



Loxwood Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th September 2020 at 8pm.

20/142 Attendance: Parish Councillors: Rick Kelsey (Chair); Chris Agar; Simon Bates; Chris Kershaw; Annette Gardner; and Roger Newman. CDC Gareth Evans. CDC & WSCC Janet Duncton (left the meeting at and left the meeting at 20/151). Jane Bromley, Clerk. 11 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Parish Councillor: Tony Colling.

20/143 Declaration of Members' Interests – RK item 10 Land at the back of Orchard House non pecuniary interest as a nearby resident.

20/144 Minutes of the Last Meetings – The Parrish Council RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 6th July 2020, the Planning Committee Minutes of the 6th July 2020 and the extra Planning Committee Meeting minutes of 28th July 2020 are accurate records of those meetings.

20/145 Councillor Casual Vacancies: Notification to CDC of councillor vacancies to advertise for bi- election. APPENDIX 1. The Parish Council noted the vacancies and the procedure to fill the vacancies.

20/146 APPENDIX 2 ACTION POINT LIST: The Parish Council noted the list of Action Points no updates were necessary.

20/147 Public Participation – No speakers.

20/148 Report from Chichester District Councillor – Cllr. Gareth Evans.

The Covid-19 District Councillor hotline remains open should residents report any concerns in the community to the Parish Council. August is normally time when workload is slightly lighter but in light of the last few months this has been a particularly busy few months as CDC has been working hard to get services back up and running as well as working on different strands of the recovery plans.

Covid Recovery Grants: Following the allocation of £500,000 at Full Council in July 2020, the Covid Recovery. Grants scheme has been launched with applications to be made from 20 August. The scheme is open for four weeks, although it is anticipated that there will be significant interest in the scheme and the schemes will need to be closed early if demand significantly exceeds the funds available. Full details can be found here:

www.chichester.gov.uk/covidrecoverygrants

For businesses there are two schemes available:

£100,000 for small grants of up to £1,000 – In contrast to all previous grant schemes these small grants allow for retrospective claims against costs that eligible businesses have incurred during the Covid19 emergency, with a real focus on measures that kept staff and customers safe (e.g. Personal Protective Equipment)

£150,000 for larger grants up to £5,000 – funding for projects where businesses are recovering from the impact of Covid. This grant can be used for projects such as adapting premises to help attract visitors, buying additional furniture, marketing and promotion, updating a website to make more services available online.

To be eligible for either of the grants the business must be in the following sectors:- retail in premises, hospitality, leisure, tourism, restaurant, hair and beauty, gym, health and wellbeing and you must employ between 1.5 – 30 full time equivalent employees.

Smaller grants are to be approved by officers and reported to the Grants and Concessions Panel, Larger grants by the Grants and Concessions Panel

South Downs National Park have launched a small grants scheme, awarding funding of between £500 - £2000 to eligible businesses and organisations within the South Downs National Park

As a result of the Council no longer being able to demonstrate a five-year supply of housing the Planning Committee approved an Interim Planning Statement (IPS) to proactively manage the delivery of housing until the Local Plan Review is completed for consultation, and also for the immediate use in the determination of planning applications

Loxwood Claypit application – An application is due to go in for this at the end of the year and as you can imagine neighbouring parishes residents (as well as Loxwood residents are playing close attention to this. I am liaising with various groups on this proposed application which is due to go into WSCC at the end of the year (with CDC acting as consultees). The applicant is organising a series of webinars so residents can find out more and ask questions. The next one is 27th October at 5pm and you can sign up via this link if you want to attend Register in advance for this webinar: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EALLvwJISASgGqlj5FJk5g

Online Surgeries – I continue to conduct meetings with residents via Zoom, Google Hangout, Skype, Video Call or WhatsApp. Contact me at gbevans@chichester.gov.uk / 07958 918 056
20/149 Report from West Sussex County Councillor – Cllr. Janet Duncton.

CDC Cabinet meeting on 8th September. CDC All Parishes Meeting 16th September.

WSCC very busy for August due to after effects of lockdown. Children's commissioners met with WSCC last week and there was still lot of work ahead but the department was heading in the right direction. Fire and Rescue service achieved its action points for improvement so far. All highway contracts had now been given. WSCC ROW officers now back working.

20/150 Clerk's Report. Nothing to report.

20/151 Loxwood Claypits. Discussion. RK attended the webinar held by consultants for the owner of the woodland area. Lorry routes have been amended following points raised at the webinar.

The PC have already sent in comments on a scoping report sent around for consultation by the woodland owners.

RK proposed that this matter be highlighted to the Parish and forthcoming webinars to be held would be published on the website and in the Parish newsletter. **ACTION Clerk**. The Loxwood Society to be asked to publicise as well. The PC have grave concerns for the village with this proposal.

20/153 c) was heard here.

20/152 Land at the back of Orchard House and Farm Close. Discussion.

A map of the location of the field was shown to the meeting. Cllr Kelsey advised that the field owner is looking to sell the field which he had purchased for £55K. The owner, who lives in the Midlands, had advised Cllr Kelsey that travellers were interested in buying the field at £375k. An informal valuation obtained by Cllr Kelsey suggests the field has a value of £20-25K based on agricultural price per hectare. It was envisaged therefore that a purchase price of £375K would suggest the buyer had a commercial or residential plan for the field. The field provides a habitat for wildlife and extends the green space proposed for the Farm Close site in the NP in an arch to Station Road and provides a rural setting for that part of the village. The centre of the village would be greatly impacted if it were used for a commercial or residential purpose.

Cllr Kelsey advised that a resident had confirmed they were interested in purchasing the field to maintain its natural state and would offer £70K and the PC would monitor the situation following the resident making an offer.

20/153 Accounts for payment- Payments totalling £6923.90 were approved for the month and payments totalling £927.46 were ratified for August.

20/154 Updates and items for discussion: -

a) Highway/Roads and Traffic Calming. Nothing to add at this time.

Land South of Loxwood Farm Place an agreement for an additional SID which PC should try to influence positioning.

b) Nursery Site. Nothing further.

c) Drainage/Flooding:

Presentation from Nigel Simmonds (NS) APPENDIX 3;

The Strategy for flood mitigation of the Lox Stream generated by NS had been sent to EA and as a conclusion their response suggests they regard Loxwood Stream and the Lox as very low priority for any funding. It falls on the PC to therefore take the lead. Riparian Owners legally have the responsibility for maintenance of the Lox Stream and NS on behalf of the PC was trying to engage land owners in their responsibility.

Water Environment had concluded their survey work and produced a report. The report ran to many pages and was too complex for the public domain but a flood forum could be held to summarise the results. One recommendation is that the model used is based on theory not with flow data. They feel the model is not accurate enough and if the most is

to be gained flow data should be included in the model. NS is to investigate the cost of obtaining this data which is estimated to be £2k to £3K for the locations required. **ACTION NS** Rainfall measurement data would also be useful and apparatus to measure this can be obtained from the weather centre at relatively low cost. NS recommends the PC purchase this. **ACTION NS** This data would more greatly inform recommendations for flood mitigation measures.

Maintenance work also carried out and there has been identified a blockage on one drain thought to be roots and debris such as plastic bags which has been referred back to SW. Stream survey work also gone ahead and serious erosion of banks in some areas. Stream clearance has taken longer than quoted and a further length identified. A further two days work amounting to an additional £850.

- Cllr Kelsey proposed the PC RESOLVE to fund an additional two days' work for £850 seconded by Cllr Bates and all in favour.
- Cllr Kelsey proposed the PC RESOLVE to purchase rainfall measurement equipment for £160 seconded by Cllr Bates and all in favour.
- Consideration as to whether Water Environment to carry out further inspection survey £5500 net The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve this further work by Water Environment.

Phase I – Works recommended by Water Environment as detailed in the report produced.

- i) Station Road Culvert enlargement. WSCC Highways responsibility who acknowledge this and hopefully will be within the capital plan within the next 2-3 years.
 - ii) Create a flood barrier across entrance to Burley Close. Contractor to be asked for a price. **ACTION NS** and hopefully obtain funding from Operation Watershed.
 - iii) Loxwood school run off to be dealt with. SW would be asked to accept this flow into the sewer. **ACTION NS**
 - iv) Widening of Stream channel for about 150m downstream. NS to get a budget estimate and funding may be available from Operation Watershed. **ACTION NS** Landowner will need to comply.
 - v) Oak Grove blockage. Four residents involved. NS to discuss with them and see how they would like to carry out the work. **ACTION NS**
- d) North Hall. Re-opened Saturday 5th September. Toilets not operational. Covid- 19 prevention measures of a very high standard.
 - e) Farm Close. Nothing Further.

f) School. Work to class rooms ceilings has made a tremendous difference and thanks to the PC for funding this. 178 children with class sizes varying enormously depending on the year.

Pre school want to revamp their outside area and they will apply to PC for funding in due course.

g) Neighbourhood Plan.

- James Garside Contract. APPENDIX 4;
Cllr Agar replace drafting the Plan with preparing the Basic Conditions statement seconded by Cllr Kelsey and all in favour.
- Extra Ordinary Meeting 7pm 14th September 2020 to bring the Parish Council up to date with the Neighbourhood Plan.

20/155 E- Bulletin and Newsletter articles.

Clay pits webinar.

Thanks for attendance at NP Consultations.

Planning applications “commenting link”. Love West Sussex link.

20/156 Parish Matters.

Resident commented on VE 75 bench and wondered why nothing had been done by VJ 75?

Cllr Agar proposed to redo plaque to include VJ day seconded by Cllr Kelsey and all in favour.

ACTION Clerk

20/157 Date of the next scheduled meeting: Parish Council Meeting Monday 5th October 2020.