



# Loxwood Parish Council

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council of Loxwood held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 at 8pm.

29/2021 Attendance: Parish Councillors: Rick Kelsey (Chair); Chris Agar; Tony Colling; Annette Gardner; Roger Newman; and Simon Bates. CDC Gareth Evans (left the meeting after 37/2021). CDC. CDC and WSCC Janet Duncton (left the meeting after 36/2021). Jane Bromley, Clerk. Two members of the public.

Apologies for absence: None.

30/2021 Declaration of Members' Interests: None.

31/2021 Minutes of the Last Meetings – The Parish Council RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, the Planning Committee Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 were accurate records of those meetings with the inclusion of the proposed amendments contained in Appendix 1.

32/2021 APPENDIX 2 ACTION POINT LIST: The Parish Council updated the list of Action Points.

33/2021 Public Participation: A member of the public spoke concerning the Loxwood Meadows activities going forward. Loxwood Joust is proposed for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August. Drive- in movies 19<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August. A jazz evening on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

34/2031 Report from Chichester District Councillor – Cllr. Gareth Evans.

## 34.1 COVID-19 19 Update

Good progress in the Covid-19 vaccination continues to be made. Since concerns raised by residents at the start of the year an effective weekly dialogue continues between CDC and NHS Sussex with improved communication channels. It appears that those within the 40 years bracket will start to get their vaccinations by the end of March. If there are any concerns or questions with the vaccination rollout please do raise these with me.

## Holding Southern Water to account update

You will remember that last year my group brought forward a successful motion for the CEO of CDC to write to Southern Water and OFWAT regarding water capacity issues. A holding letter was received prior to the Christmas and a fuller response was received on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February. At the time of writing this address I was in the process of disseminating the information contained and will send a follow up regarding their responses after this meeting.

## 34.2 The Local Plan

This will be discussed at Cabinet and Full Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and I hope that I will then be permitted to share more information with the parishes I represent then. Local Plan Review CDC have also informed me that they have developed a detailed communications strategy and plan for the Local Plan Review. As part of our communication activities members will be receiving a regular email newsletter.

## 34.3 The Conduct of Council Business

The Council agreed at the last full Council meeting, once COVID-19 is over / under control, to consider the organisation of the Council including looking at introducing a 'hybrid' Cabinet and

Committee system. This would retain the formal structure and advantages of a Cabinet model of government while strengthening the role of non-Cabinet members (backbenchers and opposition) to provide greater oversight, accountability and consensus working.

#### 34.4 CDC Climate Action Plan Approved

At the Council's January meeting, the Climate Action Plan was approved. This is an incredibly important milestone for the Council and personally for the opposition to get CDC first to employ a Climate Emergency Officer (who must be given a huge amount of credit for putting together such a comprehensive document) and then to develop policy accordingly.

The role of the Citizens' Assembly was discussed, and it was reinforced that their aims are to improve awareness and build consensus in support of actions that will need to be taken by the Council and by us all as individuals. It is not something that harms democratic accountability (quite the opposite) and there have been scores of successful such assemblies around the country by now.

#### 34.5 Update on COVID-19 Grants

The COVID-19 Recovery Grants scheme was launched on the 20 August 2020 and they have now closed the grant as CDC have fulfilled the full grant amount. CDC have received a total of 92 applications for the large business grant. A total of 67 applications have been successful which totals a grant amount of £279,946.18 and an equivalent amount of investment by the business community. Of these 67 applications, 22 of the businesses have completed their projects and have been paid. 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 £16,018.67. CDC have received a total of 155 applications for the small business grant. A total of 116 businesses have already received their small grant which totals to £100,435.74. CDC have three applications ready to be signed off totalling a grant amount of £2,733.27.

#### 34.6 Lagoon 3

You might have heard that the owners of Crouchland farm have agreed to release the charge they hold over Lagoon 3 so that it can be sold to a third party and cleared up. I am delighted with this news (if it happens) as it paves the way for the lagoon to be cleared up and the potential environmental disaster avoided. This is good news for the community and good news for the environment.

I will however continue to monitor closely the situation and following this up with the relevant authorities to make sure that they will seek assurances from any new owner that they will clean up the lagoon before the deadline expires for the existing planning enforcement notice. In other words, until I am sure that there is nothing left posing a danger to our environment or the communities that I represent.

A meeting that I organised took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> February at 4.00pm which included officers, the cabinet member for Planning and Parish Councillors from Kirdford and Plaistow and Ifold. This was a positive meeting as it was confirmed a multi-agency visit (including fire services who have not attended the last two meetings) would take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February with a report due in two to four weeks' time which will highlight subsequent changes to the plan. I also was pleased that having asked many times for this there was a commitment to sample the lagoon to inspect the contents. We also were informed that the charge lies on the land and so regardless of who owns the land the May 2021 deadline remains.

I also have commitment from CDC that they will meet regularly with the members at the most recent meeting and I have requested that these be minuted going forward.

In addition, I also wrote to Gillian Keagan MP as she wrote on her social media blog regarding a positive meeting with the EA regarding Lagoon 3 and since this had not been fed back, I hoped she could elaborate on this. To date I have not received a reply.

#### 34.7 Loxwood Claypit

I continue to attend meetings with the local campaign group in order to be kept informed of developments with this planning application as and when it goes in.

#### 34.8 Full Council Meeting

The next full Council Meeting is Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2pm. The budget will be the main agenda item at this meeting. The roll over meeting (if required) is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00am 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!

Councillor Colling spoke regarding the Ofwat Letter received in response to the complaint from CDC regarding Southern Water. He suggested that CDC be advised to keep a register of resident complaints and issues to prove the requirement for an upgrade of the system. Cllr Agar mentioned that Ofwat intend to have a meeting with Southern Water a letter from Ofwat to CDC A Frost alluded to this. SW will insist that until they know the number of houses to be built and where in the District they can't plan for upgrade. SW Capital expenditure is planned in 5-year tranches and therefore nothing can happen quickly.

#### 35/2021 Report from West Sussex County Councillor – Cllr. Janet Duncton

35.1 JD attended the CDC Meeting with Southern Water (SW) meetings and strove to highlight the plight of the north of the District with regard to problems with foul drainage. At the last meeting SW appeared statistically to be the worst in terms of infrastructure nationally.

35.2 The Council tax will increase by 4.99% to include 3% for adult social care.

35.3 Children services are improving and there is a recommendation to Ofsted and Defra that at least for another year the services will not go into a trust.

35.4 The fire service had set up a Committee to oversee the fire services community work. They have received a good report and the Committee has now been disbanded. A new fire and service centre is to be based at Broadbridge Heath and the Horsham Fire Centre is to be relocated there.

35.5 No waste and recycling sites are now to close. Three Centres require a booking to be placed before turning up.

35.6 May 6<sup>th</sup> has been scheduled for County elections as well as police and crime elections and in addition, some Districts elections.

Cllr Kelsey raised a concern of blocked road gully's along the B2133 near the canal bridge in case of water freezing on the road. Cllr Duncton will ask for this to be looked at.

#### 36/2021 Accounts for payment- Payments of £2005.94 for the month were approved.

#### 37/2021 Membership of WSALC. Update from Cllr Newman after his attendance at WSALC Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and the Annual Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

37.1 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 The Value for Money report commissioned by WSALC was discussed and was considered by members not to have proved any lack of value in the current arrangements. The process has been badly handled and achieved nothing but aggravation.

37.2 At the AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> February it was proposed by a parish steering group that East and West Sussex join to form a body to supply similar services to those currently supplied by SSALC and this is to be progressed.

Special Resolutions were put forward

- I. Directors not to purchase services from Hampshire services and this deal has now been stopped.
- II. Directors to work with East Sussex to resurrect the county association. 94% approved.
- III. New Chair and Vice to be appointed. 93% approved.
- IV. Two directors be removed from Office. Approved.

There is progress although not yet fully resolved.

Cllr Agar asked whether we would receive training from the Association merger of East and West Sussex and this was yet to be resolved.

38/2021 APPENDIX 3 PROW application Pallinghurst Wood. Draft letter of support for consideration by the Parish Council. The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the letter after requesting some minor alterations.

39/2021 Updates and items for discussion: -

#### 39.1 Highway/Roads and Traffic/ Noise Calming.

39.1.1 Village Gate replacement. It would appear the Parish Council are responsible for repairs and replacements of this street furniture but this is not a priority as it is an out bound gate. The clerk to obtain a copy of the licence drawn up between WSCC and the Parish at the time it was erected to check this responsibility. **ACTION Clerk**

39.1.2 Traffic Calming There has been an exchange with WSCC regarding traffic calming proposals for the site Land South of Guildford Rd. Lee Moses the Officer in charge is to be asked when the Guildford Rd is to be resurfaced and to alert him this needed to be carried out before any traffic calming marking were put on the road. The Officer is to be asked who is to fund the maintenance of the road markings. The Buff background with speed sign roundels is the preference of the Parish Council subject to WSCC Highways being responsible for maintaining this. **ACTION Clerk**

39.1.3 Drainage has also been discussed with the Officer and he advised the Highways drain is the responsibility of West Sussex. **ACTION Clerk** Cllr Colling had pointed out that the condition of the highways drain along the B2133 was in doubt and Thakeham are now to pay for a CCTV survey to establish this. The yellow lines up near station Rd were not on the highways drawings but this had now been corrected.

#### 39.2 Drainage/Flooding.

APPENDIX 4a and 4b letters to the Environment Agency and WSCC/CDC for approval. The Letters were RESOLVED as approved to be sent as addressed subject to an amendment to the West Sussex and CDC letter to be amended re the Hawthorn Cottage site as this site demonstrates the need for a coordinated approach between developers. **ACTION Cllr Colling**

A technical report to be written by Nigel Simmons to be sent to Kevin Macknay at WSCC and D Henley at CDC. ACTION NS.

39.3 Pallinghurst Wood – Clay Pit Proposal. Cllr Evans advised discussion about appointing a planning consultant had resulted in approving a consultant different to the one to that used by the Parish Council.

39.4 School. Nothing to report.

39.5 Neighbourhood Plan. The Regulation 16 consultation is not yet able to take place as the Habitat Regulation Assessment is not yet determined by Natural England.

39.6 North Hall. Playground resurfacing report. APPENDIX 5  
Cllr Newman recommend the Abacus quote which was not only the cheapest quote for wet pour but recommended by several local councils. The surface was to be coloured rather than black. The quote was for £37,913 with two circle ways around the equipment.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to accept the Abacus quote for a wet pour surface and to use CIL monies to pay for this. ACTION Clerk

40/2021 Newsletter articles. Wet pour surface for the playground. Census to be completed. Update re the NP with CDC outside control of LPC. Thank Loxwood Medical Practice for their efficient delivery of the vaccine in Pulborough for Loxwood residents.

41/2021 Date of the next scheduled meeting: Parish Council Meeting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

The meeting closed at 9.35pm