



Loxwood Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of Loxwood held in the Mursell Room, North Hall, Loxwood on Monday 9th September 2019 commenced at 8.10pm.

19/143 Attendance: Parish Councillors: Chris Agar (Chair); Tony Colling; Roger Newman; Rick Kelsey; Simon Bates; Simon Laker; John Lewis. CDC Gareth Evans. Jane Bromley, Clerk.

5 members of the public

Apologies for absence – Parish Councillors: Annette Gardner and Chris Kershaw. WSCC Janet Duncton and CDC Natalie Hume.

19/144 Declaration of Members' Interests – None

19/145 Minutes of the Last Meetings – The Parish Council RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 1st July 2019, the Planning Committee Minutes of the 1st and 23rd July 2019 are accurate records of the meetings.

19/146 APPENDIX 1 ACTION POINT LIST: The Parish Council reviewed and updated the list of Action Points.

19/147 Public Participation: There were two speakers.

Dr Seymour presented his site at Orchard House, Station Road, for due consideration during the course of the revision of the Neighbourhood Plan. The presentation is available on request from the Clerk.

North Hall trustees Peter Winney discussed the felling of the oak tree adjacent to the North hall Playground.

Residents had expressed concern to PW at the amount of dead wood in the canopy of the tree. A tree surgeon had inspected the tree in February 2018 and concluded that it was diseased. The tree had been found to be carrying the crown die back disease at that time and was to be monitored. The dead wood was the result of the disease. The work was necessary as some of the branches were overhanging the playground. North Hall Management Committee commissioned a tree surgeon to be brought in and he advised he could take out the dead wood and cut back the canopy but this would exacerbate the disease. An email was sent to the Committee to advise them that it was proposed to fell the tree rather than remove the dead wood etc. immediately, as it was more than likely that the tree would need felling in the near future in any case. It was also decided to leave the trunk in situ and commission a carving.

19/148 Report from Chichester District Councillor – Cllr. Gareth Evans. CDC has been in summer recess so my councillor report will be shorter than normal this time. Over the summer recess I have continue to hold my regular surgeries across the ward and volunteered at a number of fetes across the ward including helping with the mega clear up after the recent Wisborough green fete. The reward of a hog-roast dinner was well received by my wife and I!

From a Parish perspective I have continued to monitor closely and maintain regular contact with officers on the following planning applications:

19/01240/FUL Thakeham – Jeremy Bushall and I maintained regular contact over the summer period. I will continue to monitor this for the Parish and, should the need arise, Red Card this as requested by the Parish. Most recent update from the 2nd September 2019 is that an extension for determination was applied. This extension will be until 16th September as the Council requested more time to consult on matters relating to surface water drainage, highways, ecology and the housing mix arising from the package of information submitted with your email of today's date. I will be calling Jeremy this week for an update and will be in contact with the Parish once I know more.

19/01498/FUL Coop Application – Date for deciding on this planning application has been extended until the 28th October 2019. The reason for this is due to the availability of a convenient meeting date. Again, I am monitoring this closely and maintain regular contact with the planning officer. The Parish Council have requested I Red Card this if the officers are minded to reject this application.

With regards to the above application I have also been approached by The Nursery Green association who I know have submitted a petition. This is not against development of a local convenience store but the size of this proposed site.

Of local interest:

Sir Nicholas Soames is giving a talk on his grandfather – Sir Winston Churchill in Kirdford Village Hall on Friday 13th September at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5.00 and available from Kirdford and Plaistow Village shops. Wine and Canapés will be available and there will be a raffle in aid of Kirdford and Plaistow Churches

Future surgery dates:

The Saturday just gone (7th September) I held a surgery at the Stag Inn, Ebernoe

All surgeries are held between 11.00am – 1pm. Residents are also encouraged to call me if they cannot meet these meetings and would like me to visit or organise an alternative date:

Saturday 21st September, Old Mill Café, Wisborough Green

Saturday 5th October, Half Moon Inn, Northchapel

Saturday 19th October, Plaistow Stores

Saturday 2nd November, Kirdford Stores

Saturday 23rd November, Onslow Arms, Loxwood.

19/149 Report from West Sussex County Councillor – Cllr. Janet Duncton. We recently had a meeting to inform those thinking of Fostering what it's all about and the different types of Fostering available. We always need good Foster Parents so if the Parish knows of anyone that is interested, we would love to hear from them. The demand for Fostering is ever increasing and not likely to get less.

On the 19th September I am Chairing a Youth Council meeting in the Chamber at County Hall. This time we asked them what they would like to debate and they wanted knife crime. I am inviting the Chairman of the Youth Council to jointly Chair with me. They are always lively debates.

On the 23rd October in County Hall North, Horsham there is an event for anyone thinking of standing for election. As you know there will be a County Council election in 2021. There will be an opportunity for people to speak to others about the pitfalls and the opportunities there are if you are thinking of standing for election.

I recently paid a visit to Sage House in Tangmere. It is a wonderful facility helping family's dealing with dementia. It offers a lot of help giving some respite for the Carers of those with dementia etc. There is also a Cafe that anyone can use so if you know of any in the community that may

need help in the future go and see what they offer. Just off the roundabout at Tangmere and at the entrance to an Industrial Estate. What they do is amazing.

I have so far had 3 Royal visits with one more coming in October and to-night I am at Awards for the Fire Service in Arundel Castle.

Our new Chief Fire Officer has now started and her first week has been busy and there are very good vibes coming back from her first week. Her name is Sabrina Cohen-Hatton and she is going to be good news for the Service.

We are also making progress with our Children Services but nothing to report on it just to say we are working with Children Commissioner from Hampshire County Council but as I've said before it will not be a quick fix but we will get there.

19/150 Clerk's Report. Resident correspondence. A resident had expressed concern over the felling of the Oak Tree near the playground in the car park. The resident felt it had been an unnecessary exercise justified by the Committee on the grounds of requiring further car park space.

The Cllrs considered the justification supplied by PW as representative of the Village Hall Trustees as sound.

19/151 Parish Council Office Hours. The Parish Council to discuss whether to establish office hours, once monthly 4pm to 7pm at North Hall ahead of Parish Council meetings.

The proposal was to be tested by a series of 1-hour open office events to be advertised. These open office events were to be held at North Hall from 6pm to 7pm ahead of the Planning and Parish Council meetings on 4th November 2019, 2nd December 2019, 6th January 2020 and 3rd February 2020.

19/152 Appendix 2 Reporting the Completion of the Annual Audit. The Annual Return was audited and approved by the External Auditor and this was noted by the Parish Council. The report was to be placed on the website

19/153 Accounts for Payment -Payments totalling £4930.75 were authorised for payment.

19/154 Appendix 3 Playground Inspection Report. The roundabout bearings had worn through and Cllrs Agar and Colling were to inspect this and other more minor problems identified in the report to ascertain the materials needed and as to whether they could carry out the work.

ACTION CA and TC. Cllr Newman was to obtain a quote for a new bench and ask the contractor to re-lay the safety mesh in the playground where it was necessary due to impaction. **ACTION TC,**

19/155 Appendix 4 Southern Water and Consumer Council Response to Letter to Consumer Council. The response was noted which did not resolve the situation but delayed the decision as to infrastructure improvements awaiting resolution of other factors. The situation would be monitored.

19/156 Appendix 5 Finance Training Day. The Clerk was to attend and report back to the Council.

19/157 Developer Signage. Discussion on legality of signage attached to WSCC Highways signs. It had been ascertained by a resident that all signage attached to WSCC Highways posts needed authority in advance from WSCC Highways.

19/158 Updates and items for discussion: -

- (a) Highway/Roads and Traffic Calming. The Speed Watch Group had been active over the summer. On average 80 cars registered as exceeding the speed limit on any given session. The next session was to take place at the approved location at Alfold Bars. The SID was currently located on Vicarage Hill.
- (b) Nursery Site update. This had been discussed during the planning meeting.
- (c) Drainage/Flooding. Water Environment report following hydrological surveying update. The Parish Council were still awaiting the report following the surveys carried out in March from the Consultant Water Environment.
- (d) North Hall. No further following the report given under public participation and the clerk's report. Evidence of drug activity in the vicinity of North Hall had been discovered, also along the canal near Brewhurst Mill. The Police had been alerted.
- (e) Farm Close. The date for appeal for the current refused planning application had now passed.
- (f) School. The school had made good use of the monies received from the Parish Council for the outdoor play area and pictures were to be provided by Cllr Newman for the website.

19/159 E- Bulletin and Newsletter articles. Open office; request for volunteers for Speed Watch; vigilance re drug activity in the village; Riparian duty reminder.

19/160 Parish Matters.

The Old School at Vicarage Hill had been purchased by a developer. The hedge was severely overgrown and blocking the pavement. The Clerk was asked to contact the developer and ask for the hedge to be cut back. **ACTION Clerk**

The new owner of Wephurst Park had erected gates at PROW entrances and residents were concerned about access to PROW. The Parish Council at Ifold would be discussing this at their next meeting and Cllr Newman was to attend and report back. **ACTION RN**

19/161 Date of the next meeting Monday 7th October 2019

19/162 Closure **of the meeting to the public**

19/163 APPENDIX 6 Consideration to the Clerk's claim for overtime. The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Clerk's overtime.