



# Loxwood Parish Council

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Parish Council of Loxwood to be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 8pm.

42/2021 Attendance: Parish Councillors: Rick Kelsey (Chair); Chris Agar; Tony Colling; Annette Gardner; Roger Newman; and Simon Bates. CDC Gareth Evans (left the meeting after 49/2021). CDC. CDC and WSCC Janet Duncton (left the meeting after 49/2021). Jane Bromley, Clerk. Two members of the public.

Apologies for absence: None.

The Chair expressed the Parish Council's condolences on the death of HRH Duke of Edinburgh.

43/2021 Declaration of Members' Interests – None.

44/2021 Minutes of the Last Meetings – The Parish Council RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021, and the Planning Committee Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 were accurate records of those meetings.

45/2021 APPENDIX 1 ACTION POINT LIST: The Parish Council considered it that what was discussed on the agenda that no further updates were required to the list of Action Points.

46/2021 Public Participation – A retired engineer consultant resident will speak during flooding discussions later in the meeting. No other speakers.

47/2021 Report from Chichester District Councillor – Cllr. Gareth Evans.

## **Covid 19 Update**

All non-essential retail, personal care premises and public buildings will reopen from 12 April. Indoor leisure facilities, such as gyms will also reopen; as will most outdoor attractions and settings. Self-contained accommodation, such as campsites and holiday lets, where indoor facilities are not shared with other households, will also be able to reopen.

Hospitality venues will be allowed to serve people outdoors. However, wider social contact rules will still apply in all of these settings to prevent indoor mixing between different households.

## **New Small Enterprise Grants Scheme**

On 12 April, a new grant scheme for small enterprises across the district will be launched. The Enabling Grant Scheme will give small businesses in the district the opportunity to access funding that will help them to grow and develop. There are three types of grant –

one is for capital projects; another is for website and social media projects; and the third is for start-up businesses. More info here: [www.chichester.gov.uk/enablinggrantscheme](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/enablinggrantscheme)

### **Overview and scrutiny**

Met on the 8<sup>th</sup> April with the main agenda item being:

#### **Water Capacity and Quality in the District**

The Committee invited the Environment Agency, Natural England and Ofwat, Southern Water to attend the meeting to discuss the following and to respond to a set of questions from members submitted in advance:

- Water capacity and headroom at treatment plants
- Water capacity challenges for Local Plan
- Responses to planning applications including delays in connectivity
- Nitrates affecting watercourses and harbours
- Chichester Harbour water quality
- Discharge into harbour and water courses
- Drain surcharging

Outcomes will be reported prior to the next Parish Council Meeting.

### **Governance Task & Finish Group**

A group has been set up in response to a motion the Lib Dem group put to Council calling for a review of the way the Council includes members in decision-making. The group will be looking at ways to make governance more effective by involving members in policy-making at an earlier stage.

### **Local Plan**

CDC have just issued the second Local Plan email newsletter. This is sent to around 2,500 subscribers, parish councils, members and the media. People can sign up to this here:

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

### **Local Elections**

Preparations are underway for the elections on 6 May. This week CDC have been issuing poll cards to registered voters. Residents are advised to check their polling station, as it may have changed.

Residents can register to vote for these elections at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) until midnight on 19 April. A great deal of work has gone into making sure that all of our polling stations are Covid-secure for people who wish to vote in person. However, people may prefer to apply to vote by post. If they want to do this, they can find a link to download a postal vote application form on our website at [www.chichester.gov.uk/howtovote](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/howtovote), or they can call 01243 521010. People need to apply before 5pm on 20 April 2021.

Residents can also apply to vote by proxy and they can find details on this, along with more information about the elections, on our website at: [www.chichester.gov.uk/currentelections](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/currentelections)

### **Petworth Vision**

Petworth Vision are developing two projects for which they will be seeking support from CDC Vision budget.

These are:

- A project to continue to offer basic computer skills to the residents of Petworth and the surrounding areas, following on from the successful IT in 2018/19. Following feedback, the approach will be less formal and more sociable, with a pop-up IT café in the United Reform Church with twice weekly IT drop-in sessions.

- Promoting the many heritage sites in and around Petworth by developing a logo and website for the newly created Petworth Heritage Partnership. A brief for the work is being finalised before going out to tender.

### **Local updates**

Lagoon 3 – A meeting to update on the multi-agency visit which took place has been scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> April 3pm

Kirdford – A large scale application has gone in Townfield, Kirdford for 75 houses. This has received 160 objections and will go to planning committee (May or June)

<https://publicaccess.chichester.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=QOMPYKERM5S00&activeTab=summary>

Wisborough Green – A planning application has gone in for 25 houses

<https://publicaccess.chichester.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

CDC Evans felt it may be worth making contact with these parishes to work more closely together re speculative development.

### **Annual Full Council Meeting**

Has been brought forward to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (2pm)

### **Surgeries**

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!

48/2021 Report from West Sussex County Councillor – Cllr. Janet Duncton reminded Councillors if they had any questions to contact her and there was not much happening at the moment due to the forthcoming election.

Cllr Agar pointed out an accident which had occurred at the Plaistow Rd junction and the request by residents to reduce the speed restriction in this area down from the National Limit. WSCC Duncton had received the enquiry which had been passed on to the cabinet

member. TRO are difficult to achieve and many times the police do not want a reduction in speed due to the difficulty in policing the new restriction.

Cllr Colling commented upon the policing element of the Council Tax being well above inflation as had occurred over a number of years. Cllr Duncton advised they calculate and set their own precept requirement.

49/2021 Accounts for payment- Payments of £52610.11 to include the CIL payment for the North Hall Playground resurfacing of £45496.55 for the month.

50/2021 Risk Assessments for 2021- 2022. Appendix 2a Operation and personnel; 2b Asset Management; 2c Data Protection and 2d Financial.

The Council RESOLVED to approve the risk assessments for the forthcoming year.

51/2021 Appendix 3 Annual Governance Statement for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021- The Parish Council are recommended to respond to the Governance Statement declaration as a positive to all questions on page 3 of the appendix.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the positive response to questions 1 to 9 of the Annual Return Governance Statement which would be signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

52/2021 Infrastructure Business Plan. Any updates required to current listings see below.

IBP/696	Transport	Pedestrian infrastructure	Pedestrian crossing B2133 Loxwood Nursery site	Increase footfall across the road in particular children crossing from new development to get to school and in the other direction, residents crossing to the new village stores.	2021-2026	Short term (2021-2026)	£500,000	Community Highways Funding	CIL
IBP/772	Health	Community healthcare, primary care facilities & improvements	Doctors surgery internal building improvements	Improving the internal environment of the surgery for health and comfort.	2021-2026	Short term (2021-2026)	£60,000	CIL and other	CIL
IBP/698	Green Infrastructure	Playing fields, sports pitches, related build and children's play areas	Resurfacing of North Hall playground	The playground surface is meshed grass (grasscrete) and has suffered from subsidence and areas of erosion.	2021-2026	Short term (2021-2026)	£60,000		CIL

No changes at this time although the playground surface had been carried out and project IBP/698 can be removed.

53/2021 New Homes Bonus Allocation for 2021/2022 £7470 Appendix 4 The Parish Council to publicise this for applications by Organisations within Loxwood Parish.

54/2021 Updates and items for discussion: -

a) Highway/Roads and Traffic/ Noise Calming.

- An accident at the Plaistow Rd junction where the speed limit is the national speed limit adds to the list of accidents at the junction. Residents to be asked to write into WSCC Highways in support of a speed restriction in this area.
- A further SID battery is required from Westcotec. **ACTION Clerk**
- Village Gate replacement: The Billingshurst bound gate has been broken by a traffic accident and the cost for replacement is low at £300. The installation needed to be carried out by a contractor who has the relevant roadside insurance. The Parish Council RESOLVED to replace this. **ACTION Clerk**

Land South of Guildford Rd Traffic Calming Proposals:

Nothing more has been heard regarding this.

b) Drainage/Flooding.

- Appendix 5 Reply from the EA to PC letter regarding small measures for flood mitigation.

The EA are suggesting Property Flood Resilience measures for individual properties and funding via Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Community (SRFCC) may provide some funding towards this.

NS advised he had spoken to the EA regarding this who were going to come back to him as to how the fund works. A resident has arranged a meeting to discuss his property and NS proposes to attend the meeting to see if the scope can be widened for all affected properties in Loxwood. He will report back to the Parish Council. Cllr Colling will also attend.

- Meeting with CDC and WSCC re Co Ordinated approach to drainage from sites along B2133. Update. At the meeting a site meeting was proposed and this was attended by WSCC K Macknay and two CDC Officer D Henley and D Kier. A co ordinated approach between developments was not possible but it was later established from a neighbouring landowner that the ditches around Loxwood House and the Hawthorn Cottage sites did not run towards the B2133 but to the west towards the canal across the neighbouring land owner's ditches. There are some errors it would appear on the Thakeham Homes and Antler homes ditch and drainage plans. Pond Copse Lane residents have provided videos and photographs of flooding of their back gardens from the site. They fear that if SUDs ponds drain towards the B2133 it may make the flooding of their gardens worse.

Cllr Colling proposes to set up a meeting with the Planning director Olivia Forsyth at Thakeham Homes to discuss these issues being the site most

progressed in the planning process. **ACTION Clerk** Antler Homes S106 agreement has not yet been signed.

- CCTV survey of drain along B2133. Will take place within the next couple of weeks.

- **LX/21/00347/FUL** Hawthorne Cottage Guildford Road Loxwood RH14 0SF  
Demolition of an existing bungalow and redevelopment to provide 19 residential dwellings  
The submission for this application may require amendment following discussions with WSCC and CDC regarding drainage and the fact that ditches run away from the B2133 and not as the drainage plan suggest towards the highway drain.

As a result of the onsite meeting with WSC and CDC and following discussions they are fully aware of the drainage issues. They will take up the drainage of the site with Reside the developer for hawthorn cottage and so we do not need to write again to CDC re this.

- c) Pallinghurst Wood – Clay Pit Proposal. Awaiting a planning application to be submitted to WSCC.
- d) School. The Governors Chair is getting in contact with the Clay Pits Action Group with concern over the HGVs routing along the road where students walk to the school. The sewer at the school is to be CCTV and cleared but it is not known if this has been carried out yet.
- e) Neighbourhood Plan. Natural England have been in receipt of the NP Habitat Regulations Assessment for comment for 3 months. They have come back with some comments on water supply to North of Sussex, from supply zone at Hardham, is likely to have an impact on the Arun Valley Special habitats water table and the aquifer at Hardham. This sort of study would take a long time.  
In addition, the Bat flight lines of the Mens SAC and Ebernoe Common SAC are commented upon. Surveys on the impact of development will be required.  
Cllr Colling and Agar have a meeting with CDC Head of Planning Andrew Frost and Toby Ayling Head of Planning Policy tomorrow to discuss the approach to this.  
Cllr Colling proposed that Loxwood Parish Council ask CDC for an approach to be taken such that the Neighbourhood Plan be allowed to progress to Reg 16 to allow Natural England to reply to this consultation. If the arguments are the same from Natural England then these will be passed to the Independent Examiner who will then decide whether the Natural England comments need to be taken into account.  
A press statement should be issued if the Neighbourhood Plan is not allowed to progress.

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** the proposal by Cllr. Colling, seconded by Cllr Kelsey and all in favour.

- f) North Hall. Playground resurfacing update. The surface is now laid and looks very good.

The North Hall will be open for organised activities from Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

55/2021 Newsletter articles. New Homes Bonus fund available. Speed at the Plaistow Junction request for reduction of speed to WSCC Highways. Three Councillors requirement.

56/2021 Date of the next scheduled meeting: Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The meeting closed at 10pm.