



Loxwood Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of Loxwood held in the Mursell Room, North Hall, Loxwood on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 8pm.

20/35 Attendance: Parish Councillors: Chris Agar (Chair); Tony Colling; Simon Bates; John Lewis; Rick Kelsey; Chris Kershaw; Roger Newman; Simon Laker.

CDC & WSCC Janet Duncton (arrived during 20/40 left the meeting after 20/41). CDC Gareth Evans (left the meeting after 20/40)

Jane Bromley, Clerk.

5 members of the public

Apologies for absence – Parish Councillors: Annette Gardner; Simon Laker.

20/36 Declaration of Members' Interests – None.

20/37 Minutes of the Last Meetings – The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 3rd February 2020, the Planning Committee Minutes of the 3rd February 2020 as accurate records of those meetings.

20/38 APPENDIX 1 ACTION POINT LIST: The Parish Council reviewed and updated the list of Action Points.

20/39 Public Participation –Sally Pavey from CAGNE sent her apologies.

20/40 Report from Chichester District Councillor – Cllr. Gareth Evans.

The Parish Council will have been updated about the delay to the Local Plan and this has now been communicated to members of the public via the press. I am disappointed about the delay and that communication did not come sooner for many of the Parish Councils in the ward I represent who are in the middle of either writing or updating their neighbourhood plans. As you will be aware at the last full council meeting Cllrs. from different parties, already seeing this coming, were urging CDC to give a full update in order that Parish Councils could be forewarned and plan accordingly. I am glad this pressure from the opposition has had an influence on CDC coming clean but am disappointed at how late in the day it is. I am fully aware of the precarious position this places Loxwood in and will support as much as I can.

Local Update: Co-op application:

A further extension has been granted by CDC to avoid refusal on the grounds of no affordable housing commuted sum. I was doubtful, despite being told otherwise that it would be heard at the March Committee and I am sorry that this turned out to be the case. It is now planned that this will be heard at the April Committee.

Lagoon 3:

A conference call took place in Friday 28th February 2020 following the site visit that I had asked for. This was to review whether the assessment of the structure had changed since they last visit and whether the emergency response plan should be updated. I am awaiting the minutes from this meeting so I can re-review these. The outcome was that it did not need to be updated which I am not happy about and will be following this up.

Upcoming Surgeries

Onslow Arms, Loxwood – Saturday 7th March 11.00am – 1pm

Item 20/46 was heard here (see below)

20/41 Report from West Sussex County Councillor – Cllr. Janet Duncton. Cabinet Meetings are now Open Meetings. Budget agreed after along meeting of the Cabinet. A 57.4m budget for of town centres has been approved. An increase for care to promote independent living and 49.1m for new schools and expansion of existing. £55.17pa increase in council tax for a Band D property.

20/42 Clerk's Report. Clerk raised the matter of the radar gun currently being included on the Parish Council asset schedule for insurance purposes when in fact it had been donated to Speed Watch Group over seen by WSCC. The Parish Council agreed that it should no longer be part of the Parish Council assets and would be removed from the valuation for insurance purposes.

20/43 APPENDIX 2- Consideration of a Policy for Vexatious Complainants. The Chair outlined the need for this Policy to protect the Council from inquiries which benefited no one. It seemed to be a fact of life that email exchanges could be sent easily and with little trouble to the sender but took up a lot of wasted time for the recipient with no discerned benefit to either party. The Clerks time and effort would be protected by this Policy which of course would not prohibit genuine requests for information. In addition to avoid unnecessary exchanges of emails the Clerk would be putting as much information as possible on the website to which individuals could be referred without the necessity for additional correspondence.

The Parish Council reviewed this policy and RESOLVED to adopt it with immediate effect.

20/44 APPENDIX 3 – Consideration of an updated Policy for Freedom of Information Publication Scheme. The Parish Council reviewed this Policy and RESOLVED to adopt this updated Policy.

20/45 Annual Parish Meeting- Arrangements. 24th April 7.30pm. Speakers (Air Ambulance; CDC; Cllr Kelsey; Cllr Colling and Cllr Agar); Refreshments (Wine and Nibbles) and Advertising (A3 Posters; Banner at North Hall; Website; Newsletter); Projector arrangements.

The Clerk to distribute A3 posters to Cllr Colling for lamination and putting up. ACTION Clerk/TC

20/46 Flood Mitigation Matters. Creation of a database - discussion. Three areas to discuss:

- 1) Sewerage Storage tanks at Nursery Green. Residents advised that these storage tanks were overflowing. The company responsible for maintenance had only budgeted for one visit a year and there had been 10 visits by the company over the last three months. This would increase the maintenance charge for the system which the residents were due to take over this July from the developer. A meeting was arranged at the site between the developer, CDC, the maintenance company and those that designed the system next week and it was hoped a solution would be found. A resident suggested that surface water was infiltrating the system and thus filling up the tanks at a faster rate than simply foul water although the

design of the tanks was only intended to be of sufficient capacity for foul water storage arising in 24 hours and not multiple days at a time.

Cllr Colling proposed and seconded by Cllr Agar that CDC enforcement be contacted by the Parish Council to alert them to this situation given that they had signed off Condition 10 of the Planning for the Nursery site which was clearly not fit for purpose. Under Condition 10, Antler homes were given approval for this temporary storage system of foul water at times of inundation of the main Loxwood sewerage system. **ACTION Clerk/ TC.** Nursery Green residents agreed to send their factual details of sewerage leakage to the Clerk as evidence for the correspondence to CDC

2) Burley Close Flooding: Cllr Colling and Kelsey had surveyed the area after the recent Storm Dennis. The Culverts were all near to capacity although the Station Rd Culvert was at risk of overflowing. Burley Close had been flooded to over 4". Residents spoke about the drain for the had standing at the school not being sufficient to cope with the run off from the school playground areas which was further exacerbated by then increase in outbuildings causing a further barrier to the flow of water from the school playground. The resident had been referred to litigation at WSCC as she had not got anywhere with correspondence with the school as the water from this area was running through her and other's gardens causing damage. Cllr Colling proposed that the Parish Council write to the CEO at WSCC asking them to take up the case, this was seconded by Cllr Agar and all in favour. **ACTION Clerk/ TC.** Cllr Kelsey proposed that the Parish Council should work with a local resident with knowledge of drainage systems to proposed a solution to WSCC. **ACTION RK**

3) Flood data base: A retired drainage engineer in the Parish advised that action and funding from Southern Water with regard to the sewerage system in Loxwood would be reliant on the number of reports of sewage spill incidents from residents. The reports had not so far been sent to Southern Water and they were to some extent unaware of all of the problems in the Parish. The resident had suggested that the Parish keep its own database of incidents and actively seek reports after rainfall events to be logged as evidence for action from Southern Water.

The Clerk advised that she would have insufficient capacity to be able to be the admin support for this database and Cllr Kelsey suggested that he would maintain the database. Cllr Agar proposed that the Parish Council agree in principle to the suggestion but that the detail be worked out by the flood forum group, seconded by Cllr Kelsey and all in favour.

ACTION RK

20/47 APPENDIX 4 – New Homes Bonus Indicative Allocation. Discussion. £6700 was available

For the PC to claim for projects in the village. The Clerk was to determine the nature of the projects that would be possible from CDC and also to ask residents via the Parish Newsletter for

Any suitable ideas. **ACTION Clerk**

20/48 Accounts for payment- Payments of £2515.12 were approved for the month.

20/49 Updates and items for discussion: -

- a) Highway/Roads and Traffic Calming. The SID had been relocated to the North Hall area.
- b) Nursery Site. Already discussed at the planning Meeting.
- c) Drainage and Flooding. Discussed under item 20/46
- d) North Hall. A meeting of the committee had taken place. The hall had undergone electrical testing and had passed. The land adjacent to North Hall was under discussion with the owner for residential planning. To develop the site the site owner required access through North Hall and in return had suggested funding and construction of a multi sports all weather court. Discussion was ongoing.
- e) Farm Close. Nothing further.
- f) School. A tree had fallen over at the school during the storm and damaged surrounding property, this had been rectified.

WSSC had not supported the school in its request to repair the suspended ceiling in classrooms and the school was to present a grant application to the Parish Council at their April meeting.

- g) Neighbourhood Plan. This had been discussed in the Planning Meeting.

20/50 E- Bulletin and Newsletter articles. New Homes Bonus, APM, Flood Database proposal, Love West Sussex reporting.

20/51 Parish Matters. Wephurst estate footpaths issue was still ongoing.

20/52 Date of the next meeting: Parish Council Meeting Monday 6th April 2020.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm