



# Loxwood Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of Loxwood held in the Mursell Room, North Hall, Loxwood on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 8pm.

19/182 Attendance: Parish Councillors: Chris Agar (Chair); Tony Colling; Rick Kelsey; Roger Newman; John Lewis; Simon Bates; Simon Laker; Chris Kershaw; and Annette Gardner.. WSCC Janet Duncton (arrived during 19/185 and left after 19/188).

Jane Bromley, Clerk.

4 members of the public

Apologies for absence –CDC Gareth Evans.

19/183 Declaration of Members' Interests – Cllr Newman a non- pecuniary interest in item 19/192 as a Governor of Loxwood School.

19/184 Minutes of the Last Meetings – The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019, the Planning Committee Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 as accurate records of those meetings.

19/185 APPENDIX 1 ACTION POINT LIST: The Parish Council updated the list of Action Points.

19/186 Public Participation – There were three speakers. A resident regarding the problem of dog fouling around the village. The resident described the problem was now getting out of hand and called for action by the Parish Council. This was discussed by the Council at item 19/191.

The Loxwood School Bursar spoke regarding the school grant application. That for Clear Touch Screens to replace the dilapidated screens currently on offer in the classrooms. She described the tremendous educational advantage of these interactive screens. Secondly the Bursar described the problem with the drop ceiling tiles and inefficient lighting in the classrooms. The tiles being broken such that the ceiling cavity was visible and discoloured creating a shabby feel to the classrooms. The Bursar explained the school was allocated £6000 a year for maintenance which just wasn't enough to carry out major projects such as this. The Parish Council discussed the applications under 19/192

North Hall Trustee responded to any questioning regarding the Hall and also see 19/198 d).

19/187 Report from Chichester District Councillor – Cllr. Gareth Evans was unable to attend due to illness but sent in his report. At the full CDC council meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> September was the conservative cabinet's response to the consultation on meeting times. Those that are not aware CDC currently holds all of its meetings during the day whilst 95% of all district councils across England and Wales. We argued that day time meetings were discriminating against those of working age or with other commitments (i.e. care) from being able to serve and to perform this role at the highest standard by being able to attend all meetings at CDC. District Councillors do

not receive a salary and therefore many of us do not have the financial means to not to work. The current set up means that the majority that sit on council are retired or affluent and is not reflective of the society it serves. It should also be noted that we argued that being more flexible with when meetings are held allows residents and parish councils to attend meetings and have their voices heard meaning more people are able to engage on the democratic process. The council will be stronger with a variety of working people bringing differing skillsets as well as the great experience of those that are retired. Comments are often made about the disengagement of young people in the political system at all levels but it is hardly surprising if the system is closed off to them. The decision on the 24<sup>th</sup> Sept was this matter was closed and would not be reviewed until 2023 (i.e. after the next district council elections). I don't think this is good enough and it was even more ironic that I was unable to attend this full council meeting as I had received the OFSTED call so it was all hands-on deck at work.

I now have agreement from Plaistow and Ifold, Wisborough green and Kirdford parishes who have agreed to write letters to CDC supporting this. I would like to ask whether this parish would also be willing to do the same. I am also launching a non-political petition to raise awareness of this issue

### **Councillor resignation**

Natalie Hume resigned as District Councillor on the Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September. The by election will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November

### **Brexit (message from CDC)**

I have been asked by CDC with Brexit likely to be a hot topic of this election and given the strong views falling on either side within our communities to monitor any potential for community tensions. We have been asked to remain vigilant and report any concerns regarding behaviour or comments on social media relating to race or specifically targeted negativity around Brexit to your District Councillor who will feed these to Pam Busby

The email address for Pam Bushby is [pbushby@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:pbushby@chichester.gov.uk) and the Communities team can be contacted using [community@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:community@chichester.gov.uk).

### **Climate Emergency Plan**

On 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020 the Environmental Panel will present their draft Climate Emergency Action Plan and present this plan back to Cabinet in January 2020. The plan will set out the actions the Council proposes to take in order to address the climate emergency, and the resources required to implement the plan.

19/188 Report from West Sussex County Councillor – Cllr. Janet Duncton. Weather stations at Bury and Kinsley Hill had been upgraded to provide an efficient early warning of impending bad weather. This was important to agriculture and seaside areas in West Sussex as well as for the emergency services.

Hall & Woodhouse Brewers across Sussex have a community fund that organisations can apply for funding from.

Children's services in West Sussex continue to strive for improvement.

A new Hospice had opened in Chichester offering 14 beds.

The Queens award for voluntary services for the mediation service was to be held in Crawley tomorrow and JD would be attending.

19/189 Clerk's Report. North Hall clothes bank resident correspondence. A resident had pointed out that the charity clothes bank by the North Hall entrance was poorly located and would encourage the accumulation of rubbish and clothes over flow by the door. The Parish Council agreed with the resident and asked The North Hall Trustee if he had any concerns. The Trustee was monitoring the situation but it was likely this facility would be returned to the charity in due course.

19/190 Letter of support for District Councillor to support review of meeting times at Chichester District Council to include some evening meetings. As a majority view the Parish Council RESOLVED to support the Districts Councillors call for a review of CDC meeting times to include some meetings in the evening. They felt as well as benefiting working Councillors this would also benefit the general public. The Clerk would write a letter of support from the Council. ACTION Clerk

19/191 APPENDIX 2 Dog bins and dog bag dispensers Consideration to supply further bins and the bag facility following comments by residents on state of pavements. After hearing from the resident about the ongoing problem of dog fouling around the village the Parish Council RESOLVED to supply dog poo bags dispensers in the 5 locations of dog bins adding an additional dog bin opposite Nursery green to the four already in the village. ACTION Clerk

19/192 APPENDIX 3a and 3b Loxwood School Grant Applications for £11375.00 and £16864.00. Consideration for grant towards Clever Touch Screens for the school and Ceiling and Lighting works.

The Council considered the two grants and after hearing from the Bursar with regard to the Clever touch E=Screens felt that these would greatly benefit the children of the school. They approved to use an unused Ear Marked Capital Reserve for the purpose of funding these Screens.

The Parish Council asked WSCC Janet Duncton to look into the problem of the ceilings at the school and as to why despite being asked over many years WSCC would not fund the repair of

the ceilings or upgrade the lighting. In the meantime, the Clerk was to ask CDC whether this was a suitable project for CIL monies. ACTION Clerk.

19/193 APPENDIX 4 LCGI grant application £28.50. Hi Vis Jackets. The Parish Council RESOLVED to pay for the jackets. ACTION Clerk

19/194 APPENDIX 5 Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Form. Discussion regarding the update required and allocation of this task to be completed by 17<sup>th</sup> November. This was once again to be updated by Cllr Colling. ACTION TC

19/195 Flood Forum Meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 11.30am Mursell Room North Hall: The Councillors were advised of this meeting and invited to attend if they were able.

19/196 Accounts for payment- Expenses of £2754.29 were approved for the month for the month and expenditure of £292.50 on a new bench for the playground was ratified.

19/197 Drug dealing problem in Loxwood- Discussion. Cllr Agar had met with the PCC regarding another issue of arson in the village and also discussed the ongoing drugs problem evidence of which can be seen in certain areas including outside North Hall. The PCC asked that parishioners are asked to be vigilant and to report any suspicious behaviour. The newly allocated PCSO Jason Lemm would be invited to come to a Parish Council meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting to speak on this topic. ACTION Clerk

19/198 Updates and items for discussion: -

a) Highway/Roads and Traffic Calming. The Nicholsfield Name sign was reported as broken and the Clerk would report this to WSCC using the website [www.love.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.love.westsussex.gov.uk) ACTION Clerk

b) Nursery Site. This had been reported upon in the Planning Meeting.

c) Drainage/Flooding. A Flood Forum Meeting was planned for 13<sup>th</sup> November at 11.30am in the Mursell Room of North Hall. It was a public meeting and the agenda would shortly be published. This meeting had been called to discuss the results of the surveys carried out along the Lox Stream earlier this year. ACTION Clerk

d) North Hall. The North Hall trustee had asked the owner of the land to the North of the Hall whether it could be used by North Hall for a Petanque Terrain as a Petanque club was looking for a new home. Petanque being a form of Boules.

e) Farm Close. Nothing to report.

f) School. Cllr Newman asked that the problems of parking around the school be addressed by the PCSO.

g) Neighbourhood Plan. A meeting had been held on 21<sup>st</sup> October. The Policies were gradually being updated a Call For Sites would be sent out in December with a form for site proposers to complete available on the website. The next Neighbourhood Plan meeting was on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

19/199 E- Bulletin and Newsletter articles. The Parish council Open Session would be advertised again. The New PCSO. Christmas wishes. New dog bag dispensers.

19/200 Parish Matters. Both Cllr Lewis and Bates sent apologies for the next meeting.

19/201 Date of the next meetings: Finance Meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Parish Council Meeting Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

19/202 Closure of meeting to the public

19/203 APPENDIX 6 Approval of Clerks overtime claim for September and October. The Overtime claim was approved.

**The meeting closed at 10.30pm**