

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT Minutes of a meeting held at Lodsworth Village Hall
On Monday 12th November 2018**

Present: Councillors Justina Leitao, Caroline Neville (Chair), Paul Phillips, James Rees and Jim Summers

In attendance: Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk
District Councillor Francis Hobbs
County Councillor David Bradford

PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Comments and Questions from members of the Public

There were five members of the public present.

71/18 To note apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Parish Councillor Tom Richardson. The Chairman announced the resignation of Parish Councillor Charles McKee. Clerk to display public notice.

72/18 Declarations of interest

The Chairman reminded members of the code of conduct.

73/18 Co-option of Councillors (this was discussed after item 78/18)

Ms Emma Davies was co-opted as a Parish Councillor, having been unanimously voted in. The Chairman welcomed her to the Parish Council. The Clerk would send her all the necessary forms and documentation.

74/18 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th September 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.

75/18 Reports from elected representatives of WSCC and CDC

County Councillor David Bradford reported County are working on budgets and it is thought Council Tax will not be much different than last year. Velo South is now history and it is very much hoped it will never raise its ugly head again! County covers schools and there will be a new director appointed at its head on 3rd December, a very qualified ex-Ofsted inspector.

David Bradford said he knows the speed of traffic is always a problem in the parish and he wants to open the debate on SDNP setting its own speed limit regulations within the park so watch this space. Others added that just because 20mph speed limits cannot be enforced, does not mean parishes shouldn't have it.

District Councillor Francis Hobbs reported housing numbers locally are imposed by Government and there is a large differentiation between those areas inside and out outside of SDNP which may cause some resentment. He said he has a new Facebook page – Councillor Francis Hobbs which he has set up to be more accessible to residents and to keep people up to date with local issues. If anyone wants anything in the area promoted then let him know.

Paul Phillips raised concern about the obligatory requirement now for all planning applications in the National Park to have bat surveys carried out at great cost and time. James Rees clarified that it is national policy not just the SDNP. Francis Hobbs stated that planning is complex, SDNP pay CDC to deal with all planning applications apart from major developments which they deal with themselves. He said he would like to see the process improved with more timeliness and politeness.

Paul Phillips added that he had attended the MAC (Midhurst Area Cycling) meeting and would very much like to get Lodsworth joined up to the rest of the cycling paths in the area. Lodsworth would be very reliant on getting permission from Cowdray Estate. Francis Hobbs offered his support with approaching Cowdray and once a route had been chosen, to please send him a map and he would happily walk the route and give guidance. He suggested contacting SDNP who would be able to help promote the ideas to any landowners. Paul Phillips thanked him for the advice.

Francis Hobbs and David Bradford left the meeting at 8pm

76/18 Working Party reports

- **Highways:** In Tom Richardson's absence, the Clerk reported that Tom now has the new signs for Gills Lane. Paul Phillips offered to meet up with him and help fix these. With regard to other Highways matters, Tom had nothing particular to report although Selham Road by Selham Bridge is currently under water and still rising, the river has turned the surrounding fields into lakes. Concern was raised to the amount of vehicle crime in the area. It really has become a major issue as every car park in the area seems to be being targeted at the moment.
- **Speedwatch:** Tom Richardson has had four or five volunteers now. He needs to do an exact head count and work out where we are with numbers as only 2 or 3 people on the original lists have ever replied to him. Hopefully there will be enough people to get things rolling. Three of the parishioners in attendance offered to help. Clerk to inform Tom.
- **Footpaths and Rights of Way:** James Rees said he is going to enquire about getting an extension to the new walkway on the footpath leading from St Peters Well to Leggatt Hill. Clerk to chase progress on the broken stile on this path and to report the overgrown footpath by Hill House.
- **Playground:** Paul Phillips said Greenbank had dug out the old matting, put in new topsoil and levelled, then grass seeded. New matting had gone down and he was just awaiting the new zip-wire seat to replace the broken one. Clerk to chase supplier. Paul Phillips will fix once received and also tighten the wire. It had been decided not to put the guy-wires in. Roger Comber had been up to the play area to deal with the mole problem and had caught two.
- **Allotments:** Paul Phillips reported there were a few spare allotments. This season has been quite a struggle keeping on top of the strimming. Rents will go up next year to cover any maintenance required. Tenants had already been forewarned of the increase.
- **Parish repairs:** Deryck Hamon reported he had just finished making three new fingers for the fingerpost at Lickfold Bridge. He was just awaiting the lettering then all would be done. The next parish tidy up morning is due to meet this Saturday. Clerk to ask CDC to provide cones as well as the tidy up kits. Caroline Neville kindly said she would collect them later this week.
- **Winter Plan:** The Winter Community Plan had been submitted. Two new grit bins had been delivered, one to be swapped with the current small one opposite Tanglewood on Bexley Hill and one by the A272 Lodsworth junction to replace a stolen one. The small one from Bexley Hill is to be moved to the A272 Selham junction. The grit bins are still waiting to be filled by WSCC. Paul Phillips to quote for fixing the grit bin on the A272 down.
- **Lickfold Bridge flooding:** Jim Summers spoke of WSCC Operation Watershed's new awareness initiative – Ditch the Problem which gives guidance to landowners and community groups around Riparian Ownership and Responsibilities. www.westsussex.gov.uk/ditchtheproblem. If you have a watercourse, ditch, stream, river or culvert on or next to your land you are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of them to ensure they are not a flood risk to other people or property. With regard the flooding at the Lickfold Bridge, since the sluice gates at Mill Farm have been opened, the flooding doesn't seem as severe and the water goes down much more quickly. However all it takes is for a tree to fall and problems will arise so it is a case of careful management by the various landowners. Jim Summers agreed to follow this up.
- **Planning:** Caroline Neville spoke about the Heathlands Reunited sculpture proposed for Graffham Common. Graffham Parish Council strongly object to the siting as it is totally inappropriate for the environment especially as SDNP has an aim to conserve and protect. Clerk to keep an eye out for the planning application.

Since the last meeting, the Parish Council has discussed the following planning applications:

SDNP/18/04546/TCA

St Peters Well Vicarage Lane Lodsworth GU28 9DF

Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Copper Beech tree (T1), 2 no. Oak trees (T2 and T3), 1 no. Goat Willow tree (T4) and 1 no. Yew tree (T5).

SDNP/18/04578/LDE

Lickfold Cottage Surrey Road Lickfold Lurgashall Petworth West Sussex GU28 9DX

Existing lawful development certificate for a garden swimming pool for private leisure.

SDNP/18/04869/HOUS

The Old School School Lane Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9DH

Erection of timber garage with car port.

SDNP/18/04638/HOUS and SDNP/18/04639/LIS

The Old Nursery Church Lane Lodsworth GU28 9DD

Change of use of roof space to habitable accommodation including 2 no. Velux windows and internal alterations. Internal alterations to barn.

SDNP/18/03717/HOUS and SDNP/18/03718/LIS

2, Gibbs Cottages Surrey Road Lickfold GU28 9DX

Removal of existing dormers and side lean-to; erection of new single storey/one-and-a-half storey extension and associated alterations to provide a new garden room and bedroom with refurbished kitchen and bathroom.

SDNP/18/05553/TCA

Whispers The Street Lodsworth GU28 9BZ

Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Eucalyptus tree, remove a section of 1 no. Leyland cypress hedge, crown reduce by 50% on 1 no. Eucalyptus tree and crown reduce by 33% on 1 no. Copper Beech tree.

Since the last meeting, Chichester District Council/South Downs National Park has made the following decisions:

SDNP/18/03791/FUL

Location: St Peters Church, Church Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9DD

Proposal: Replacement of rainwater goods and installation of a lightning protection system to the church.

