

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at Lodsworth Village Hall On Monday 8th July 2019

Present: Councillors Emma Davies, Chris Fairclough, Justina Leitao, Caroline Neville (Chair) and Jim Summers

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

PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Comments and Questions from members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

45/19 To note apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Mark Reed, James Rees and Tom Richardson.

46/19 Declarations of interest

The Chairman reminded members of the code of conduct.

47/19 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

Justina Leitao requested the wording “insist” be changed to “ask” on 43/19. This was amended and the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th June 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

48/19 Reports from elected representatives of WSCC and CDC

County Councillor David Bradford reported he had recently attended a meeting of the Environment Committee where considering requests for events on West Sussex Highways was discussed. His comments strongly opposing large cycle races in the County and especially those with road closures were noted. Any future cycle races need to be approved by all District Councils too and there must be a one year lead time for any large event. He added that Velo North had been cancelled due to lack of support.

David spoke of the strict Highways regulations which are hard to change as they are set at national level. He said there appears to be insufficient procedures in place when incidents do happen on the roads unless someone is sadly killed. If road accidents lead to just injuries, information goes to the Police not to County and information gets lost in their records. It is hoped that this can be improved upon. Sometimes quiet negotiation is the best bet with amending local signage.

Policing is an issue, David feels that Sussex should have a rural crime team as Kent & Surrey do. Unfortunately the Chief Inspector does not want one. Katy Bourne is standing once again for re-election as the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner. Drugs and the County line are a real issue and the Police are on trains trying to spot the criminals. They are dealing with large illegal corporations. All must be vigilant and report any problems or suspicious behaviour.

County have had bad reports for both its Special Schools and its Fire & Rescue Service. Obviously this needs to be looked into. County is taking both the reports extremely seriously and getting help from other Councils. David Bradford feels the Fire & Rescue Service should not be under the control of WSCC as is just a distraction from its mainstream responsibilities. He reported that the finances and the administration of the WSCC pension was good and general financial management very strong.

Jim Summers said the roads are in the worst state they have ever been. Gills Lane in particular in the parish needs proper resurfacing, and potholes should be fixed properly in the first place rather than just temporarily

so they then need attention soon after. David Bradford said if roads are in a terrible state and meet the intervention levels then they should be repaired. Unfortunately there is no budget for full resurfacing. Any problems report on <https://love.westsussex.gov.uk/reports/home>. Balfour Beatty's highways contract has been extended due to the change of contract last year being challenged and going through a legal battle.

District Councillor Francis Hobbs reported on the new 50/50 split at District Council with a Conservative cabinet and Liberal Democrat leading the committees. It seems to be working well. The SDNP local plan has finally been approved. Alun Aylesbury and Andrew Shaxson were recently appointed as the two representatives from West Sussex.

Francis Hobbs spoke of the King Edward VII development which has gone from originally one company being in charge to six different companies developing the various parts. On one section, six houses have been amended on a planning application to 18 houses and SDNP are going through a legal dispute with the contractors to whether this is a minor or major change. The decision will be a very important one.

Cowdray Estate is due to move its offices to Capron House in Midhurst. Current residents have been informed.

David Bradford and Francis Hobbs left the meeting at 8.05pm

49/19 Working party reports

- Highways
In Tom Richardson's absence, the Clerk read out the following on his behalf: "Nothing to report on Highways other than I have started collecting signatures for a petition of support to get the speed limit in Selham reduced to 30 from the current 60mph. Also, Cowdray have removed a couple of trees which were causing a hazard in Selham due to the angle they were growing over the road - there are a couple more that need attention and I will be chasing them again on that. Other than that, I've not had any reports of any issues from anyone". Caroline Neville added that the proposed development at the West timber yard may well help the speed limit reduction project. Jim Summers queried the priorities and intervention levels for repairs to roads in the parish. Clerk to contact the local Highways Officer and ask for a meeting.
- Speedwatch
Emma Davies said she was waiting on people's availability to book in some sessions and collect equipment over the summer months.
- Footpaths and Rights of Way
Caroline Neville reported that WSCC inspections and clearance works now only take place on a 15 monthly cycle. Lodsworth had its inspection done in May and works are due to take place in August.
- Play Area
Emma Davies reported that the ROSPA report had come through following the annual inspection. There had been very little change over the past year with some minor deterioration but nothing serious or dangerous at the moment. The dog fouling situation at the recreation ground seems to have improved. Further to a request that the village tidy up team visit the recreation ground on one of its monthly sessions, it was suggested the Village Hall Management Committee organise their own tidy up session for the grounds as there is already a long list of areas in the village which need attention.
- Allotments
There was nothing to report.
- Parish Repairs
Chris Fairclough had kindly offered his help to Deryck Hamon with this.
- Winter Plan
Justina Leitao reported that the Parish Council is awaiting to hear from WSCC for the 2019/20 agreements.
- Planning

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

SDNP/19/02664/DCOND

Collyers Farm Surrey Road Lickfold Lurgashall GU28 9DU

Discharge of condition 3, 10 and 12 from planning permission SDNP/16/03037/FUL.

Decision: Approved

SDNP/19/01905/TCA

The Old Vicarage Vicarage Lane Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9DF

Notification of intention to fell 1no. Copper Beech tree (1), 1no. Red Horse Chestnut tree (2) and 1no. Western Red Cedar tree (3).

Decision: Raise No Objection

SDNP/19/01994/FUL

Redens Surrey Road Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9DR

Proposed fodder, winter housing and welfare building for alpacas.

Decision: Approved

|

SDNP/19/02881/LIS

2 Gibbs Cottages Surrey Road Lickfold Lurgashall Petworth West Sussex GU28 9DX

Strip and re-tile existing pitched roofs.

Case withdrawn

SDNP/19/01428/DCOND

Green Oaks Highstead Lane Bexley Hill Lodsworth GU28 9EA

Discharge of conditions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13 and 15 of permission SDNP/18/02095/HOUS.

Decision: Approved

SDNP/19/01312/HOUS

West Wadlington Surrey Road Lickfold Lurgashall GU28 9DT

Erection of timber garden office.

Decision: Approved

50/19 Freedom of Information request

In Mark Reed's absence, the Clerk read out the following on his behalf:

"I wanted to propose that if the Parish Council receive a request and the requestor uses an assumed or false name then we submit a response acknowledging the request and say it will not be progressed until the person provides their real name. In the meantime the requested information is collated in readiness for the request from the named person. The Act states in Part 1, Section 8 (1) (b) the request should include 'the name of the applicant and an address for correspondence' and this is further confirmed on www.askyourcouncil.uk which states the requestor should give their real name.

In addition please can the protocols of sharing this information between relevant members of the Parish Council be discussed? For example, a request about the winter plan comes in to the website. What personal information about the requestor should be shared to the specific Parish Councillor? My view is that the requestors name and request should be shared and I have based my view on the guidance given on the .gov website.

Although this has originated from a request about the Allotments I feel we need one procedure to follow to ensure consistency as this is unlikely to be the last case. I am aware that individual members will have differing views and I will support the outcome of the results of the discussion differ from my views above. Thank you in advance for considering this request".

Given the absence of four Councillors at tonight's meeting, it was agreed to postpone full discussion on this until the next meeting. All information is freely available from the website and the Clerk.

51/19 Financial Matters

- The Councils current financial position of £22,893 was noted.
- The Bank Reconciliation as at 3rd July 2019 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment were approved as follows; WSCC (Clerk's June Salary @ £450), Playsafety Ltd (Play Area Inspection) @ £91 and Mrs H Cruikshank (Clerk's Q1 Exps) @ £57

52/19 Reports back from meetings attended by Councillors

There had been no external meetings since the last meeting in June.

53/19 Clerks report including any correspondence

The Clerk informed the Parish Council of the following meetings:

- All Parishes Meeting on Monday 15th July at The Grange Centre in Midhurst at 7pm
- APCAG AGM on Tuesday 30th July 2019 at 6.30pm at Alfold Village Hall GU6 8JB

54/19 Items to be included on the next agenda

Freedom of Information requests

Please let the Clerk know of any other items by Monday 2nd September.

55/19 Date of next Parish Council meeting – Monday 9th September 2019 at 7.30pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm