

LOXWOOD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
REPORT FOR 2018 - 2019 YEAR
HELD ON 26TH APRIL 2019 IN NORTH HALL LOXWOOD

Good evening everyone and welcome to the 2018-19 Loxwood Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting.

For those of you that still don't know me, I am Chris Agar, current Chairman of Loxwood Parish Council. This meeting is held every year and is a required meeting under the local government legislation which all Parish Councils must hold to give residents an update on the activities of their council over the last twelve months. We will try to make it as interesting as possible and there is the added advantage of some refreshments at the end.

As in previous years we will have a couple of presentations, one by PCSO Rick Moorey on the subject of SPAM, that annoying uninvited mail that you get through your letter box and e-mail systems and which can be very damaging for some vulnerable people who don't know how to deal with it.

Tony Colling will also give us an update on where we are with our revised Neighbourhood Plan and related Planning and development matters affecting the parish.

We will try to keep the formal part of this meeting as short as possible so that we can relax in an informal manner over a glass of wine and John Murray's delicious nibbles so that you can talk to any of the parish councillors present tonight.

To start with then I will give you a state of the nation update on the activities and finances of the Parish.

Firstly, you may or may not know that council elections are to be held this year on 2nd May 2019. This would normally include your Loxwood PC councillors who are up for re-election every 4 years. As it happens, 6 out of our nine councillors have applied to re-stand for election and there was one external application from the public to become a PC member. As no-one else put themselves forward, they were all re-elected unopposed. Therefore, we will not be having an election for LPC councillors on the 2nd of May.

The councillors re-elected with effect from the 2nd May are:-

Myself, Chris Agar; Tony Colling; Rick Kelsey; Annette Gardner; Simon Bates; Simon Laker and our new councillor Chris Kershaw. Chris has been a pc member before so will be a welcome returning addition to our team. The two vacant positions may be filled by the Council co-opting members of the public who put themselves forward for consideration. As it happens, Roger Newman wished to continue being a PC member but was unable to apply in time. As an existing member it is likely that we will co-opt him back into the council at the first meeting in May.

Our Parish Clerk, Jane Bromley has now set up a new Parish Web site and email addresses for parish councillors to meet the requirements of the recent new General Data Protection Regulations. The LPC web site address is now www.loxwood-pc.gov.uk

May I thank all the present and retiring councillors for their hard work and dedication as unpaid servants of the Parish and also the parish Clerk Jane Bromley

In terms of the parish finances, we remain in a healthy state. Our precept income went up slightly over the previous year, 2017-18, partly due to the increase in the number of residents in the Loxwood parish. We have deliberately kept our expenditure to remain within our precepted budget and we have opened up a deposit account to accommodate the CIL monies that have been paid to us as a consequence of the Nursery Site development. Last year we were paid £110k and this year

we were paid the balance owed to us of almost £97k. As some of you may know CIL replaces the old S106 monies that developers are required to pay CDC of which a portion comes to the parish. CIL, however, is a fixed levy per square metre of new developments and because we have a fully made Neighbourhood Plan, we get 25% of this sum. If we did not have an NP it would be only 15%, so the NP was certainly worth the effort of doing for a number of reasons. Should the numbers of new houses increase as per CDC's New Local Plan Preferred Approach 2020-2035 document, we should benefit from significant further injections of CIL money as a consequence. More about that from Tony later.

We have also benefitted from a grant application to Operation Watershed, a fund set up by West Sussex County Council to assist villages/towns in the area who are in need of making improvements to defences against flooding etc. Our activity within our Flood Forum has allowed us to apply for such a grant and we received almost £26k towards our flood mitigation work. Some of this has already been spent on the investigation and assessment of the Loxwood stream by a private company called Water Environments, who have modelled the stream's flow and identified possible critical paths and to determine what actions could be usefully taken to mitigate future flood situations at times of heavy rainfall. Other monies have been put aside from reserves to contribute towards any major improvement works deemed necessary. This all takes a long time to put together and to see any visible results, but the progress being made is significant and worthwhile.

Altogether our receipts and income for the year was £170,495 and our total expenditure was £95,165. This meant that we moved £75,330 to our general reserves. However the main part of this has been the CIL monies received from CDC. Our total general reserves are £197k of which £157k is the balance of CIL monies not spent. The balance of reserves are earmarked for future expenditure on traffic Calming, Flood Mitigation and support for village facilities such as the Doctor's Surgery and Loxwood Primary School.

Our annual outgoings are grouped into categories such as Administration; Grants: Property and property maintenance; Neighbourhood Plan and Services to the village. We spent the following amounts against each of these categories during the last financial year.

Administration	£12,792
Grants	£ 8,998
Property and property maintenance	£64,916
Neighbourhood Plan	£ 302
Village services	£ 2,483

Enough of the boring stuff. What major projects have we supported this last year.

Many of you will know that North Hall has a new storage facility and a new barrier entrance. These were both supported in the main by the PC. North Hall is a significant village asset and LPC believes a significant proportion of parish residents benefit from improvements to these assets where necessary and sensible.

The Speed Indicator Device known as SID has been in operation throughout the year and we have now 3 locations in both directions where we can mount the SID and discourage antisocial speeding through our Village. We have also run numerous Community Speedwatch sessions at various locations including Alfold Bars and I continue to be amazed at the high speeds that some inconsiderate antisocial drivers do through our built up areas. Needless to say this activity will continue and I advise all Local residents to observe the speed limits as you never know when and where we may be operating next. This activity does have an effect on traffic speed as when we don

the bright yellow fluorescent jackets and sit at the roadside, traffic speeds dramatically reduce for most people.

Many of you will have read that we were successful in defending the right of way known as Nepp Lane. It has taken many years of determined effort by a small dedicated group of individuals supported by the PC, but in February we won the day and Nepp Lane is now an official public right of Way. You will have noticed that WSCC have already cleared the pathways and erected a new footbridge across the stream which traverses the route. I recommend everyone to take a stroll down what was probably once an old drover's route from Spy Lane and Station Road to the Onslow Arms and Church.

As of today, we now have a newly repaired and painted Village Sign that unfortunately blew down over the winter. The PC has sanctioned a similar renovation for the other village sign on the other side of the road which displays our previous awards for the best kept village.

We have replaced a damaged door to our Telephone kiosk which doubles up as our Defibrillator location next to the Post Office. And the LCGI group continue to maintain our green spaces and gardens and have introduced more livestock in the form of carved Pigs and figures for the amusement of everyone particularly the children. The Children's playground is also the subject of regular maintenance and we have had the entrance way re-laid with embedded matting and grass seed to try and reduce the wear and tear there. The playground equipment itself is subject to regular annual maintenance and monthly inspections.

I think that is enough of our activities to bore you with. Tony will cover the planning and development and revised Neighbourhood plan aspects, but I would now like to introduce Rick Moorey one of WSCC PCSOs who is going to talk to us about SPAM.

Now I will ask Tony Colling to update us on the revised Neighbourhood plan activity and other planning matters within the parish.

All that remains for me to do now is to thank you all for coming along tonight and for showing your support for the Parish Council. The Councillors who are present here tonight are very happy to remain and discuss any parish matters you wish to raise with them or you can contact our parish Clerk, Jane, who receives all correspondence on behalf of the PC.

Chris Agar
Chair Loxwood Parish Council