

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Lodsworth Village Hall
On Monday 9th September 2024 at 7.30pm**

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

In attendance: Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk

PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Comments and Questions from members of the Public

There were three members of the public present.

Two residents of a house at the narrowest part of The Street stated they have seen a very significant increase in traffic volumes using the village as a cut-through since they moved in nearly 2 years ago. They have noted that there are many more larger vehicles including HGVs coming through, in both directions. It is only a matter of time before a pedestrian, horse-rider or driver is injured, or worse. A sensible speed limit of 20mph in the village feels more appropriate with signage at either ends of the road to try and restrict or at least deter HGVs.

Sat-navs have a lot to answer for with traffic diverted through the village to avoid the HGV route around Petworth. Physical width restrictions would be difficult without impacting farmers.

The Chair stated that this is a continuous safety concern for residents of Lodsworth village and is also costly to house owners. Damage is being caused to walls and sides of houses all the way along The Street. The Parish Council and other residents have been trying to limit numbers/speeds and sizes of vehicles for very many years. It is an ongoing problem. She has met with WSCC Highways officers on several occasions, the Parish Council has joined Community Speed Watch and had wires placed across the narrowest part of The Street but to no avail. She suggested the residents talk to Tom Richardson as County Councillor and James Tree who has much historical knowledge about the issue. Contacting Waze and Google Maps should also be considered. A new campaign is required.

The Chair had received concerns about the speed of traffic on the A272 and whether speed cameras could be installed which send out automatic fines. She had contacted County Councillor Richardson about this and he said that they can be requested through SSRP but even hot spots such as Bury Hill had been refused.

48/24 To note apologies for absence

Apologies from Parish Councillor Derrie Watchorn and District Councillor Francis Hobbs

49/24 Declarations of interest/Code of Conduct

The Chair reminded members of the Code of Conduct.

50/24 Co-option of Councillor

Luke Gilchrist was co-opted as a Councillor. The Clerk to email him all the relevant documentation.

39/24 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th July 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.

51/24 Reports from Elected representatives of WSCC and CDC

District Councillor Francis Hobbs is keeping an eye out on the planning at The Watermill at Halfway Bridge. If you have any issues of a District nature then please do not hesitate to contact District Councillor Francis Hobbs on fhobbs@chichester.gov.uk or 01730 813313.

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

52/24 Working Party Reports

- **Highways:** County Councillor Tom Richardson is working with Easebourne Parish Council to apply for a speed reduction on the section of the A272 between Easebourne and The Hollows, Ambersham. This plan includes extending the 30mph limit to the Golf Club entrance and from there to The Hollows to 40mph from the current National Speed Limit. Lodsworth Parish Council agreed to support the scheme and would like to see it extended and the speed reviewed along the A272 in Lodsworth parish towards Tillington. Clerk to action. Dangerous or inconsiderate driving should be reported on www.operationcrackdown.org
Please continue to report all road issues to WSCC Highways www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel
- **Footpaths and Rights of Way:** Footpaths are very overgrown. The vegetation should die down soon making rights of way more accessible. Please report any issues with ROWs to WSCC www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/public-paths-and-the-countryside/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-with-a-right-of-way or the Clerk.
- **Play Area:** Repairs to the play area identified in the inspection report are being carried out on 12/13 September. After that Derrie Watchorn will kindly varnish the fencing. Lodsworth Community Trust (owner of Lodsworth Outlook Ltd) has kindly agreed to donate money for a new picnic table (£500). The Parish Council agreed to fund a new bench (£380). Both will be made of recycled plastic and come fully assembled, guaranteed for 25 years and maintenance free.
- **Green in from of The Hollist Arms:** Jim Summers reported the grass seed is working and a neighbouring resident kindly continues to cut the Green. Jim and a team of helpers are having a tidy and clear up of both sides of Gills Lane from the Green to the entrance of the recreation ground. Paul Phillips said a new tree tie is required for the Jubilee tree. The area around the noticeboard had been strimmed when he revarnished the noticeboard.
- **Village Hall & Recreation Ground:** There was nothing to report.
- **Allotments:** Paul Phillips reported the allotments are overrun by deer. Hedge cutting continues to be an issue. The Clerk is still waiting for a refund from Business Stream for overcharging.
- **Parish Repairs including parish tidy up sessions:** Matthew Crichton and Simon Shone are going to be asked to quote for the repair works to the allotment wall. The two parishioners in attendance kindly offered to help with the monthly tidy up sessions. It is hoped a parish wide litter picking session will take place shortly.
- **Winter Plan:** The grit bin audit has been submitted. Now the Parish Council needs to confirm the grit/ploughing route and liaise with the local farmer for his PLI certificate.
- **GREENHEAL:** Jim Summers reported the group has had three meetings and is registering itself as a charity. Once achieved, fundraising will commence for projects to improve the environment; swift boxes, solar panels and orchards to name a few ideas.
- **Planning:** The Clerk to check the progress of the enforcement notice issued at the field SE of Beggars Corner. Tim Holloway, Caroline Neville and Jim Summers recently attended an online meeting with Southern Water regarding their planning application for a proposed extension to the Lodsworth Water Supply Works (SDNP/24/01931/FUL) This will involve the draining of the water reservoir at Upper Vining for much needed repairs and the installation of two Break Pressure Tanks and Transformer Compound on Langham Lane. The Parish Council expressed its concerns over noise, dark skies and camouflaging what would otherwise be a blot on the landscape. Southern Water has allayed fears on the first two however there needs to be more discussion on the size and number of trees and hedge planting for camouflage. It was also agreed that the Parish Council should be kept in the loop, during or after the build if there are problems. Works vehicles would leave and approach the site via the A272 and would not be coming through the village or using the country lanes. Work is due to start in May 2025 and will take approximately 18 months. It was suggested that Southern Water might like to consider helping the parish environmentally. The Clerk to ask the question.

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

SDNP/24/02665/HOUS and SDNP/24/02666/LIS

St Peters Well, Vicarage Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9DF

Demolition and replacement of outbuilding ancillary to existing dwelling

SDNP/24/01664/HOUS and SDNP/24/01665/LIS

Highwood Barn, Highstead Lane, Lickfold GU28 9DY

Erection of single storey rear extension to enlarge kitchen and dining space along with fenestration amendments to existing building

SDNP/24/03444/MPO

Lower Gentilhurst Farm, Lickfold Road, Fernhurst GU287 3JJ

Revised Deed of Variation – removal of occupancy condition no.3 attached and transfer to 5 Tavern Court

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

SDNP/24/01729/HOUS

The Mill House, Halfway Bridge, Lodsworth GU28 9BP

Erection of two storey double garage and carport with loft space for studio office

Decision: Refused

SDNP/24/02849/DCOND and SDNP/24/02710/DCOND

Bounds Cottage, The Street, Lodsworth GU28 9DA

Discharge of Condition 4 (external window and door joinery details)

Decision: Approved

SDNP/24/02485/DCOND

Gentils Farm, Lickfold Road, GU28 9EY

Discharge of Conditions 3 & 8 planning permission SDNP/21/05568/HOUS

Decision: Approved

SDNP/24/02694/LDP

Oakleaves, School Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9DH

Proposed lawful development – continuation of new garage and upward extension approved in

SDNP/21/05908/HOUS

Decision: Approved

SDNP/24/00955/TPO

Land North of North Court, Gills Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9BY

Crown lift northern sector by up to 5.5m (above Gills Lane) on 5 no Beech trees and 1 no. Sweet Chestnut tree

Decision: Approved

54/24 To consider request to support speed reduction proposal on A272

This was discussed under Working Party reports: Highways.

55/24 Annual Asset Inspection including notice board update

Mark Reed has carried out the annual asset inspection for the entire Parish. His report had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chair thanked him for doing this. The parish noticeboards at Lickfold and Selham are in a very poor state of repair. There has been no response from parishioners of their wish for the Lickfold one to remain thus the decision has been taken to remove it. The Selham one is still at

consultation stage. The pictorial village signs are beginning to wobble so the Parish Council needs to keep an eye on these.

56/24 Financial Matters

- The Council's current financial position of £27,733 was noted.
- The bank reconciliation as at 2nd September 2024 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment was approved as follows: WSCC (Clerk's August Salary) @ £539
- The Budget Monitoring sheet as at 2nd September 2024 was noted.
- The request from Lodsworth Croquet Club for financial support to help fund a new shed to house equipment would be discussed at December's Finance meeting along with all other grants and donations.

57/24 Reports back from meetings attended by Councillors

There had been no other external meetings apart from the one with Southern Water to discuss their planning application which was spoken about earlier..

The Chair is to attend a CDALC meeting tomorrow evening.

58/24 Clerks Report including correspondence

The Clerk reported on three external meetings coming up:

All Parishes Meeting – Monday 23rd September from 5pm at East Pallant House, Chichester

Bi-monthly Police meeting – Tuesday 1st October 10.20-midday

SDNPA Parish Meeting – Wednesday 2nd October at 6.30pm

Clerk stated that the South Downs Local Plan Review continues until 16th September 2024.

59/24 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 4th November 2024

60/24 Date of next Parish Council meeting

Monday 11th November 2024 at 7.30pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm