



Loxwood Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of Loxwood held on Monday 6th December 2021 at 8pm in the main hall North Hall.

166/2021 ATTENDANCE: Parish Councillors: Parish Councillors: Rick Kelsey (Chair); Tony Colling; Roger Newman; Annette Gardner; Chris Agar; Charles Todhunter. CDC Cllr Susan Taylor.

3 members of the public.

Jane Bromley, Clerk.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Parish Councillor Simon Bates; Hannah Carey. WSCC and CDC Janet Duncton. CDC Gareth Evans.

167/2021 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS: None.

168/2021 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings on 1st November 2021, and the Planning Committee Minutes of the 1st November 2021 as accurate accounts of those meetings.

Item 170/2021 was heard here.

169/2021 **APPENDIX 1 ACTION POINT LIST:** The Parish Council updated the list of Actions.

170/2021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

170.1 A resident asked if a road mirror be placed at the end of Burley Close.

170.2 CDC Cllr Susan Taylor spoke about the Water Neutrality issue for the northern parishes in Chichester District.

Cllr Taylor had written to the Parish Councils regarding the Water Neutrality situation. Four Districts were affected Horsham Crawley Mid Sussex and Chichester North Parishes. A long -term solution will be expensive and take along time and be implemented beyond 2027. An interim solution is being sought. A meeting was held today with Natural England and the Environment Agency as well as Southern Water in attendance. The North Parishes is almost all residential and so harvesting grey water is not possible. It may be possible to gain credits from areas that do have industrial units to harvest grey water. Another solution is to restrict litres consumed a day for existing housing. Local Authorities are seeking legal advice as to whether new housing can have a limit to litres consumed each day as a legal requirement. Districts are now requiring water

neutrality for an application to be considered for permission. This is a complex situation and any solution will need to be combined across the districts.

Cllr Agar asked if transmission across water zones was prohibited which was contained within the Horsham and Crawley report which had been published. Cllr Taylor would need to look into this.

Cllr Colling asked if Michael Gove MP had been approached as Minister for Housing. Cllr Taylor agreed political pressure was needed.

Cllr Colling explained the situation with regard to the Loxwood Neighbourhood Plan and that it would seem this would not be able to go forward until a solution for Water Neutrality was found. Cllr Taylor has every sympathy as the same situation existed for the CDC Local Plan.

Cllr Agar mentioned medium term solutions of sewerage works contributing clean water to the system or desalination. Cllr Taylor advised it would be Natural England who would or would not approve any water neutral schemes.

Cllr Colling advised a planning application for 19 houses had been refused as water neutrality was not addressed in any form. The site proposers have been asked for an HRA which was not submitted.

Cllr Colling asked about item 5 on the planning committee agenda for CDC. The District even with a 5-year housing supply, would in future rely on the IPS (interim policy statement) and the affect on this would be the policies in the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan would not apply. Cllr Taylor advised the housing policies in the current Local Plan were out of date and that is why the IPS would now be relied upon as there were up to date allocated sites. This would also apply to the Neighbourhood Plan whose site policies were also out of date.

Cllr Colling advised the revised site allocation policies were sitting with CDC in the revised plan at the moment.

Cllr Colling advised he was to speak to the CDC Planning Committee regarding this point.

171/2021 REPORT FROM WSCC JANET DUNCTON- First of all of course the Loxwood Claypit application still has not come to committee.

There is no December Planning committee and I have told the Officers I definitely want it at the January meeting because as things stand at the moment, I can't be at the February meeting plus because the diary has given a short amount of time between the February and March Planning meetings I am likely to miss that one as well so here's hoping it comes to January.

The road to Chichester from Petworth the A285 is progressing well and very soon it will be open controlled by traffic lights for a single line of traffic. They hope to have it open completely well before Christmas if all goes to plan. They were working 7 days a week but this has now been reduced to the normal 5 days but they are getting on with it.

I mentioned before the new Fire Station at Broadbridge Heath. Planning is going in for this very shortly and the Capital budget is in place so watch this space.

Talking budgets, we have had workshops for the 21/22 budget and if it is voted through as per our discussions our budget will be balanced without any significant cut backs. I would like to think this is for the future as well but at the moment we know things will get tougher financially. No real predictions but watch this space as time goes by.

I must always mention the Children's Services as these are such an important part of County Council. Things are still progressing in the right direction and it is so important that it continues in this way.

The numbers in Care have gone up significantly in the last year or so and all these youngsters deserve a good start in life. We try and make sure that they get the sort of start that child get in

their families and it would be no secret that some of the youngsters have not had a good start so we do our best to put this right. Obviously, there are some hiccups but mostly we do our best for them all.

The Leader, Cabinet member and Chief Executive along with Planning Officers are meeting on the highest level possible to try and get answers out of Natural England as to what the next steps are. It is an absolute fact that everything is being done that we can do and despite some Parish's thinking differently I can assure you that Chichester is working closely also with Horsham and Crawley with continued contact between them all and the Cabinet members have constant talks about the situation plus if you go to our website, you can see what the latest information is. Not a happy situation I am afraid but everyone is trying hard to get some answers.

You will probably know already that Chichester now has its Housing land supply in place so one step closer to getting the Local Plan review up for examination. It's a long haul but eventually we get there, I am sure.

You will know we have 2 Solar Farms one at Westhampnett and one at Tangmere. These are now proving very effective.

The Tangmere one is producing 5,235 MWh and there are 18000 panels on site and the Westhampnett one which is larger with 26000 panels is producing 7.285 MWh making a total of 12.520 MWh.

It has prevented the release of 3 tons of carbon and can heat 4300 average homes a year.

Solar Panels have been installed on 80 of our School between 2017 and 2018.

We also installed Batteries to store electricity when needed by the National Grid at Westhampnett for 4MW and at Halewick Lane, Sompting more storage batteries were installed for 12MW.

All in all it looks quite promising.

Finally, I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new Year. Look forward to seeing you in January but in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me if there is something you need me to look into and you can contact me

on jdunton@chichester.gov.uk, janet.dunton@westsussex.gov.uk or mobile 07979152898.

172/2021 REPORT FROM CDC GARETH EVANS-

Loxwood Claypit Update: Current information is that this will go to the 11th January 2022 WSCC Planning Committee meeting. Updates will come in due course.

Lagoon 3 progress update: Date has been scheduled for the 11th January 2022 for a progress review meeting at 3pm

Plaistow and Ifold Neighbourhood Plan: A review meeting will take place on Tuesday 14th December 2021 at 10am

District Councillor Surgeries: My final surgery of the year will be held at The Onslow Arms in Loxwood on Saturday 11th December. Residents are welcome to join to share any issues they need help with or to share some Christmas Joy.

Chichester District Council Updates :

Covid 19 : With cases of the new variant residents are reminded that they can get lateral flow tests <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Once ordered they will usually be delivered the next day

Test and Trace Support Scheme: The Test and Trace Support Scheme (which pays eligible residents up to £500 to self-isolate) has been extended up to 31 March 2022. For further information please visit www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances

Local Plan: CDC report that they have received some positive feedback from residents regarding the Local Plan article in the November issue of initiatives. Many said that they better understood the challenges faced by the council after reading the article. They have also been issuing the regular Local Plan email newsletter and issued a series of news releases.

Southern Gateway: A progress report will be going to Cabinet and Council on 7 December 2021.

Safer Online Shopping: Many of us go online to do our Christmas shopping and this gives those criminals who seek to defraud us ample opportunity. CDC have shared the following link to help safeguard against fraud www.getsafeonline.org/safeshopping

You might be interested to know Chichester District had the highest number of people aged over 60 who were victims of fraud between April and June of this year. Collectively, they lost over £3 million, which was the highest in the county. This is something CDC, along with Sussex Police and others are tackling.

Finally... A quieter report as we head towards the end of 2021. I would like to sign off by wishing the Parish Council and its hardworking Parish Councillors a very happy Christmas and a successful new year! As ever if there is anything I can follow up on your behalf please let me know

173/2021 2022 2023 PRECEPT. The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Precept requirement for 2022/2023 as £45190 as recommended by the Finance Committee. **APPENDIX 2a.**

174/2021 EAR MARKED RESERVES: The Parish Council to RESOLVED to approve the Finance Committees Recommendation to transfer the flood mitigation Ear Marked reserve of £14913 into the Traffic Calming Ear Marked Reserve currently £15000 **APPENDIX 2b.**

175/2021 NORTH HALL CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR 2023: Further car park works est. £46K gross; photovoltaic roof panels including battery storage est.£30K gross. Discussion on Parish Council offering a grant for this from CIL. **APPENDIX 3.**

The Parish Council discussed the North Hal Plans and would consider this more fully when grant applications were submitted to them, they were not opposed to the suggestions, in the meantime they would be added to the CIL Infrastructure Plan. **ACTION Clerk.**

176/2021 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT -The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve payments of £1914.14 for December 2021 and they ratified the payment to Mr Treehouse of £1072.80. The Parish Council asked that the Clerk go back to the Zip Wire specialist to advise that the costs of the repair seemed excessive as it seemed that only a shackle had been replaced and could we have a breakdown the schedule of works. The shackle has been replaced like for like when the previous shackle failed so how can this be justified. **ACTION Clerk**

177/2021 APPROACH TO STONEWATER (Thakeham site) FOR A GRANT TOWARDS COMMUNITY PROJECTS: Discussion. Stonewater will not be paying CIL for their development as the homes were all to be affordable. Cllr Colling proposed the Parish Council ask for some Community Contribution such as monies towards solar panels for the Community North Hall. **ACTION Clerk**

178/2021 UPDATES AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: -

- (a) Highway/Roads. The SID is working and there will be a Zoom meeting to discuss a quote from a Traffic Consultant this week.
The resident request for a mirror for Burley Close was discussed and permission would need to be sought from WSCC. Cllr Colling was to take a look at the sight lines and update the Council.
ACTION Cllr Colling.
- (b) Drainage/ Sewerage Infrastructure. Property Flood Resilience – Letter to residents **APPENDIX 4.**
Cllr Kelsey asked if the Parish Council were happy to follow up PFR on behalf of the residents which they were and the Council were happy with the draft letter. **ACTION Clerk**
- (c) North Hall- Already discussed under 175/2021. The playground inspection report was discussed in that some of the low- grade repairs should be carried out by a competent engineer. In the past Councillors had tightened bolts etc. and it was felt the inspection report directed the work as so long as this was carried out as directed then the risk was covered in that way. The Parish Council were happy with this arrangement.
- (d) School- An interim Head starts next term Fiona Dowling. Interviews for the new head start in the new year. Meal supervisors and premises manager vacancies exist.
- (e) Neighbourhood Plan- Nothing further.
- (f) Queens Platinum Jubilee: CDC Grant availability **APPENDIX 5** It was felt that this could be applied for, for some part of the heritage trail and would be applied for in due course.

Cllr Colling proposed that the Parish Council RESOLVE to provide a budget of £4000 towards the Community celebration, seconded by Cllr Kelsey and all in favour.

179/2021 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES. No newsletter in January.

180/2021 Items for the next month's agenda. Queen's Jubilee celebration. Jubilee mugs for school.

181/2021 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING MONDAY 10th January 2021.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

