

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Lodsworth Village Hall

On Monday 10th July 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Emma Davies, Caroline Neville, Paul Phillips (Chair), Jim Summers and Tom Richardson (also in attendance as County Councillor)

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 present.

41/23 To note apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Mark Reed and James Rees.

42/23 Declarations of interest/Code of Conduct

The Chair reminded members of the Code of Conduct.

43/23 Co-option of Councillor

There was no co-option.

44/23 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the annual meeting held on Monday 22nd May 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

45/23 Reports from elected representatives of WSCC and CDC

County Councillor Tom Richardson stated that the road through Midhurst was opened 10 days earlier than planned. WSCC Highways have inspected all the surrounding roads which took a battering during the road closure and there is resurfacing and redressing works being carried out. Please report any potholes and road defects on www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travrl/report-a-pothole-online/. Paul Phillips said the hedgerows on Jobsons Lane, past the old Winery need some attention. Clerk to put a notice into Lurgashall's newsletter reminding landowners of their responsibilities to maintain these and any ditches. Clerk also to contact Cowdray Estate suggesting now would be a good time to carry out works to the ditches on Highstead Lane before the winter comes.

If you have any issues of a County nature then please do not hesitate to contact Tom on tom.richardson@westsussex.gov.uk

Southern Water Update 13th July 2023: Following the blockage last month by Great Gulls which was cleared, CCTV has been carried out and all left clear. Southern Water visited again on 12th July to check and the sewer remains unblocked and free flowing. Manhole covers were lifted with no concerns and no sewage odours.

District Councillor Francis Hobbs said he had little to report. He said many businesses in Midhurst were very badly affected by the fire and the road closure and he hoped the insurance companies involved would pay up.

Much concern from parishioners has been raised of late about the closure of The Hollist Arms pub and its deteriorating state. With three other pubs in the parish, its viability is questioned. Many believe there are more people living in the area now with more visitors with enough money to support all four. However, there are others that think with the current cost of living crisis and rising costs for businesses that this is not viable. Clerk to write formally to Francis explaining the current situation, requesting an analysis of the local economy and help saving the pub which is at the heart of the community.

Clerk to chase CDC enforcement on decision with Smithbrook Barn.

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 8.30pm

46/23 Working Party Reports

- **Highways:** The tree on the small green triangle at the junction of School Lane and Shepherds Lane has been felled but a substantial trunk height remains. Clerk to get an update. Caroline Neville thanked Paul Phillips for dealing with the Japanese Knotweed at Leggatt Hill. The Clerk said some Giant Hogweed had been reported to her at Lickfold Bridge. Paul Phillips to take a look.
- **Footpaths and ROW's:** They are all very overgrown.
- **Playground:** The ROSPA annual inspection has taken place and the PC is waiting on the report. Emma Davies said once the ground is wetter, the entrance will need reseeded as there is no grass.
- **Green in front of The Hollist Arms:** Jim Summers has been watering the Platinum Jubilee tree weekly. A neighbouring resident had kindly mowed the grass. Paul Phillips said he would revarnish the noticeboard.
- **Village Hall and Recreation Ground:** The Coronation tree needs some attention. A new plaque for the Diamond Jubilee tree is being arranged to match the Coronation plaque.
- **Allotments:** Paul Phillips said there was not much to report but all is going well. Some of the empty plots are being used for re-wilding to encourage insects. Strimming will then take place at the end of the season. Clerk to report to WSCC Highways that the drain on The Street needs clearing and jetting out again.
- **Parish repairs including tidy up sessions:** Emma Davies said there is a tidy-up session planned for this Saturday (15th July) with hopefully 12 plus volunteers including some new families. Meet outside The Hollist Arms at 10am for strimming of the allotment wall and a litter pick.
- **Winter Plan:** Caroline Neville has taken on this responsibility. Currently waiting to hear from WSCC about their offering of support for this winter.
- **Parish Environmental Group (PEG):** Jim Summers reported that the PEG is being recast into GREENHEAL (Greening the parishes of Heyshott, Easebourne and Lodsworth) with a view to promote "greener" living within our parishes by protecting and enhancing our local environment to the benefit of all those living within these three parishes. The intention is to go way beyond just the recently distributed booklet. To add to the current volunteers, under the GREENHEAL banner, the intention is to form a Charity or Trust to raise funds to assist and promote the 4 R's of greener living, namely Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover. The group meets once a month to discuss initiatives and is open to any ideas or assistance parishioners may like to offer to achieve these objectives.
- **Planning:** The following applications have been discussed by the Parish Council since May's meeting:

SDNP/23/01724/HOUS

St Peters Well, Vicarage Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9DF

New build timber-framed garage building, brick retaining wall and security gates

SDNP/23/02259/HOUS

Hambledon Farm, Surrey Road, Lickfold GU28 9DU

Installation of Air Source Heat Pump

SDNP/23/02044/TCA

Woodmancote, Vicarage Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9DA

Notification of intention to reduce back 3. No lowest lateral limbs on south sector by up to 1m, to suitable secondary growth points to 1. no Copper Beech tree

SDNP/23/01702/HOUS

Collyers Farm, Surrey Road, Lickfold GU28 9DU
Proposed outdoor swimming pool

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

SDNP/23/02219/CEP

Pear tree Cottage, Peartrees, Highstead Lane Lickfold Lodsworth Petworth GU28 9DY
Consultation on Environmental Permit Application - EPR/NP3920SK/A001
Decision: EA Consultation on Env Permit Response

SDNP/23/02220/CEP

Gunters Farm Highstead Lane Lickfold Lodsworth Petworth GU28 9DY
Consultation on Environmental Permit Application - EPR/NP3820SX
Decision: EA Consultation on Env Permit Response

SDNP/23/00246/HOUS

Strawberry Fields The Street Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9BZ
Single storey rear extension. New French doors in place of window
Decision: Approved

SDNP/23/00588/FUL

The Watermill, Halfway Bridge
Change of use from office to residential to provide 1 no. two bedroom unit with various alterations including new staircases, windows, doors and balustrading
Decision: Approved

SDNP/23/02044/TCA

Woodmancote, Vicarage Lane, Lodsworth
Notification of intention to reduce back 3. No lowest lateral limbs on south sector by up to 1m, to suitable secondary growth points to 1. no Copper Beech tree
Decision: Raise no objection

47/23 Emergency Planning

This was postponed to be discussed at September's meeting.

48/23 Financial Matters

- The Council's current financial position of £29,781 was noted.
- The bank reconciliation as at 15th May 2023 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment was approved as follows: WSCC (Clerk's June Salary) @ £509 and Lodsworth Village Hall (contribution towards mowing at the play area). The Clerk is waiting to hear on a price for a replacement plaque for the Diamond Jubilee tree.

49/23 Reports back from meetings attended by Councillors

Caroline Neville said she had attended the SDNP planning committee meeting where the three housing developments in Easebourne were approved. She will email Councillors the links to the proposed new 58 homes.

50/23 Clerk's report including any correspondence

Tom Richardson stated The Three Moles and Langham Brewery had been awarded Silver Awards from the Green South Downs Sustainability Certification Scheme with Woodfire Camping at Westerlands in Graffham awarded a Gold Award.

51/23 Items to be included in the next agenda

Annual Asset Inspection

Emergency plan

Please let the Clerk know of any additional items to be added to the agenda by Monday 4th September

52/23 Date of next Parish Council meeting

Monday 11th September 2023

The Chair closed the meeting at 9pm