track to service an associated storage area
- The Council would raise no objection subject to screening of the track
- 2023110 – Land at Brookers Farm, Luddesdown Road, Luddesdown, DA13 0XE**
Engineering works to construct a formal car parking area for Vineyard Farms Ltd office, and winery and vineyard workers; and other use of Brookers Farm
- The Council would support this application as it will alleviate parking on the country lanes
- 20231108 – 3 Reynolds Cottages, Henley Street, Luddesdown, DA13 0XB**
Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of a single storey rear extension with a garage conversion to form habitable space
- It was agreed to reiterate that there was a planning condition on the garage that prevented it from being used as habitable space.
- Item 7: Community Safety and Crime: To discuss recent reports of crime and community safety issues, and to receive an update from the Kent Police Rural Taskforce**
- F.C. 87** The recent incidents on the Silverhand Estate were noted. They had increased security patrols of their estate to try and prevent this continuing.
- The Kent Police Rural Taskforce had provided a written report, confirming they were planning a targeted operation to resolve the recent spate of thefts and damage, and that when they were able to, they would release further details.
- The Parish Council would link the Vineyard in with the PCSO who is part of the Securing the Landscape project.
- Item 8: Luddesdown Church – Grant: To receive an update on the grant request for Luddesdown Parochial Church Council**
- F.C. 88** The legislation governing payments to the church by Parish Council had now been updated as part of the Levelling-up Act.
- The grant of £1,200 would be made to Luddesdown PCC for the parish magazine.
- The Luddesdown vineyard team agreed they would maintain the grass triangle located on Luddesdown Road outside the Village Hall.
- Item 9: General Power of Competence: To resolve to confirm the council's eligibility to hold the General Power of Competence, namely a qualified Clerk and at least two-thirds of elected members**

F.C. 89 The Council confirmed it met the eligibility requirements of a qualified Clerk and two-thirds of elected members, and therefore would hold the General Power of Competence.

PROPOSED: Cllr Price. SECONDED. Cllr Martin. All in favour.

Item 10: Community Governance Review: To discuss and consider sending a letter to Gravesham Borough Council to request a community governance review

F.C. 90 After discussion, it was agreed the priority was to retain local identity and therefore a merger with another parish to generate economies of scale would not be pursued at this stage.

An attempt to secure an alteration of the boundary to include Dode Church within Luddesdown parish would be tried.

Item 11: Budget-Setting for 2024-2025

11.1 Budget: To agree the budget for the 2024-2025 financial year

F.C. 91 It was agreed to set the budget for the 2024-2025 financial year at £8295.00.

11.2 Precept: To set the precept for the 2024-2025 financial year

F.C. 92 It was agreed to set the precept for the 2024-2025 financial year at £8295.00

Item 12: Items for Information: To receive reports from all councillors for noting only

F.C. 93 Cllr Martin reported the drainage pond on Henley Street had still not had its fencing repaired or replaced. The Clerk would follow this up with KCC.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm