



Loxwood Parish Council

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Parish Council of Loxwood held on Monday 6th July 2020 at 8pm.

20/121 Attendance: Parish Councillors: Chris Agar; Rick Kelsey; Tony Colling; Simon Bates; Chris Kershaw; Annette Gardner; and Roger Newman. CDC Gareth Evans. CDC & WSCC Janet Dunton (joined the meeting at 20/131 and left the meeting at 20/132). Jane Bromley, Clerk. 5 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: None.

Non-attendance- Simon Laker and John Lewis.

20/122 Declaration of Members' Interests – None.

20/123 Minutes of the Last Meetings – The Parish Council RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 1st June 2020, and the Planning Committee Minutes of the 1st June 2020 are accurate records of those meetings.

20/124 APPENDIX 1 ACTION POINT LIST: The Parish Council updated the list of Action Points.

20/125 Public Participation- North Hall Trustee Peter Winney and Retired Drainage Engineer, Nigel Simmonds spoke during items 20/129 and 20/136c) respectively.

20/126 Report from Chichester District Councillor – Cllr. Gareth Evans. I continue to support the Covid-19 hubs. Fortunately, I am hearing reports that the number of volunteers outweighs those in need but it is great we have so many volunteers encase things do change. As we emerge from lock-down we should still encourage residents to exercise caution encase of a second spike given what we are seeing in Leicester for example. At present the Covid-19 District Councillor hotline remains open should residents report any concerns in the community to the Parish Council. CDC has been working very closely with West Sussex County Council and our other partners on a COVID-19 Local Outbreak Plan. The plan works hand-in-hand with the test and trace system, providing a strategy on how we will reduce the spread of the virus if infections start to increase locally. If we see a local spike in coronavirus cases, the plan will ensure a speedy response to contain the virus and prevent it from spreading further. This could range from making sure that infected individuals self-isolate; to locking down a specific local setting; or even introducing a wider local lockdown where we will all need to follow this agreed plan

Chichester District Recovery Plan. CDC officers have been working extremely hard in very challenging circumstances. We applaud that with immense gratitude. Officers are already working on a plan to assess the council's business and community priorities going forward, with a report expected in July. Chichester is expected to lose some £8m of income in 2020/21, having to draw on its reserves to balance the budget. Economic recovery is high on everybody's priorities. Overview and Scrutiny met last week to scrutinise the recovery plan. I personally raised the question about the Health section of the recovery plan making no references to overcoming the

impact on Mental Health of the community as we emerge from lockdown. My feeling is that any economic recovery is dependent on the community having good mental health provision. I was assured by Monitoring Officer – Nicholas Bennett that Health included Mental Health so I will be following this with interest.

This will be considered by cabinet next week on 7 July, and then full council on 21 July. The report outlines how CDC plan to help our communities and businesses to recover and get back on their feet; and how CDC plan to deal with the financial challenges they are likely to face. CDC are predicting losses of £8 million by the end of the year. In addition to this they will need around a further £2 million to balance their budget in the medium term. However, the Government announced last Thursday further financial support to Local Government, which CDC expect will reduce the in-year deficit to about £3.5m. Once CDC have received the detailed information, I will update you. This funding will not change the need to potentially balance the budget by £2m. CDC are expecting to see an increase in those needing benefits and housing assistance. CDC also know that our local businesses need a lot of support to get back up and running. Due to this, the draft recovery plan focuses on four key themes: Community and Housing Recovery, which Louise Rudziak will lead on; Economic Recovery, which Jane Hotchkiss will lead on; Organisational Recovery, which John Ward will lead on; and Resilience, Planning, Health and Environmental Protection Recovery; which Andrew Frost will lead on. If the report is approved, it's vital that we all work really closely together – members and staff – to deliver the recovery plan and support our local communities and businesses as much as we possibly can. CDC have reported increase in littering in Parks and Beaches. CDC are working flat out to keep on top of this but ask that where possible residents take their litter home with them in Bins are full. It is vital that we all observe social distancing rules, as part of our fight against coronavirus. While Civil Enforcement Officers, Foreshore Officers and Community Wardens have all been closely monitoring this and offering advice, they do not have any powers to enforce social distancing measures. CDC have produced signage which has been displayed across the district, reminding people that they must stay safe and leave a space; and they are currently working on another project which will further expand on this work. CDC have also made a video with our local businesses welcoming shoppers back to our High Streets at www.chichester.gov.uk/supportlocal CDC's health protection team and economic development teams have also been offering advice to businesses that are reopening and we have provided free downloadable signage designs

This weekend also saw the reopening of many pubs and restaurants across the district. CDC have written to all of them offering advice and guidance, especially as the government has eased restrictions around licensing and planning, to help them get back on their feet. They are also asking people to plan ahead because many pubs and restaurants will be working to a strict 'bookings only' policy to limit numbers; to follow social distancing guidance at all times; and to avoid large congregating outside licensed premises.

Dangerous driving & Speed and Noise issues: A Task Group has been set up to bring together Parish & Town Councils and Cllrs of villages on the A272 affected by anti-social motorcycling across the South Downs. I am part of this group to help make sure that concerns on this issue from residents in the ward that I represent, and who have been contacting me about this, are

taken into account. We have had various meetings already and have secured support from our local MPs. I have facilitated meetings between the local campaign group and local parish councillors and our police representative. At the Task Group meeting I was actioned with putting together a meeting with representatives from all the Parishes in Loxwood Ward to explore coordinated Traffic Awareness action days. The meeting (which took place on Saturday 27th July) demonstrated that the Parishes are in different places in terms of setting up speed awareness groups but it was clear that there is a desire to work together and the group are willing to support each other. Actions were circulated to the Parish representatives in attendance but I can forward these to the Clerk if you need them

A reminder that the Draft Interim Policy Statement (IPS) for Housing has been published for public consultation for a period of 4 weeks until 10 July 2020. The Planning Policy Team are seeking views on the IPS and the criteria contained within with regard to its use as a decision-making tool in the determination of planning applications for new residential development. You can view it here: <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/interimpolicystatement>.

Loxwood Claypit application – I have been seeking advice on to the likelihood of this application being granted permission and have been told by a non-council source “Loss of ancient woodland alone should be enough to stop it – that is against government policy that has been in place for a couple of decades. I doubt they could claim it wouldn’t damage ancient woodland. Even if this is the case it would mean loss of woodland at a time when government policy is to expand woodland. NPPF and the forthcoming environment act also all require net biodiversity gain – I can’t see how this would deliver it!”

Incredible – that anything like this could even be considered, or that a firm would waste its time on something that is so inherently wrong! I wonder if there is something more sinister in the background?

Next Online Chichester Full Council Meeting is 21st July. Where to watch: <http://chichester.nucast.live/>. To speak at a public meeting contact democraticservices@chichester.gov.uk – for planning committees register at www.chichester.gov.uk/speakerform

Online Surgeries – I continue to conduct meetings with residents via Zoom, Google Hangout, Skype, Video Call or WhatsApp. Contact me at gbevans@chichester.gov.uk / 07958 918 056

The following item was heard after 20/131

20/127 Report from West Sussex County Councillor – Cllr. Janet Duncton. July 17th will be the first full WSCC meeting for a few months and will consist of updates rather than decisions to be made.

Dr Tim Fooks is the new High Sheriff of West Sussex.

Ian Philips is the new Chair of the National Park.

WSCC estimate a shortfall of £85 million due to Covid-19.

20/128 Clerk's Report. Residents correspondence asking when the North Hall Playground will be opened and this will be discussed later in the meeting.

20/129 North Hall Car Park Extension – CIL GRANT APPLICATION Phase 1 £43,900 net and Phase 2 £38,600 and Phase 3 £38,700 and accompanying quotes (*Previously circulated*). The Parish Council to continue discussions regarding this application having now received the quotes referred to in the grant applications.

The Parish Council had a number of calls on the CIL funds remaining from the construction of housing in Loxwood. CIL of £109161 remained after the recent payment of £16864 to the school. The Parish Council would be discussing flood mitigation later in the meeting and it was highly likely funding would also be required for surface water mitigation which in turn affected sewerage disposal, due to inundation of pipe networks.

Councillors recognised many resident's used North Hall and the CIL was for the community and therefore would like to support the car park. However, they would not at this stage be able to fund the three phases proposed but settled on taking on phase one. The total cost of phase one was £53900 but the North Hall committee had £10000 to donate towards this resulting in a net cost on CIL of £43,900.

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to provide funding of £43,900 for phase one of the car park project at North Hall.

Cllr Agar made an observation that cars appeared to be congregating in the North Hall car park late at night and recommended that a lower barrier to the car park be erected to prevent this at some point in the future.

20/130 Doctors Surgery – New Flooring Grant Application £5000. APPENDIX 2a and 2b. The Parish Council to consider awarding £5000 for new flooring of the surgery.

The funding was to support a new flooring for the surgery which was much easier to clean than the carpet tiles currently on the floors. The Parish Council again recognised the community value to this project and **RESOLVED** to provide funding of £5000 towards this project funds to be paid

when all funding was raised towards the total cost £13200. The funds to be paid from General Reserves.

20/131 Neighbourhood Plan Terms of Reference – APPENDIX 3 The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to revise the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to allow decisions on expenditure up to £1000 per fiscal year to be agreed and spent by the Steering Group and later ratified by the Parish Council

20/ 127 was heard here

20/132 Resident request for help with cost of material for scrubs production for the Medical Practice in Loxwood. £132.00. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to cover the material costs for scrubs production of £132.00.

20/133 Chichester District Council Draft Interim Policy Statement (IPS). APPENDIX 4 The Parish Council realised the IPS held little weight in planning terms and was a steer for site proposers rather than a tool at appeal hearings. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** not to comment on this document.

20/134 North Hall Playground. Consideration to reopening the playground in the light of government guidance. Guidance from Central Government recommended that signs be erected if playgrounds were to open to advise social distancing and regular cleaning of hands, one family per piece of equipment etc. The Parish Council felt that this guidance did not ensure COVID-19 security for people using the playground and they **RESOLVED** to leave the playground closed during the summer months and this would be discussed again at the September 2020 meeting.

20/135 Accounts for payment- Payments totalling £3756.61 were approved for the month.

20/136 Updates and items for discussion: -

a) Highway/Roads and Traffic Calming. The resident group from parishes in the near locality had met to discuss road noise and speeding organised by Gareth Evans CDC. Wisborough Green were setting up a speed watch group. Speed watch in Loxwood was active again.

b) Nursery Site. No further information had been received regarding the Co Op project.

c) Drainage/Flooding:

Nigel Simmonds spoke regarding the strategic plan for mitigation of surface water flooding in Loxwood.

Proposals were for

- 1) A further survey of surface water flooding and drainage in the school/burley close area
£595 net

2) A contractor to do a one- off clearance of the Lox Stream £2125 net

3) Water Environment to carry out further inspection survey £5500 net

Following the one -off clearance it was proposed that a Residents' Group take over the clearance thereafter and a chair for this group had been established together with representative for the areas affected. Those residents involved being those with Riparian Responsibilities along the Lox Stream through Loxwood. A letter would be sent to these residents to update them on the situation and to obtain their agreement to the proposals.

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to go ahead with 1) and 2) above and 3) would be considered at the September meeting. A flood forum meeting would be called in the next few weeks once the initial hydrological surveys were finalised.

Cllr Kelsey thanked Nigel Simmonds for his help int his matter.

d) North Hall. The hall would remain closed as restrictions were too prohibitive and opening would be reconsidered in September.

e) Farm Close. The site proposer had been asked for a written update on proposals for the site but no response had been received.

f) School. The teachers had been working hard to provide an education for those attending.

g) Neighbourhood Plan. 373 responses to the questionnaire had been received. The results of the survey and preliminary site choice would be published once the results of the appeal hearings for Land South West of Guildford Road and South of Loxwood Farm Place were known as well as final number allocations from CDC. Residents would be thanked for their completed forms in the forthcoming newsletter.

20/137 E- Bulletin and Newsletter articles.

NP Questionnaire. Playground to remain closed. NH to remain closed. Flood database

20/138 Parish Matters. The Parish Council approve the idea of pursuing a Group Tree Preservation Order for the Trees on the site proposed for Clay Pits in Pallinghurst Wood. RK would assist the volunteer to do this. **ACTION RK**

20/139 Date of the next meeting: Parish Council Meeting Monday 7th September 2020.

20/140 Meeting closed to the public

20/141 Consideration of Clerk's Overtime. APPENDIX 5

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Clerk's over time.