



# Loxwood Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of Loxwood held in the Mursell Room, North Hall, Loxwood on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 at 8pm.

19/204 Attendance: Parish Councillors: Chris Agar (Chair); Tony Colling; Rick Kelsey; Simon Laker; Chris Kershaw; and Annette Gardner.

CDC & WSCC Janet Duncton (left after 19/211). CDC Gareth Evans.

Jane Bromley, Clerk.

3 members of the public

Apologies for absence – Parish Councillor: Roger Newman and Simon Bates.

Parish Councillor John Lewis did not attend.

19/205 Declaration of Members' Interests: Cllr Gardner and Cllr Laker declared an interest in Brewhurst Lane Potholes which was due to their properties fronting the lane and therefore the means of access to their properties.

19/206 Minutes of the Last Meetings – The Parish Council RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019, the Planning Committee Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 are accurate records of those meetings.

19/207 Resignation of Chair of the Flood Forum Tony Colling and Election of new Chair. Cllr Kelsey nominated himself as new Chair of the Flood Forum proposed by Cllr Colling and seconded by Cllr Agar and all in favour. Cllr Colling was proposed as Vice Chair by Cllr Kelsey and he accepted the nomination seconded by Cllr Agar and all in favour.

19/208 APPENDIX 1 ACTION POINT LIST: The Parish Council updated the list of Action Points.

19/209 Public Participation – None.

19/210 Report from Chichester District Councillor – Cllr. Gareth Evans.

## By-Election

My congratulations to Janet on her recent election success. I am sure she shares my passion to work hard and with integrity for the good of our community and to serve it to the level that this huge honour of office deserves.

## General Election

Takes place in Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. CDC have asked me to ask Parish Councils and Community groups to be vigilant of any tensions within the community that might emerge (particularly with this election). Any concerns can be passed onto the Parish Councillors

## Proud to care

Launched in West Sussex – careers in care for local people. We have been asked to publicise this

[www.proudtocarewestsussex.com](http://www.proudtocarewestsussex.com) or follow and retweet on twitter @ProudtoCareWS

#### District Council Related news

Coop application Loxwood – I continue to monitor this closely and am due to speak with the officer on 2<sup>nd</sup> December in order to ascertain whether they are minded to approve or reject this application. I remain committed to red card on behalf of the Parish Council if minded to reject. Should I not manage to make contact with the officer I will be in CDC for the Cabinet and Full Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and will speak to the officer in person. I have also had close conversations with the Nursery Green Group who as we know are opposed to this application. They have asked me to red card on their behalf and I have informed them that I am not willing to do this. They also reached out to The Green party who will not red card on their behalf. I am sure they will also reach out to my new co-councillor in due course. I have supported the Nursery Green group as much as possible in order they can get their concerns across. I will update as and when I have further information

Zebra Crossing – A number of residents have contacted me about a Zebra crossing. I am keen to explore whether a community campaign can be launched to help enable this. I believe this is something the Parish Council has explored in the past so would like to discuss this on another occasion

As an FYI have been contacted by a resident in Strood Green, Wisborough Green regarding excessive bike noise and speed on the A272. This came about after the resident attended one of my Councillor surgeries in Kirdford. I suggested they also contact Parish Councils of Kirdford and Wisborough Green as I know this has been an issue which has come up before. I have also written to the police. They might contact Loxwood PC for advice

Crouchlands (Lagoon 3) – I have written to Dr. Sabrina Cohen-Hatton, Chief Fire Officer at West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service team and to Andrew Frost at CDC to raise my concerns over the lack of action regarding Lagoon 3 and the genuine safety risk that it poses. In the short term (and given recent excessive rainfall) I asked that the water to be pumped off from the top of the lagoon to ensure that the structure does not collapse. This is essential as the EA in their report state that the structure is not safe. This letter was sent on the 1<sup>st</sup> November and to date I have received a short only from Sabrina's assistant. The letter stated they were aware but did not commit to any of the action requests. I was interviewed on BBC Sussex regarding this on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November. I also am now in possession of the Emergency Plan which I obtained under the FOI act. This was forwarded to the Clerks of both Kirdford and Plaistow and Ifold Parish Councils

#### Upcoming Surgeries

My next District Cllr Surgeries are on the following Saturdays from 11am to 1pm:

7<sup>th</sup> December, The Stag Inn, Balls Cross

4<sup>th</sup> January, Old Mill Café, Wisborough Green

18<sup>th</sup> January, Half Moon Inn, Northchapel

1<sup>st</sup> February, Plaistow Stores

15<sup>th</sup> February, Kirdford Stores

Hopefully it is not too early to say this but Merry Christmas!

19/211 Report from Chichester District Councillor and West Sussex County Councillor – Cllr. Janet Duncton. Janet was congratulated on her election as a Chichester District Councillor by the Chair.

A scrutiny Committee is to be set up for the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. JD hosted a foster parents' reception in Crawley which was a good event and appreciated by all.

JD had made a strong point regarding the salting of the B2133 during snowy weather and also took on board the poor state of the road through the centre of the village to pass back to Highways. ACTION JD

19/212 Clerk's Report. The Clerk commented that 3 residents had attended the Open Session event ahead of the Parish Council meetings and a good discussion had ensued.

Resident Correspondence Brewhurst Lane Potholes. Residents expressed alarm at the poor state of Brewhurst Lane especially where Southern Water use the Lane to reach the treatment works. It was advised that the residents contact the owner of the Lane who has some agreement with southern Water regarding their responsibility to contribute to the maintenance of the Lane.

19/213 APPENDIX 2 Resident Suggestions for Parish Improvements. Discussion.

The list provided by the resident was gone through:

- I. The use of CIL to investigate and apply for TRO banning the use of the B2133 for Heavy goods vehicles except for access only (this is because the road is used as a cut through from London and Shoreham).  
*The Clerk would contact WSCC Highways to ascertain whether they would now consider this as it had previously been rejected by WSCC Highways at the time of the work on the Neighbourhood Plan.* ACTION Clerk
- II. The commissioning of an oak and iron information board detailing the history of the village.  
*Councillors felt that Loxwood was not a tourist destination and what interest there was in the village from outside was concentrated at the Canal where there was already an information board. The history of the village was already on the Lox Society website and in the Neighbourhood Plan point 6.2*
- III. Replace the rotten bus shelter near to the duck pond on Vicarage Hill.  
*The bus shelter was to be cleared of debris and brambles and then it would be looked at for necessary repairs.* ACTION Cllr Newman
- IV. Repaint/Paint the railings at the culvert where the River Lox goes under the B2133.  
*WSCC Highways would be asked to paint their railings.* ACTION Clerk
- V. Plant a replacement specimen tree at the junction of Spy Lane and Guildford Road to replace the TWO large trees felled on the village hall grounds.  
*WSCC Highways would be asked if the Parish Council could plant a tree on this junction.* ACTION Clerk

- VI. Liaise with the owners of the duck pond by the butcher to improve visual appeal, including painting railings, replanting etc.  
*The owners would be written to, to ask if they could improve this area.* ACTION Clerk
- VII. Re-site the best kept village sign so that it is more prominent in the village, maybe at the junction of Spy Land and Guildford Road.  
*All Councillors felt the sign was in the correct central position. It was soon to be renovated.*

19/214 APPENDIX 3 PRECEPT 2020-2021. The Parish Council are recommended to approve a precept of £44565 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the precept as recommended by the Finance Committee of £44565 and authorised the Clerk and RFO to advise CDC accordingly. ACTION Clerk

19/215 New Dog Bag Bin Location. Discussion. The original location chosen for the siting of a new dog bin had not been approved by the land owner. An alternative site opposite on the footpath between Blacklands and the proposed Co Op site was suggested and WSCC JD was to investigate in whose ownership that area resided in order that the Parish Council could seek approval for the location. ACTION JD/Clerk

19/216 CAGNE- Action Campaign Funding and questionnaire. The Parish Council to consider offering funding support for CAGNE.

The Parish Council RESOLVED NOT to support the campaign with funding but asked the Clerk to include in the newsletter copy a note to residents to complete the questionnaire that had been circulated on the Gatwick third runway proposal. ACTION Clerk

19/217 Accounts for payment- Approval of Expenses for the month. The payments for the month of £13,139.29 were approved.

19/218 Updates and items for discussion: -

- a) Highway/Roads and Traffic Calming.

It was proposed to gather some sort of consensus on what further traffic calming measures could be implemented in the village by various means. Firstly, the PCSO Jess Cambers was to visit on 6<sup>th</sup> January to speak at the Parish Council meeting. It was intended that she be questioned regarding what the Police could offer to support the Speed Watch Group in the actions. In addition a questionnaire was to be sent out by the NP Steering Group and questions regarding traffic calming measures would be asked to gather evidence in the support of a Community Highways Application. This was a long-term plan and an eventual solution as some way off.

- b) Nursery Site. It was to be noted by the Parish Council that a letter of Complaint had been sent to CDC regarding the conduct of the Parish Council in responding to the Nursery

Commercial Site Planning Applications. The Clerk would await any action by the Monitoring Officer at CDC.

- c) Drainage/Flooding. A meeting of the Flood Forum Group had been held on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Modelling of the flood issues and impact of mitigation had been presented. The Consultant was working on a priority list at present after a rerun to account for Clay not Loam substrate. A meeting with the Parish Council and Operation Watershed with the Consultant would then take place to investigate what could be achieved.
- d) North Hall. Nothing to report.
- e) Farm Close. Nothing to report'.
- f) School. The Clever touch Screens had been installed and greatly appreciated.
- g) Neighbourhood Plan. The Call for sites was taking place and would end on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Site assessing would then commence. A NP Grant had been obtained to pay for Consultancy costs.

19/219 E- Bulletin and Newsletter articles. CAGNE Questionnaire; DC Surgeries; Open session Call for Sites.

19/220 Parish Matters. None.

19/221 Date of the next meeting: Parish Council Meeting Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**The meeting closed at 10.05pm**