

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held virtually due to Co-vid 19
On Monday 14th September 2020 at 6.30pm

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

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

There was one member of the public present.

PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Comments and Questions from members of the Public

The member of the public spoke about his concern over the increased volume of traffic through the village and size of the vehicles using the parish's roads. He feels the whole problem needs looking at again including the speed limit. Since the introduction of the HGV ban in Petworth town centre and the lorry re-routing, he feels the volume of large vehicles using our roads has doubled. He made a couple of initial suggestions which he felt would help:

- To move the 30mph sign, north of the village, from outside Myrtle Cottage to the Leggatt Hill junction
- Introduction of pinch points or similar traffic calming measure on the narrow part of The Street, north of the allotments.
- Warning signs about vehicle speed.

Caroline Neville said the Parish Council had a petition some years ago to get the speed limit in the village reduced to 20mph and a HGV restriction. This petition had the largest number of signatures WSCC had seen. It progressed and got into the top 18 for a TRO in the County however got dropped due to budget constraints at the last minute. The Parish Council has spent a great deal of time on this matter over many years with the Chair attending countless meetings in the District to highlight the problems as well continuous meetings in the village with WSCC Highways Officers and Management without any result. The member of the public stated that residents need to try again. Cars parking in laybys are causing problems at the moment and this must be restricted too as it is a danger.

The Parish Council urges parishioners once again to report any anti-social driving to the Police via Operation Crackdown. <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/>

The member of the public left the meeting at 6.55pm

42/20 To note apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Chris Fairclough and Mark Reed. County Councillor David Bradford also sent his apologies. Thanks were given to David for sending through a written report in his absence.

43/20 Declarations of interest

The Chairman reminded members of the code of conduct.

44/20 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th July 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

45/20 Reports from elected representatives of WSCC and CDC

District Councillor Francis Hobbs reported on the following:

- Whilst we've not managed to meet formally in person much has been going on behind the scenes within the District Council. We are still working remotely and Government guidelines mean we cannot have split meetings and vote; that is some in an office and others on-line. As it stands we're not expecting to have regular face to face meetings until the New Year, although I have had one recent management meeting at the Novium Museum, which is now open to the public.
- On a national level you will have seen that there is currently significant disquiet over a new algorithm for housing numbers. Taken to its natural conclusion, we could have the SDNPA as a green belt across our district with significant building on both sides. Clearly this is causing concern and only last night Andrew Griffiths, the MP for Arundel, managed to get an Adjournment Debate in the House of Commons to highlight the issue. All local MPs are supportive of a more nuanced approach to housing which suggests brown field sites are built on before green field. That said, we are lucky to be within the Park, when others outside have so much uncertainty.
- More locally, I've been involved in groups to reduce the noise of motorbikes in particular on our local roads, not least the A272. There have been some significant successes recently which I think will find their way to the press, so I hope this will begin to make improvements for our local community. At the other end of the spectrum I've been involved with the local cycling forum and I'm pleased that more and more routes are being opened up. Watch this space!
- There have been some local planning issues which continue to take up my time, including Dunford House. I know the local community in Heyshott want to retain some sort of community access and use and I am confident that the planning authority are equally keen that any changes fit in with its historical importance.
- Within Easebourne I have spent time recently supporting the community at KE7 to engage with the developers seeking to continue the building activity on the site. There is a complex web of relationships, but I'm pleased we seem to have gained some traction. Above all we need the community to have a voice in what happens. I believe SDNPA are sympathetic to finding a solution which maintains and grows the sense of place. I'm also trying to discover how the community can become a village, either separate from or as part of Easebourne.
- Sadly the Hollist in Lodsworth is still closed, as is the King's Arms. However, the Halfway Bridge seems to have benefitted, particularly with the Eat Out to Help Out scheme. Having been there and the White Horse in Easebourne it seems some had a much better month than expected. I hope the Three Moles, Duke of Cumberland and Lickfold Arms have done equally well during this challenging time.
- As you are all aware, the Budgens old site is to become a Sainsburys and the old Grange site a care home, subject to planning permission. Jim Summers queried whether the sale proceeds for this site would be re-invested back into Midhurst. Francis Hobbs said £8million had already been spent on the new leisure centre for the community. He would look into the actual figures and send across the information by email.

I hope everyone remains safe, particularly over the next few weeks. The Clerk reminded Francis if he could clarify on the bonfire situation as many residents had been enquiring. If you have any issues of a District nature then please do not hesitate to contact Francis on fhobbs@chichester.gov.uk or 01730 813313.

Francis Hobbs left the meeting at 7.04pm

In his absence, County Councillor David Bradford had sent a written report as follows:

- The latest Coronavirus Report from WSCC states that, over a 14 day period to August 23rd, the overall rate per 100,000 population in West Sussex remains below the England rate at 10.2 cases compared to 22.5 for England. No need for complacency of course. You will be aware, schools are ready for the new term; if you have any queries then there are frequent reports on the WSCC website; a special video made by our students and teachers is there to reassure children.

- There is a new temporary cycleway scheme in Chichester; I went past last week but couldn't see any cycles! Still, there is a survey to take part in if you so desire. Separately, if you are part of the Blue Badge concession scheme, note that after 30th September they will start to get tough again, so make sure you renew at the right time! Go online or call 01243 777653.
- More importantly, looking after mental health in lockdown is very important and details are noted on the 'NHS Every Mind Matters' website.
- Although we are primarily a rural community in Rother Valley, we still have particularly with those that use Haslemere Station, people that go all the way to London. The present situation has exposed how potty we all are going on EXPENSIVE trains and overcrowded tubes etc. Most are now working from home all or part of the time – the big question is: "is this temporary or permanent?"
- The planning laws need amending so that redundant retail can further convert into much needed housing much more quickly.
- I am very excited by the opportunities before us. Out of tragedy some good may arise!

I can't wait to see you all face-to-face again but will have to wait a little longer! If you have any issues of a County nature then please do not hesitate to contact David on david.bradford@westsussex.gov.uk or 01730 813313.

46/20 Working Party Reports

- **Highways:** Tom Richardson reported he was now chairing the task group set up to deal with the noise and speed of motorbikes along the A272. There is much support from surrounding Parish Councils, District and County Councillors plus the MP Gillian Keegan. Progress is being made but it won't happen overnight.
It was agreed the Parish Council would purchase its own equipment for the Speedwatch initiative @ £407 plus VAT. As soon as the equipment arrives then sessions will finally be able to start! Clerk has reported the blocked drains on School Lane by Oakfield. She also would report the missing road sign at Oakfield.
- **Footpaths and Rights of Way:** James Rees reported there had been several trees down in the parish which had been reported. Waiting to hear from WSCC rangers regarding the next inspection as desperately needed. Clerk had reported the asbestos dumped on the verge of Heath End Lane.
- **Playground:** Emma Davies reported that Playsafe Playgrounds had started working on the quotation for the repairs required. She would keep members updated via email.
- **Allotments:** Paul Phillips reported that the allotments have been busier than ever; very productive and for many an important and happy place of sanctuary in these difficult times. It is a generally positive, co-operative community but sadly there were a few issues that wasted everyone's time this year. Hopefully there will be no recurrence. The council were resolved to robustly support the manager in protecting tenant's rights to grow vegetables without nuisance or interference.
- **Parish Repairs:** Emma Davies stated sadly that no location had yet been found to put green waste as part of the tidy up sessions so they have not been able to re-start these. James Rees offered to speak to Loves Farm to enquire about a site which could be used.
- **Winter Plan:** Justina Leitao had completed the grit bin audit and submitted to WSCC. A couple of bins need refilling before the winter.
- **Planning:** There was one outstanding planning application to be discussed tonight as follows:

SDNP/20/03509/HOUS

Cobden farm, Lickfold GU28 9DX

Proposed two storey rear extension

The following applications have been discussed by the Parish Council since the last meeting:

SDNP/20/02776/HOUS

Weavers, The Street, Lodsworth GU28 9BZ
Insertion of 1 no. window to rear (east) elevation

SDNP/20/03269/FUL

1a Langham Stables, Langham Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9BU
Change of use of barn to Tap Room to enhance existing brewery business

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

SDNP/20/02558/APNB

Leggatt Hill Farm, River Lane, River, Lodsworth GU28
Proposed agricultural building
Decision: Prior approval required and refused

SDNP/20/01838/TPO

Land at Lodsworth House, Gills Lane, Lodsworth
Fell 2 no. Sweet Chestnut trees and coppice to ground level 1 no. Common Ash
Decision: Approved

SDNP/20/01831/TPO

Land at Lodsworth House, Gills Lane, Lodsworth
Fell 1 no. Douglas fir, 1 no. Common Ash and coppice 1 no. Holly tree
Decision: Approved

SDNP/20/01876/LIS

Weavers, The Street, Lodsworth GU28 9BZ
Removal of two small modern non-structural walls in boiler room to create more utility space. Insertion of window in rear elevation to give natural light into boiler/utility room. Repainting of garage side door/windows and replacement of hung doors.
Decision: Approved

SDNP/19/06129/HOUS and SDNP/19/06130/LIS

St Peters Well Vicarage Lane Lodsworth GU28 9DF
Internal repair alterations and minor external alterations to. Removal of existing single storey extension and construction of new single storey rear extension.
Decision: Approved

SDNP/20/01598/HOUS and SDNP/20/01599/LIS

Location: Leggatt Hill Farmhouse River Lane River Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex
Proposal: Demotion and replacement of existing ancillary buildings to provide pool buildings including pool plant, gym and changing facilities and associated landscaping.
Decision: Approved

SDNP/20/02686/PRE

Ground Floor Office Suite Waterside Halfway Bridge Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9BP
Retention of office space at part ground floor (B1 use), change of use of remaining building to residential (C3 use); 4no. 1 bedroom flats and 5no. 3 bedroom maisonettes.
Advice provided

47/20 New accessibility requirements for website

There are new accessibility regulations coming into play from 23rd September for websites. All PC's must be compliant. We need to ensure reasonable adjustments are made to websites so they are accessible for

people with various disabilities including impaired vision/motor difficulties/cognitive impairments or learning difficulties and deafness/hearing difficulties. It was agreed to get Function 28 Ltd (the original website designers) to do the work to the website in order to comply with the new regulations at a cost of @ £200.

48/20 Financial Matters

- The Councils current financial position of £31,684 was noted.
- The bank reconciliation as at 8th September 2020 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment was approved as follows; WSCC (Clerk's August Salary) @ £450
- A request had been received from Midhurst Area Cycling for financial support. It was agreed to donate £250 for the financial year 2020/21
- The Village Hall Management Committee had requested an increase in its annual donation due to the dire state of its revenue this year due to Co-vid. It was agreed to donate an extra £500 on top of the budgeted £1,500 as a one-off for 2020/21.

49/20 Reports back from meetings attended by Councillors

Caroline Neville reported she now chairs the Midhurst Area Cycling (MAC) Committee. It is important that any cycle paths which Cowdray Estate agree to put in to link its treehouse development to Cowdray Park are linked to Lodsworth too. We must figure out a sensible route and hopefully with the support and help of MAC and SDNPA this will be viable.

50/20 Clerk's report including any correspondence

Clerk said the next All Parishes Meeting has been re-arranged once again and will now be held on the evening of Wednesday 16th September via Zoom. *James Rees and Paul Phillips to attend.*

There is a plethora of SSALC online training courses for those councillors who may wish to attend. Please let the Clerk know if you are interested and she will book you places. Details of all courses may be found on the SSALC website http://www.sussexalc.org.uk/EventsTraining_19251.aspx

51/20 Items to be included in the next agenda

Please let the Clerk know of any additional items to be added to the agenda by Monday 2nd November

52/20 Date of next Parish Council meeting

Monday 9th November 2020

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm