

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Lodsworth Village Hall
On Monday 13th November 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Caroline Neville (Chair), Paul Phillips, Mark Reed and Jim Summers

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

Elaine Roberts-Grimsey from Easebourne Parish Council gave a presentation on GREENHEAL (GREENING THE PARISHES OF HEYSHOTT, EASEBOURNE AND LODSWORTH). COP26 highlighted the urgency for ALL to take action to counteract the severe dangers of the current rate of climate change. It is about engaging with our communities to launch initiatives to help **reduce** waste and pollution, encourage greater **recycling** and **re-use** and protect and encourage our natural spaces to **recover** through the encouragement of greater biodiversity. Petersfield's Climate Change Group (PECAN) is set up as a charity already and is very active with many projects, paid employees and a strong social media presence. GREENHEAL will meet with PECAN to understand about its success. Likely initial projects for Lodsworth parish include a subsidised fruit tree planting scheme, bird and bug boxes and a Community "Grow your own" workshop.

GREENHEAL need to raise funds to move forward with the project and this can only be achieved by setting itself up as a charity so it is able to apply for grants. It is hoped that each of the three Parish Councils will contribute £1 per household for the next step of the project; the logo and branding.

Elaine Roberts left at 7.50pm

PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Comments and Questions from members of the Public

There were five members of the public present.

A few members of the public questioned why there were traffic measurement devices on the roads in Selham. They also queried the proposed 20 mph speed limit reduction in the village and the road closed signs which have appeared and are erected either side of the Lodsbridge during flooding periods. The Chair said she would liaise with Tom Richardson as the Parish Councillor responsible for Highways (and as our County Councillor) to get answers. Any TRO applications require full consultation.

Paul Phillips questioned the safety of the numerous "Take your litter home" signs on the A272. Clerk to investigate.

Another member of the public said The Hollist Arms will be open on Christmas Eve for Carols and it is hoped to be open on a permanent basis very soon.

One member of the public left the meeting at 8.15pm

66/23 To note apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Tom Richardson and James Rees. The Chair stated that Emma Davies has resigned from the Parish Council. She thanked her for all her hard work during her time as a Councillor.

67/23 Declarations of interest/Code of Conduct

The Chair reminded members of the Code of Conduct.

68/23 Co-option of Councillor

Derrie Watchorn was co-opted as a Councillor. The Chair welcomed her to the Parish Council. The Clerk will email her all the relevant documentation. There are still two further vacancies

69/23 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of a meeting held on Monday 11th September 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

70/23 Reports from elected representatives of WSCC and CDC

District Councillor Francis Hobbs said he had little to report. All was very quiet with planning. He would look into who visits and keeps an eye on the building works at Selham House.

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.

Three members of the public and Francis Hobbs left the meeting at 8.25pm

There was no County Councillor report.

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

71/23 Working Party Reports

- **Highways:** There was nothing further to add to that spoken about in Question time.
- **Footpaths and ROW's:** Parish footpaths are mostly cleared if not extremely muddy. Some paths are overgrown but currently WSCC do not have the finances to clear everything as we'd like to see.
- **Playground:** Following Emma Davies' resignation, Caroline Neville, Paul Phillips and the Clerk will cover this until a new Councillor is found to take on the responsibility. They will meet to look at the equipment and furniture. The picnic table needs to be removed as it is rotten. The playground hedge has been cut and the mole problem has been sorted.
- **Green in front of The Hollist Arms:** The Clerk to liaise with the Lodsworth Larder to discuss the Christmas tree. *Update: A neighbouring resident is kindly providing one this year.*
- **Recreation Ground:** There is nothing to report.
- **Allotments:** Paul Phillips said there are a few problems with the allotment wall but he has been in contact with a specialised contractor who will quote for some repair works. Paul Phillips and Jim Summers to discuss community plots as part of the GREENHEAL initiative.
- **Parish repairs including tidy up sessions:** A new volunteer is required to organise the monthly tidy up sessions. The Parish Council is most grateful to Emma Davies for organising these and taking part in these over the past 4 years. The village will miss this clear up greatly if no-one comes forward to take it over. It does not need to be a Parish Councillor.
- **Winter Plan:** The Winter Resilience plan has been submitted. Caroline Neville has spoken to the farmer who has confirmed he will help clear the roads if the weather is severe.
- **Parish Environmental Group (PEG)/GREENHEAL:** This was discussed earlier.
- **Planning:** One planning application was discussed as follows:

SDNP/23/02957/HOUS

The Mill House, Halfway Bridge

Erection of a two-storey double garage and carport with loft space

The following application has been discussed by the Parish Council since September's meeting:

SDNP/23/03962/TCA

St Peters Church, Church Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9DD

Notification of intention to fell 2 no Yew trees and 2 no Wild Cherry trees and 1 no Leyland Cypress tree

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

SDNP/23/03479/TCA

Ewers, 1 Church Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9DD

Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Apple tree and crown reduce by 2m on 1 no. Golden Rain tree

Decision: Raise no objection

SDNP/23/03406/TCA

St Peters Church, Lodsworth

Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Lawson Cypress tree

Decision: Raise no objection

SDNP/23/03962/TCA

St Peters Church, Church Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9DD

Notification of intention to fell 2 no Yew trees and 2 no Wild Cherry trees and 1 no Leyland Cypress tree

Decision: Raise no objection

SDNP/21/05568/HOUS and SDNP/23/05569/LIS

Gentils Farm Lickfold Road Lodsworth GU28 9EY

Proposed conversion of existing grade II listed barn structure to include selected alterations to existing fenestration and internal alterations to provide facilities to allow use as a two-bedroom ancillary accommodation, including the addition of two mezzanine floors with rooms below.

Decision: Approved

SDNP/22/02623/DCOND

The Garden Cottage Surrey Road Lickfold Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9DX

Discharge of condition 5 from planning permission SDNP/21/01256/HOUS

Decision: Approved

The Clerk to write to all the landowners whose land borders Gills Lane reminding them of their responsibility to maintain both the wall and the trees roadside.

72/23 Parish Noticeboards

Mark Reed said he had put a notice up in the Lickfold noticeboard consulting them about its potential removal. A decision would be made at January's meeting.

The Clerk is waiting to hear back from Grafham Parish Council about its financial contribution towards a new noticeboard in Selham (as the existing one is a joint asset). She is in the process of getting quotes from local companies for a new noticeboard.

Paul Phillips kindly said he would revarnish the Lodsworth village noticeboard in due course.

73/23 Untidy Gardens

The Parish Council has received complaints from parishioners about untidy gardens in the parish, where properties face the road and are in prominent sight. However much we would like to see the entire parish looking tidy and smart, maintenance of gardens is not under the remit of the Parish Council.

74/23 Financial Matters

- The Council's current financial position of £33,790 was noted. The second instalment of the precept @ £8,872 has been received.
- The bank reconciliation (Appendix 2) as at 7th November 2023 was noted.

- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment (Appendix 3) was approved as follows: WSCC (Clerks October Salary) @ £509, WSCC (Payroll Admin fee) @ £53, Function 28 Ltd (Website hosting fee) @ £36 and Chichester District Council (Election costs 2023) @ £248
- It was agreed that £1 per household would be contributed for the next stage of the GREENHEAL initiative.
- The budget monitoring sheet (Appendix 4) as at 7th November was noted.

Paul Phillips left the meeting at 9.10pm

75/23 Reports back from meetings attended by Councillors

Caroline Neville had attended the SDNP parishes meeting. 77 parishes were represented. The whole purpose and duty of the park is to enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area and promote opportunities for the enjoyment and understanding of the qualities of the park for the public. It's a treasured landscape for the social well-being of those who live in it and the thousands of school children and adults from urban area each year. There is a ReNature Fund with grants and support to improve natural sites. Applications close on Friday 15th December 2023 www.southdownstrust.org.uk

33% of SDNP land is for nature. 17,000 trees have been planted and 25 kilometres of trees restored. They are looking for 16–25-year-olds to be youth ambassadors and youth voices. The support of local businesses and volunteers is crucial. Like all government bodies funding is an issue so the park seriously considers how money is spent. 250 acres of farmland has been re-natured by National Trust in Wooldbeeding to increase wildlife and invertebrates. No tractors, no pesticides.

The UK has the worst record for green spaces in the G7 so if there are any spaces for rewilding get in touch with SDNPA.

It is important to keep all footpaths clear so any issues contact the Park. There is a local access forum for paths.

A renewable energy study is being carried out. The policy for wind generated turbines for energy is being looked at very carefully. Whilst obviously our own energy sources are needed, how the energy routes from off shore across the park is a serious issue and will be opposed if it affects the landscape until an alternative route is found. ON shore wind farms are a total no no.

However, being in the Park has brought one drawback. The average house price in the SDNP is £500,000 whilst the national average is £250,000. There are just not enough affordable houses. There are not enough sites for housing which is why it is so important that more are found, and affordable homes are built. Planning has been approved for 2000 homes (50 being affordable) but they are just not being built, they say due to economic climate and lack of workforce. SDNPA are doing housing need assessments and are looking for sites. There will be workshops for parishes in late November-early December with drop-in sessions. A new guide for planning applications to hopefully make them easier to understand and put through has been devised. One good piece of news is that they now almost have a full quota of planning officers (33 out of 35) as during covid they lost most to the private sector which made it very difficult. Permitted development rights are to be extended. Government suggested that that should include agricultural buildings being turned into dwellings but SDNPA has disagreed. They need planning permission.

Caroline Neville also attended the Chichester District Association of Local Councils meeting.

The Clerk attended the North Chichester Police Focus Group.

76/23 Clerk's report including any correspondence

At the last meeting, a member of the public mentioned a storage container at Collyers Yard. CDC Enforcement stated planning permission may be required on containers depending on size and permanence. As the container has been in situ here for over 5 years it has become immune from enforcement. If residents have further concerns on any planning issues in the parish, then please complete the CDC online e-form www.chichester.gov.uk/planningenforcement

The Parish Council received an anonymous letter. Anonymous letters are ignored and binned as they are not from a credible source. The Parish Council encourages individuals to put their name to any disclosures they make. There are currently two vacancies on Lodsworth Parish Council and the Parish Council encourages and welcomes anyone who wants to learn more, to come along to the next meeting and join.

As a general rule, for reasons of natural justice and practical difficulties, the Parish Council will not deal with anonymous correspondence unless there are exceptional circumstances. It is hoped that members of the public could approach the Parish Council if they believed they had a genuine reason for their details to remain anonymous. Either via the Clerk (clerk@lodsworth-pc.uk or 01798 860788) or a current Councillor.

77/23 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 January 2024

78/23 Date of next Parish Council meeting

Monday 11th December 2023 at 7.30pm (Finance/Precept only meeting)

Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm (Full meeting)

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.30pm

SIGNED

DATED