



Loxwood Parish Council

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Parish Council of Loxwood held on Monday 1st February 2021 at 8pm.

16/2021 Attendance: Parish Councillors: Rick Kelsey (Chair); Chris Agar; Tony Colling; Annette Gardner; Roger Newman; and Simon Bates. CDC Gareth Evans (left the meeting after 259/2021). CDC. Jane Bromley, Clerk. Four members of the public.
Apologies for absence: None.

17/2021 Declaration of Members' Interests – None.

18/2021 Minutes of the Last Meetings – The Parish Council RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 11th January 2021, and the Planning Committee Minutes of the 11th January 2021 are accurate records of those meetings.

19/2021 APPENDIX 1 ACTION POINT LIST: The list was updated.

20/2021 Public Participation – A local resident spoke regarding the “Stop the Clay Pits” local community group campaign.

20.1 A variable mix of individuals meet regularly. An updated leaflet is to go out to Local residents to further highlight the areas of concern, to continue engagement and raise awareness.

20.2 Once a planning application appears, the campaign will be using experts to scrutinise the policy areas for objection.

20.3 Cllr Kelsey advised that the west of the site has a blanket TPO however the site is under a forestry commission management scheme and that this status has caused a problem with this. The eastern site is therefore unlikely to have a TPO placed upon it.

A local resident spoke regarding the identification by a collection of individuals of a well used pedestrian footpath and an application has been made to make this a formal Public Right of Way. The Pallingshurst Wood owners can object but it is hoped WSCC will allow it as a PROW.

21/2021 Report from Chichester District Councillor – Cllr. Gareth Evans.

Corona Virus Vaccination update

Reports we are receiving from residents are that the vaccination process is now running smoothly and that those identified by the Government being on the priority list are getting access to their vaccinations in the District. If the Parish Council are aware of any issues please do feed this back so we can continue to update NHS Sussex.

As of Friday 29 January 2021:90.4% of the over 80s in the North of the district had received their first dose of the vaccine – which amounts to over 7,500 vaccinations.

75% of the over 80s in the South of the district had received the first dose of the vaccine – which amounts to over 6,600 vaccinations. Excellent progress has been made considering the GP-led centres in the South of the district have only been running for two weeks.

National booking system

If residents are aged over 70, they may receive a letter from the national booking system inviting them to attend one of the large vaccination sites within 60 miles of their home, or one of the approved pharmacies (in our case, this is in Midhurst).

It's really important to note that residents do not have to accept this invitation, and can wait for their GP-led vaccination centre to contact you.

This is an extra opportunity to access the vaccine, providing residents with the option of accessing their vaccination quicker if they want to. If residents decide to ignore the letter, there is no need to worry as they will still be contacted by their local GP-led vaccination centre.

Sheltered Housing Residents

NHS colleagues have been contacting residents in sheltered accommodation to see if they can travel to one of the GP-led vaccination centres for their vaccination. However, if they can't manage to get to one of the centres, then one of the NHS roving teams will come out to them directly.

Updates for residents are being shared on their website

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/covidresidentsupport>

Update on COVID Grants

The Covid Recovery Grants scheme was launched on the 20 August. CDC have received a total of 90 applications for the large business grant so far. A total of 63 applications have been successful, which totals a grant amount of £277,638.55 and an equivalent amount of investment by the business community. There are four applications that have successfully passed through the first two stages of checking and will be going to panel.

The grant amount for this if all successful will be £15,676.50. We have received a total of 147 applications for the small business grant. A total of 101 businesses have already received their small grant, which totals to £86,652.32. CDC have 23 applications ready to be signed off, totalling a grant amount of £13,153.55.

Business Rates Grants and financial support for businesses

As a result of the district moving into Tier 4 on 26 December 2020, plus a further national lockdown from 5 January 2021, further Government funding has been provided to support businesses.

The Chancellor announced a one- off top up grant to support businesses through to the spring. The council has received a further £14,374.719 in total. This includes £1,075,995 as a top up for Additional Restrictions Grant funding, £8,865,000 for one- off top up grant funding, and £4,433,724 for support to businesses required to close due to the national lockdown. The new grant scheme for the one off top up grants went live on 14 January 2021

All previous business rate grant schemes remain open. This is to enable businesses who may have not yet applied for financial support to make retrospective applications. The Government has indicated that end dates will be communicated nationally once it is deemed appropriate to do so. This has made things rather complicated and confusing for businesses and officers as there are in excess of 7-8 schemes operating at the same given time. However, in order to make things as reasonably simple as possible a quick reference guide is published on the council's website clarifying the various schemes, the period they cover, along with the business sectors they are aimed at.

The Wet Led pubs scheme remains open. This support is aimed at pubs whose primary income streams are from drinks and as a result of the Covid pandemic have been severely impacted. Eligible businesses

will receive a one off grant at the value of £1,000. To date 32 pubs have received this one off grant. Eligible businesses have up until 31 January 2021 to apply for this support.

For further information related to all of the above please visit

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/businessratesannouncements2020>

Test and Trace support Scheme

This has been extended until 31st March 2021 and will remain under review by the Government

All Parishes meeting

The next one takes place on Monday 8th February

Local Plan Review and Local Development Schemes

According to the forward plans decisions on these are due by 2nd March 2021

Southern Water

The CEO received a response to this on 22nd December 2020 in the form of what is essentially a holding email. Within this letter they stated *"we are aware of the widespread concern in the Chichester area about this company. I recently met with Gillian Keegan MP to discuss the company, the performance improvements and the investment that we expect it to make in the area"*. They also confirmed they would reply to the letter more fully in the New Year. This will be followed up as we are now in February

Lagoon 3

A meeting between CDC, Kirdford Parish Council and Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council has been organised for later this month as a consequence of the pending deadline for removal of Lagoon 3.