Decision: Approved

SDNP/18/03644/HOUS

Location: Old Brickyard, Surrey Road, Lickfold GU28 9DR

Proposal: Raise ridge height to facilitate the use of loft as habitable accommodation by the addition of 4 no. new dormer windows and 3 no. pitched roof skylights. One altered and one new first floor window on north elevation

Decision: Approved

SDNP/17/03763/FUL

Location: 1 Barnettts Cottage, Fitzlea Wood Road, East Lavington GU28 0QN

Proposal: Construction of a new bridleway

Decision: Refused

SDNP/18/04546/TCA

St Peters Well Vicarage Lane Lodsworth GU28 9DF

Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Copper Beech tree (T1), 2 no. Oak trees (T2 and T3), 1 no. Goat Willow tree (T4) and 1 no. Yew tree (T5).

Decision: Raise no objection

SDNP/18/04578/LDE

Lickfold Cottage Surrey Road Lickfold Lurgashall Petworth West Sussex GU28 9DX

Existing lawful development certificate for a garden swimming pool for private leisure.

Decision: Approved

SDNP/18/04723/DCOND

Lickfold Cottage Surrey Road Lickfold Lurgashall GU28 9DX

Discharge of condition 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 from planning permission SDNP/18/01819/LIS

Decision: Approved

SDNP/18/04869/HOUS

The Old School Lane Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9DH

Erection of timber garage with car port.

Decision: Approved

77/18 Outdoor Fitness Equipment

The Parish Council was fully supportive of the idea of installing some outdoor exercise equipment at the recreation ground. The VHMC has secured a £4,000 matched funding grant for outdoor equipment from The New Grange centre. Financial support would be discussed at the Finance meeting in December. Clerk to meet with a representative from Sovereign Playgrounds to discuss the proposal and get some prices.

78/19 Website

Clerk had met with Niel Daubeney who currently looks after the website. They had discussed and she had looked into all the available options for the website going forward. She recommended to the Council that she instruct Functions 28 Ltd to design a new website at the cost of £450. They are a company who use a system she is familiar with, also are Parish Council specialists and will ensure the website is fully compliant with GDPR and other regulations. Full Council approved this.

79/18 Financial Matters

- The Council's current financial position of £30,215 was noted. The second instalment of the precept had been received @ £8,613.
- The bank reconciliation at Appendix 2 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 3 was noted. Payments were authorised for WSCC (Clerk's October Salary plus WSCC payroll admin charges) @ £495 and Mrs Helen Cruikshank (Clerk's Q2 18/19 Exps) @ £74
- Clerk to organise a Finance committee meeting in December where grants and donations 2018/19 and the precept/budget 2019/20 will be discussed. The VHMC has requested an increase in the Parish Council's contribution to cover the insurance costs.

67/18 Reports back from meetings attended by Councillors

Paul Phillips had attended a MAC (Midhurst Area Cycling) meeting. He is keen to try and get a cycle route between Lodsworth and Midhurst but needs to come up with a safe route. Paul Phillips and Jim Summers to walk the area and suggest a route which can then be discussed at the next meeting.

Caroline Neville had attended the All Parishes Meeting where rural crime strategy, Countrywatch, well-being and social prescribing had all been discussed. A sculptured recycled bottle tree made from 600 bottles is being put up by Jack Wills in Chichester to remind people of the importance of recycling at Christmas and to encourage people to cut down on plastic use.

68/18 Clerks Report including any correspondence

Clerk reported on a forthcoming meeting:

- SDNP workshop on Thursday 29th November at Midhurst Rother College – Caroline Neville and James Rees to attend.

69/18 Items to be included on the next agenda

Co-option

MAC proposed route

Please let the Clerk know of any additional items for the agenda by Tuesday 8th January 2019

70/18 Date of next Parish Council meeting – Monday 14th January 2019 at 7.30pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm