

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held virtually due to Co-vid 19
On Monday 11th January 2021 at 6.30pm**

Present: Councillors Emma Davies, Chris Fairclough, Justina Leitao, Caroline Neville, Paul Phillips, Mark Reed, James Rees (Chair) and Jim Summers

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

PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Comments and Questions from members of the Public

There were no members of the Public.

1/21 To note apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from County Councillor David Bradford. Belated apologies from Parish Councillor Tom Richardson.

2/21 Declarations of interest

The Chairman reminded members of the code of conduct.

3/21 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th December 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

4/21 Reports from elected representatives of WSCC and CDC

District Councillor Francis Hobbs reported on the following:

First of all may I wish you all a very Happy New Year! I appreciate it's a tough time but, then again, we're still here to enjoy what I hope is going to be much better times as the weather warms up and the COVID vaccine roll out accelerates. A few areas of interest this time around...

I note quite a bit of correspondence about the possible closure of the recycling site in Midhurst. Clearly David Bradford will know more than I do but my conversations with other County Councillors suggest it is currently only an option. Should it be selected for closure I still believe there will need to be a consultation and, at that point, we need to focus our efforts to ensure it's not seen through. It would be very silly to close it, not least because it will inevitably lead to much more travel, and that really doesn't sit well in the current environmental narrative. *Update: WSCC has removed any tip closures from its savings.*

I also note some local concern about the scale of house building in and around Midhurst. I've been in touch with SDNPA and, whilst I agree there are a number of key sites to be developed, including the old Syngenta site in Fernhurst, further houses on the old railway yard in Midhurst and 3 smaller sites in Easebourne, we still have less than in other areas. The following numbers in the SDNPA local plan may be of interest; Midhurst, 175, Petersfield, 805 and Lewes, 875. Petworth and Liss are 150 each. Of course I'll keep watching this. For completeness, Syngenta and King Edward VII (windfall development before the plan) fall outside the Park plan so it is a slightly distorted comparison. To give further context, the housing need is for 200 more houses per year in the Park than being built.

Related to this I am keeping a close eye on Benson Elliott the King Edward VII development. I see greater levels of engagement than the past but I'm still not happy. I was expecting more consultation. I'm as confident as I can be that SDNPA will ensure community views are fully considered. I also note the water issue is now higher on the agenda and lack of clarity on who should be providing what and whether they can deliver on it may well put a break on things anyway.

In the last few days I've heard concern expressed about the speed of vaccine roll out. At this critical inflection point I think we must simply do our best to keep to ourselves, or as socially distanced as possible,

for at least the next 4-6 weeks. We may hope for a reduction in restrictions soon but, reading below the headlines, I think we may be under tight rules until the second half of March.

Whilst it may seem a bit of a muddle the vaccine roll out is a complex and huge operation. You can imagine the headlines if gatherings for those receiving the vaccine were to become spreader events or if records were not correctly kept. Added to this, we must remember those in the community who have other medical conditions and the NHS must also do its best to support them, particularly if their condition is more immediately life threatening for them. We will be contacted as soon as it's our turn. If we haven't seen significant acceleration in the next few weeks I'll be the first to raise my voice significantly. Our local vaccine centre will be at Riverbank Medical Centre, so it's much closer than for those in Chichester who currently have to go to either Tangmere or Selsey. Anecdotally I'd be interested to know if anyone has been contacted already. I've heard frustration at lack of clarity on what is happening. I hope everyone still remains safe, particularly over the next critical few weeks.

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 6.45pm

There was no County Councillor report. 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.

5/21 Working Party Reports

- **Highways:** There are lots of potholes everywhere. Please continue to report as and when you see them to <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-pothole-online/>
- **Speedwatch:** Emma Davies reported that Speedwatch is not currently happening due to Co-vid and lockdown. It will re-start when it can.
- **Footpaths and Rights of Way:** James Rees reported the WSCC inspection took place in November and any works identified from this should be carried out this month. With regard the email regarding potential loss of rights of way in the parish. The Ramblers have published a map of the paths at <https://dontloseyourway.ramblers.org.uk/>. Councillors agreed that there was no need to add any of the additional paths as all had footpaths close by.
- **Playground:** Emma Davies reported that Playsafe Playgrounds are in the process of providing a quote for the repairs as identified in the ROSPA report. They have provided a quote for providing a piece of equipment to replace the broken tunnel; two quotes of £4,092 (Steam Express Locomotive) and £2,835 (Early Years Locomotive and carriage). It was agreed to replace with the like for like first option as the second option was for a limited younger age group. Emma Davies to confirm order with Playsafe and also contact Angus Studd regarding the mole problem once the new equipment had been installed.
- **Allotments:** Paul Phillips reported that the allotments were quiet and look good. A new water pipe will need to be installed before the start of next season. A greenhouse had come off its base and has a broken pane; Paul Phillips and Chris Fairclough to take a look. Paul Phillips said he would unblock the drain on The Street by the allotments. The Clerk had reported the blocked drain by Oakfield but WSCC Highways had not yet cleared it.
- **Parish Repairs:** Emma Davies reported that the tidy-up sessions were not currently happening due to lockdown and Co-vid. It was hoped these would re-start as soon as possible.
- **Winter Plan:** Justina Leitao reported a resident on Bexley Hill had contacted the Parish Council about the state of the two salt bins opposite Tanglewood on Highstead Lane. Justina had emptied the larger one of water and chopped up the top layer in the smaller bin which had released the grit. She suggested getting salt bin guardians for each bin in the parish as it would benefit controlling any issues and get parishioners involved by taking on some responsibility. Chris Fairclough said he had since spoken to the resident on Bexley Hill and has worked out how to get the lid shut on the larger bin and would drill holes to drain out the water. He would report back. Justina Leitao added that the purchase of any new salt bins would be looked at again in the summer.
- **Planning:** There were three outstanding planning applications which were discussed tonight:

SDNP/20/05213/HOUS

2 Upper Elidge Cottages Highstead Lane Bexley Hill Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9EA
Replacement outbuilding for use as ancillary home office and hobby studio.

SDNP/20/05655/PA3O

The Watermill Halfway Bridge Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9BP
Approval for the change of use from office (Use Class B1a) to residential (Use Class C3)

SDNP/20/05200/LIS

Shotters Farm Highstead Lane Lickfold Lodsworth GU28 9DX
Dismantling & re-construction of chimney.

The following applications have been discussed by the Parish Council since November's meeting:

SDNP/20/04458/FUL

Hurlands Farm Selham Road Selham Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 0PN
Erection of 1 no. farm building.

SDNP/20/03992/HOUS

Stone Horse Lodge The Street Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9BZ
Create mezzanine floor, changes to fenestration, new patio and steps, rearrange first floor, plunge pool and summer house.

SDNP/20/05162/TCA

The Great House Langham Lane Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9DA
Notification of intention to crown reduce by approx. 1.2m and thin by 20% on the southern sector on 1 no. Cedar tree

SDNP/20/04726/HOUS

St Peters Well Vicarage Lane Lodsworth GU28 9DF
New timber-framed four-bay garage, brick retaining wall and relocation of existing oil tank.

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

SDNP/20/04024/HOUS

1 Collyers Cottages Surrey Road Lickfold Lurgashall GU28 9DT
Replacement of open front porch to a larger closed porch.
Decision: Approved

SDNP/20/03579/FUL

The Nut Orchard Land East of The Street Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9BZ
Erection of 1 no. timber store/work shed used to store the equipment for management of the orchard and produce from the land.
Decision: Approved

SDNP/20/01405/FUL

Barnetts Cottages Fitzlea Wood Road East Lavington West Sussex
Demolition of two dwellings and replacement with one dwelling and associated annexe, restoration and relocation of timber outhouse, relocation of bridleway, landscape design and drainage works including balancing pond.
Decision: Approved

SDNP/20/05176/DCOND and SDNP/20/015/05003/HOUS

Church Cottage Church Lane Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9DD

Discharge of condition 4 & 5 from SDNP/19/03203/LIS and SDNP/19/03202/HOUS.

Decision: Approved

SDNP/20/04733/PRE

Mead House Selham Road Selham Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 0PJ

Construction of an oak car port to the front of the property to accommodate 4 cars and another to the rear of the property to accommodate 4 cars

Advice provided

SDNP/20/04458/FUL

Hurlands Farm Selham Road Selham Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 0PN

Erection of 1 no. farm building.

Decision: Approved

6/21 Approved Budget/Precept 2021/22

Following the precept meeting in December where the precept had been set at £17.743. Clerk had circulated the approved figures for 2021/22 as at Appendix 2. Clerk to send figure to CDC confirming precept.

7/21 Financial Matters

- The Councils current financial position of £36,084 was noted.
- The bank reconciliation as at 4th January 2021 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment was approved as follows; WSCC (Clerk's December 20 Salary) @ £470, Mrs Helen Cruikshank (Clerk's Q3 Exps) @ £56, Lodsworth Village Hall (Annual donation 2020/21 including Co-vid payment) @ £2,000, Lodsworth PCC (Annual donation 2020/21 contribution towards churchyard maintenance), Lodsworth Local Care (Annual donation 2020/21), Arun & Chichester CAB (Annual donation 2020/21) @ £200, Rother Valley Together (Annual donation 2020/21) @ £300, Midhurst Community Bus (Annual donation 2020/21) @ £250 and Kent Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance (Annual donation 2020/21).

8/21 Reports back from meetings attended by Councillors

Justina Leitao had attended the SDNP workshop held on 2nd December 2021. She would email round a brief resume.

James Rees had met with Jonathan Russell from Cowdray Estate and it seems no-one has approached them regarding local cycle routes. Caroline Neville said that MAC are getting a co-ordinated plan organised with SDNP and will then contact Cowdray.

Caroline Neville said many parishioners had appreciated the Christmas tree put up over the festive period. A resident had suggested whether the parish could have a living tree planted there. As the land is owned by Cowdray Estate, this is not something the Parish Council can agree and concerns were raised to how big a living tree could potentially grow.

9/21 Clerk's report including any correspondence

There is one forthcoming meeting: All Parishes Meeting on Monday 8th February 2021. Agenda to follow.

10/21 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 1st March 2021

11/21 Date of next Parish Council meeting

Monday 8th March 2021

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55pm