Loxwood ClayPit application

I continue to support the group that is working to object to this application when it goes in. For further information on this you can visit <https://www.stoptheclaypit.org/>

Surgery

As always please contact me with any issue, feedback, problem or question and I will do my best to help: gbevans@chichester.gov.uk / 07958 918056. Although I have not been able to resume normal Saturday surgeries yet, I am available to meet and visit residents (whilst observing social distance measures) or for online meetings or surgeries upon request. I look forward to hearing from you!

22/2021 Report from West Sussex County Councillor – Cllr. Janet Duncton. No report.

23/2021 APPENDIX 2 -LGCI Land Use Agreement for Jubilee Gardens. The Parish Council RESOLVED to adopt the updated agreement from 13th January 2021 for 10 years. A map is to be

added. **ACTION Clerk**. The Land Registry documents are to be applied for to check title ownership was transferred. **ACTION Clerk**

24/2021 Accounts for payment- The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve payments totalling £1751.74

25/2021 APPENDIX 3a -WSALC "Value for Money Project".

25.1 Discussion to consider writing to National Association of Local Councils regarding the issue between Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils (SSALC) and WSALC to intervene in the proposal by WSALC to separate from SSALC.

The situation was fluid and definite facts were currently unknown and the letter was therefore not approved at this time.

APPENDIX 3b Discussion.

25.2 Whether to support the proposals set out below proposed by Aldingbourne Parish Council

- That the Chairman and Vice Chairman of WSALC resign with immediate effect.
- That the remaining Directors of WSALC confirm that they will operate to meet the company objectives set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association.
- That the remaining Directors of WSALC confirm that they will establish an open and transparent dialogue with Parish Councils in West Sussex to effectively understand and meet their needs.
- That the remaining Directors of WSALC work constructively with SSALC on its current value for money exercise and establish a clear and constructive framework for moving forward

Cllr Agar advised and all agreed that maintaining SSALC organisation was the best way forward. Cllr Agar proposed that the Clerk receive powers of decision making with regard to this matter seconded by Cllr Bates and all in favour.

26/2021 Updates and items for discussion: -

a) Highway/Roads and Traffic/ Noise Calming.

A draft specification for a quote from a Planning Consultant has been written however the Thakeham Homes traffic calming proposals may supersede this if approved by WSCC. The Officer seemed to be open to discussions with the Parish Council and the Clerk is to organise this. **ACTION Clerk** The traffic calming proposal drawings don't reflect the yellow lines near the junction with Station Rd and the B2133. In general, the Parish Council were supportive of this scheme.

b) Drainage/Flooding.

- I. The drainage drawings for Thakeham show the surface water will join the drains for the B2133 to eventually flow into the stream. WSCC Highways to be encourage to speak to Kevin Macknay (Engineer WSCC).
- II. Cllr Kelsey advised Riparian residents were written to and advised the Parish Council did not envisage pursuing the flood mitigation project due to not having

statutory powers and being unable to use CIL money where the project was under the jurisdiction of another body (EA).

- III. The widening of the Station Rd culvert is currently being looked at by WSCC as a project.
- IV. A resident has drafted a template letter which residents can use to make complaints to bodies about the situation.
- V. Cllr Kelsey proposed the Parish Council write to the Environment Agency regarding the situation and the inability of the Parish Council to progress the mitigation scheme. NB felt the EA had misled the Parish Council encouraging the Parish Council to go down a route which they were unable to complete not having the necessary powers. NB had drafted a letter also to be copied to Sue Furlong (Operation Watershed) as WSCC money had been used to fund reports into the project. EA it was thought were under the impression that Operation Watershed would supply the majority of the funding. NS pointed out that the EA did not have the powers to insist on improvement works on private land as government money was not available. In addition, the EA had not given the Parish Council any idea of the cost of works which was way beyond the scope of the Parish Council. The letter was to be redrafted with this in mind after researching the original recommendations from the EA at the final meeting held where it was advised government funding would not be available. **ACTION Cllr Kelsey**
- VI. NS had sent through a quote from Dene Tech for some works on unblocking a drain taking the overflow from the old village pond. In addition, other works to be carried out along the Guildford Road for the condition of other drains to be investigated. In order to pursue these aspects further survey work would be useful at £595 net. Proposed by Cllr Kelsey seconded by Cllr Colling and all in favour. **ACTION NS/ Clerk** This may also inform developers for sites along the Guildford Rd discharging into the Guildford Rd drains.

- c) Pallinghurst Wood – Clay Pit Proposal. Discussed during the public adjournment.
- d) School. The preschool outside project is planned for the Easter holidays.
- e) Neighbourhood Plan. The HRA is with Natural England and some updates have been carried out to the Basic Conditions statement.
- f) North Hall. Cllr Newman has been investigating the resurfacing of the playground and will report on the quotes received at the next meeting.

27/2021 Newsletter articles.

27.1 PROW request for a track across Pallinghurst Woods.

27.2 High Speed Broadband- Open Reach may be able to add high speed for Loxwood as part of the package they are supplying for the Nursery Green. Residents to be asked if they

would be interested in updating their broadband at a cost? Cllr Bates to write a passage for the Newsletter. ACTION Cllr Bates.

27.3 PCSO details and how to contact.

28/2021 Date of the next scheduled meeting: Parish Council Meeting Monday 1st March 2021

The meeting closed at 10.10pm