

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall
On Monday 14th March 2022 at 7.30pm**

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

In attendance: Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk
District Councillor Francis Hobbs
PCSO Neil Billingham and PCSO Slater

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Comments and Questions from members of the Public

There was one member of the Public.

The Parish Council discussed the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis. The Chairman reported that a resident had been in contact with the Parish Council suggesting calling a meeting for those in the community who may like to open their homes to Ukrainian refugees. It may be helpful to them if friends or family could be in the same area. The Parish Council was advised to wait for further updates from the government. Information on the refugee sponsorship scheme can be found at www.homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk

15/22 To note apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Parish Councillor Mark Reed. Belated apologies from County Councillor/Parish Councillor Tom Richardson.

16/22 Declarations of interest

The Chairman reminded members of the code of conduct.

17/22 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th January 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record.

18/22 Police Report

PCSO Billingham and Slater reported on the following:

Introduction.

As we head into spring, can I ask that all dog owners be aware of any lambing going on in their area? At this time of year, heavily pregnant ewes react very badly to loose dogs. They can injure themselves trying to get away or even abort their lambs. Please ensure dogs are kept on leads in the countryside, especially if there are sheep in nearby fields.

Incidents of Note.

It appears that several of our local dialling codes are being heavily targeted by scammers at the moment. The most common is one claiming to be from a bank's fraud department, with a request to either withdraw and post cash or transfer money into a designated account for "safe keeping". A similar one involves someone claiming to be from a neighbouring Police force. Neither the banks, nor the Police will ever ask anyone to transfer money, so please do not take action on this other than to hang up and report it. Scam phone calls can be reported on 0300 123 2040 or by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

If there any local groups that meet on a regular basis (or about to return to them following Covid), my colleague PCSO Moorey is happy to attend a give a full scam talks around this. Please let me know and I will pass details on.

Calls this month in the areas mainly related to trees down and alarms going off in the storms.

PCSO Activity over the next month.

As the weather improves, we will be looking to increase patrols and relaunch Operation Downsway, targeting anti-social motorbike riding across the area.

DON'T LET THEM MAKE YOU A VICTIM OF CRIME. IF YOU SEE IT, REPORT IT – 101!

19/22 Reports from elected representatives of WSCC and CDC

District Councillor Francis Hobbs had previously sent his written report as follows:

Is the worst over? Or is the challenge going to be different and even worse? No sooner do we seem to be getting back to some sort of normality over Covid than we seem to be going headlong into a new international crisis. I hope and pray that our national leaders manage a diplomatic situation long in the making but getting increasingly out of control and potentially dramatic in its outcome; perhaps with accelerated and horrific consequences, particularly for those in **Ukraine** and neighbouring countries.

At a much more manageable and local level there have been some clear bumps in the road, some of which may become a little more challenging in the coming months. The two key areas that remain on my list are development issues and the environmental agenda.

Housing Development: The planning application for the King Edward VII site is now progressing with the publication of the developers' current plans. I know a well organised local team is working hard to ensure the developers meet all their obligations and I met with your local representatives in person a couple of weeks ago. The developers have been in touch with me and I've expressed my concerns on 3 levels:

- A lack of appropriate engagement with the community
- Water issues
- Concern over the designs as published.

I agreed to meet them to discuss the above.

I have no further news about Dunford House in Heyshott and am not aware of any new specific issues in Lodsworth, other than confirmation that the TPOs in the area of Lodsworth House have been made permanent.

Environment Agenda: I am pleased to say the first collective meeting of the Parish Environmental Group will take place on 21st March and I look forward to reporting suggestions and progress following that.

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 and PCSOs Billingham and Slater left the meeting at 7.50pm

There was no County Councillor report. If you have any issues of a County nature then please do not hesitate to contact Tom Richardson on tom.richardson@westsussex.gov.uk

19/22 Working Party Reports

- **Highways:** Paul Phillips raised huge concern about the dangerous state of Jobsons Lane. Clerk to ask County Councillor Tom Richardson for an update on the repairs. Complaints had been received about the inconsiderate parking on the corner of Church Lane and The Street with concern over emergency vehicles not being able to access homes if required. Clerk to contact PCSO Billingham for advice.

- **Speedwatch:** Emma Davies reported that she attends the monthly Speedwatch meetings and the Police are now linking areas with information provided locally so it is more useful. More volunteers are required. There is still only one approved location in the village which meets the requirements.
- **Footpaths and Rights of Way:** James Rees reported all is fine on the parish footpaths albeit very muddy with a few branches down following the storm.
- **Playground:** Emma Davies reported she and Paul Phillips had agreed that the contractors should be asked to do the work required to the Zipwire at the playground. Emma will obtain an updated quote with revised timescales. James Rees reported the bin was overflowing. Clerk to empty when she is next up there, Emma kindly offered to help.
- **Allotments:** Paul Phillips reported that the drain on The Street in front of the allotments is still blocked. Clerk to report to WSCC Highways again. Clerk to send Paul the current tenant list to update so invoices could be sent out at the beginning of April for the new season.
- **Parish Repairs including Tidy Up sessions:** Emma Davies reported the last tidy-up session had seen 15 trees planted as the Jubilee Circle in the Churchyard. The Church had kindly paid for refreshments. Jim Summers reported that the Vincent Wildlife Trust had completed its purchase of the land adjacent to the junction by The Hollist and are aware they are responsible for the trees and wall.
- **Winter Plan:** Justina Leita reported she would look at the state of all the bins over the next couple of months and report back.
- **Planning:** There were two outstanding planning applications which were discussed tonight:

SDNP/21/06203/HOUS

Rose Cottage The Street Lodsworth GU28 9DA
Proposed revolving summer house.

SDNP/21/06351/HOUS

10 Collyers Cottages, Surrey Road, Lickfold GU28 9DT
2 Storey side extension

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

SDNP/22/00130/TCA

Location: Hazelnut Cottage The Street Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9BZ
Proposal: Notification of tree works

SDNP/22/00131/TCA

Location: Whispers The Street Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9BZ
Proposal: Notification of tree works

SDNP/22/00505/HOUS

Location: Brickyard Cottage, Surrey Road Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9BZ
Proposal: Proposed glazed link between main cottage and detached office

SDNP/22/00789/TCA

Location: The Hollist Arms The Street Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9BZ
Proposal: Notification of tree works

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

SDNP/22/06221/DCOND and SDNP/22/06222/DCOND

Location: Leggatt Hill Farmhouse, River Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9DN

Proposal: Discharge of conditions 3 and 5 of SDNP/21/03431/HOUS and SDNP/21/03432/LIS
Decision: Approved

SDNP/22/06300/DCOND

Location: Leggatt Hill Farmhouse, River Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9DN

Proposal: Discharge of conditions 3 of SDNP/19/01598/HOUS

Decision: Approved

SDNP/22/00377/DCOND

Location: Shotters Farm, Highstead Lane, Lickfold

Proposal: Discharge of conditions 6 and 7 of planning permission SDNP/20/05200/LIS

Decision: Approved

SDNP/21/06344/PRE

Location: Tudor Cottage, Surrey Road, Lickfold GY28 9DT

Proposal: Extension and internal alterations

Decision: Approved

SDNP/21/05819/PRE

Location: The Watermill, Halfway Bridge, Lodsworth

Proposal: Conversion of 3 storey building to 1 bedroom flat, demolition of remainder and construction of 5 cottages and 2 flats

Advice provided

SDNP/21/05261/HOUS

Location: Erickers, The Street, Lodsworth

Proposal: Replacement of existing log store and wooden shed

Decision: Refused

SDNP/22/00130/TCA

Location: Hazelnut Cottage The Street Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9BZ

Proposal: Notification of tree works

Decision: Raise no objection

SDNP/22/00131/TCA

Location: Whispers The Street Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9BZ

Proposal: Notification of treeworks

Decision: Raise no objection

SDNP/22/00789/TCA

Location: The Hollist Arms The Street Lodsworth Petworth West Sussex GU28 9BZ

Proposal: Notification of treeworks

Decision: Raise no objection

21/22 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations including new tree and flagpole

Emma Davies reported that the Jubilee Committee had met, headed by Deryck Hamon. There will be a beacon lighting on the Thursday evening with an event at Langham Brewery on the Saturday followed by a Street Party on Sunday 5th June from midday. Everyone in the parish is welcome to any of these events. It is hoped there will be plenty of entertainment for the young and old. The Parish Council agreed to pay for commemorative mugs or coins for the under 16's in the parish plus a donation of £300.

The Parish Council has been awarded £250 as way of a grant from Chichester District Council for a contribution towards a statement tree for the green outside The Hollist Arms to commemorate the Queen's

Platinum Jubilee. Neighbouring residents had been informed and although some were not keen on the idea as they do not want their light blocked out, many in the parish are thrilled that a replacement to the old sweet chestnut tree is being sought. The Chairman and the Clerk had visited several specialist nurseries for advice. A long discussion followed, including which type of tree was most suitable; Paulownia Tormentosa, Liquid Amber, Indian Bean, Oak, Cherry, Strawberry or a trio of either Birches or Apple trees were all suggested. Justina Leitaó agreed to ask the Garden Club for their advice and opinion as a further consultee.

Jim Summers had received a quote of £1,250 for installation and provision of a 7m flagpole with two flags (Union Jack and West Sussex). The price includes foundations and the flagpole is maintenance free. It was agreed to erect this at the Village Recreation Ground.

22/22 Climate Change Emergency

Jim Summers has a meeting with District Councillor Francis Hobbs and other local parishes on 21st March to progress this.

23/22 Green in front of The Hollist Arms

James Rees had no update with the lease but Cowdray Estate are happy that the Parish Council takes over responsibility.

24/22 Woodland adjacent to School Lane

Cowdray Estate has written to the Parish Council and properties in the vicinity of School Lane regarding a fly tipping problem in Lodsworth village. The area of particular concern is the woodland between School Lane and the track leading up to Upper Vining. There is extensive evidence of regular fly tipping of garden and general waste which includes bamboo (an invasive species). “The Estate has no other choice than to take pro-active steps to ensure fly tipping and trespassing in the School Lane area and across the wider Estate ceases with immediate effect. This will be monitored and action will be taken against individuals”.

25/22 BT Kiosk

BT has agreed to restore and repaint the BT Kiosk on Gills Lane which will stay operational as it is part of the Parish Emergency Plan.

26/22 Annual Parish Meeting 2022

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 25th April at 7pm at the Village Hall. It is hoped all parish groups and organisations will give a brief 5-minute presentation on what they have been doing over the past year.

27/22 Financial Matters

- The Councils current financial position of £27,333 was noted.
- The bank reconciliation as at 6th March 2022 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment was approved as follows; WSCC (Clerk’s February Salary) @ £470 and Mrs Helen Cruikshank (Clerk’s half yearly expenses) @ £143
- SDNP has confirmed a £200 CIL payment this financial year for the parish for the conversion of the garage at Erickers. Money must be spent on a community project.
- NALC has stated that Parish Councils do not have the power to donate money to foreign bodies i.e., the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal so any monies given to help the refugees would need to be to local charities using its s137 allowance.

28/22 Reports back from meetings attended by Councillors

Caroline Neville and James Rees had attended the All-Parishes Meeting.

29/22 Clerk’s report including any correspondence

Clerk is attending a focus group on 27th May on local policing and community safety so if anyone has any questions then let her know. She is also hoping to attend the SDNP workshop on Wednesday 16th March at 6.30pm on Zoom.

30/22 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 May 2022

31/22 Date of next Parish Council meeting

Monday 9th May 2022

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

SIGNED.....

DATE.....