

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

On Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Luke Gilchrist, Tim Holloway, Caroline Neville (Chair), David O'Malley, Paul Phillips, Jim Summers and Derrie Watchorn

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

PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Comments and Questions from members of the Public

There were five members of the public in attendance.

Several parishioners spoke of their frustration about the continued inconsiderate parking on Shepherds Lane. This can make it extremely difficult to drive out on to the highway for residents. In the past an ambulance was dangerously held up by this. Also parking close to the junction with The Street needs to be addressed. It is an offence to park within 10 meters of a junction. The Parish Council has tried in the past to solve the issue but will try again. Derrie Watchorn will have a quiet word with neighbouring properties to see if the problem can be eased with some community spirit. Some signs will be organised to help prevent unlawful parking. Any road safety issues should be reported to the Police.

Another parishioner voiced concerns about the two fields at Halfway Bridge. Beggars Corner campsite with musical events and the Travellers site at Kathleen's Field. These fields have different owners. Both are in Tillington Parish but affect Lodsworth residents. An event is due to take place at Beggars Corner on 2-4 May. CDC are keeping an eye on this but no laws have been broken. A planning application has been submitted for Kathleen's Field (Land at the Watermill) – SDNP/24/004808/FUL.

District Councillor Francis Hobbs reported on the Government's plans to disband all District Councils and have a new Mayoral system. Chichester District could be added to a large area that spreads as far as Brighton. The County Council elections this year are now unlikely to take place.

Francis Hobbs and three members of the public left the meeting at 8.10pm

1/25 To note apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

2/25 Declarations of interest

The Chairman reminded members of the code of conduct.

3/25 Co-option of Councillor

There was no co-option. Mark Reed has resigned from the Parish Council due to family commitments. The Chair thanked him for his hard work. This now leaves a vacancy which may be filled by co-option at the next meeting.

4/25 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the Finance meeting held on Monday 9th December 2025 were approved and signed as a correct record.

5/25 Reports from elected representatives of WSCC and CDC

District Councillor Francis Hobbs spoke earlier in Public Question time.

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

6/25 Working Party Reports

- **Highways:** The Clerk to report the numerous potholes on School Lane and the debris on the road outside Snowdrops to WSCC Highways once again. Also to report the overgrown hedges and trees opposite Cedar Cottage. In addition, the concrete post which has collapsed adjacent to the highway on Smithbrook Hill.
- **Footpaths and Rights of Way:** The Clerk has reported numerous trees down on parish footpaths, all on Cowdray land, to WSCC Rights of Way team. The handrail on the small bridge on FP1045 is due to be repaired by WSCC when they are next in the area.
- **Play Area:** Tim Holloway has submitted an application for Lottery Funding for a new zip wire. Derrie Watchorn will paint the fencing once the weather improves.
- **Green in front of The Hollist Arms:** Jim Summers thanked The Leconfield Estates for providing the Christmas tree.
- **Village Hall & Recreation Ground:** There was nothing to report.
- **Allotments:** Paul Phillips reported there is a deer issue at the allotments. Some fencing has been erected around the vineyard for protection however it is not practical to fence the entire area. Need to think of a solution.
- **Parish Repairs including Tidy Up sessions:** There was nothing to report.
- **Winter Plan:** It was agreed to leave the new grit bin at the A272 junction unlocked during the winter months. David O'Malley kindly offered to put a scoop in there to help spread the grit when needed. The Clerk to report the water flowing across the road which runs off the field to WSCC Highway as it is very dangerous when it freezes. A ditch needs to be dug to prevent water spilling onto the road.
- **GREENHEAL:** Jim Summers had met with Easebourne representatives earlier this evening and confirmed GREENHEAL is now a charity. Fruit trees and swift boxes are the first projects with hopefully many more environmental projects to follow once money is raised.
- **Planning:** There are two outstanding planning applications:

SDNP/24/04808/FUL

Land at The Watermill, Halfway Bridge, Lodsworth, West Sussex, GU28 9BP Change of use of land for the siting of 1 no. static caravan, with 1 no. touring caravan, associated hardstanding for parking (part retrospective).

Members of Tillington and Lodsworth Parish Councils are meeting to discuss concerns about this proposal and if it is considered prudent to jointly employ consultants to respond to the planning application.

SDNP/24/04971/HOUS

Hazelnut Cottage, The Street, Lodsworth, West Sussex, GU28 9BZ
Retrospective (section 73a) for retention of decked area and pergola, and erection of 1 no. garden room, 1 no. shed and 1 no. greenhouse.

The following application had been received by the Parish Council since November's meeting:

SDNP/24/03177/HOUS

Fairview, School Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9DH
1 no dormer window

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

SDNP/24/04720/DCOND

Bounds Cottage The Street Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9DA

Discharge of condition 5 (boundary wall) from planning permission SDNP/23/02904/LIS

Decision: Approved

SDNP/24/04723/DCOND

Bounds Cottage The Street Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9DA

Discharge of Condition 8 (making good - boundary wall) of householder permission SDNP/23/02903/HOUS

Decision: Approved

SDNP/24/04117/TCA

Netherfield Vicarage Lane Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9DF

Notification of intention to reduce height by 2m, reduce widths (all round) by 1m and crown thin by up to 15% on 1 no. Holly tree (quoted as T1)

Decision: Raise no objection

SDNP/24/03904/TCA

Woodmancote Vicarage Lane Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9DA

Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Goat Willow tree (T1)

Decision: Raise no objection

SDNP/24/03927/LDE

Oakleaves School Lane Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9DH

Existing lawful development certificate for commencement of works approved under

SDNP/21/05908/HOUS. Works include marking out of site, installation of wildlife strip, laying of concrete pad footings and excavations of footings.

Decision: Approved

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

St Peters Well Vicarage Lane Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9DF

Demolition and replacement of outbuilding ancillary to existing dwelling

Decision: Approved

SDNP/24/01931/FUL

Land to South of Lodsworth Water Supply Works The Street Lodsworth West Sussex GU29 0AB

Proposed extension to Lodsworth Water Supply Works and installation of 2 no. Break Pressure Tanks, a Motor Control Centre and Pump Kiosk, Transformer Compound, Sampling Kiosk and Standby Generator, with associated landscape planting.

Decision: Approved

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

Highwood Barn Highstead Lane Lickfold Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9DY

Erection of a single storey rear extension to enlarge kitchen and dining space along with fenestration amendments to the existing outbuilding.

Decision: Refused

7/25 Parish Flooding

The Clerk had been contacted regarding two flooding issues on parish roads; one in Selham, another in Lickfold. As the ditches adjacent to Wests in Selham are their responsibility (as riparian owners), they have instructed contractors to carry out clearance works over the next two days. The residents of Lickfold have

been continually reporting the flooding issue by Hambledon Farm to WSCC Highways and contractors are starting initial preliminary works there on Friday 17th January.

There is now a webcam at The Three Horseshoes which shows the bridge to enable parishioners to check the water level. [Lickfold Stream – Three Horseshoes](#)

8/25 Approved Budget/Precept 2025/26

The Clerk had circulated the approved figures for 2025/26 as at Appendix 2 as discussed at December's meeting. It was agreed to amend and increase the precept to £20,000. The Clerk to send figure to CDC confirming.

9/25 Annual Parish Meeting 2025

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 15th May 2025 at 7.30pm at Lodsworth Village Hall. Andrew Griffiths, MP will be speaking with a Q&A session.

10/25 Financial Matters

- The Councils current financial position of £29,739 was noted.
- The bank reconciliation (Appendix 3) as at 6th January 2025 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment was approved as follows; Lodsworth Village Hall (Annual donation 2024/25 contribution towards insurance) @ £1,500, Lodsworth PCC (Annual donation 2024/25 contribution towards churchyard maintenance) @ £750, Lodsworth Local Care (Annual donation 2024/25 for defib batteries and LLC lunch) @ £400, Arun & Chichester CAB (Annual donation 2024/25) @ £200, Rother Valley Together (Annual donation 2024/25) @ £300, Midhurst Community Bus (Annual donation 2024/25) @ £250, Kent Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance (Annual donation 2024/25) @ £250, West Sussex Mind (Annual donation 2024/25) @ £250, Lodsworth Larder (Annual donation 2024/25) @ £250 and Lodsworth Croquet Club (Annual donation 2024/25) @ £250.
- The Budget Monitoring sheet (Appendix 5) as at 6th January 2025 was noted

11/25 Reports back from meetings attended by Councillors

There had been no external meetings since November.

12/25 Clerk's report including any correspondence

The Clerk said there were some meetings coming up over the next few weeks or so and she had sent round an email about various Councillor training sessions for those interested.

- CDALC meeting - Tuesday 14th January at 7pm via Zoom. Caroline Neville to attend.
- SDNP planning policy meeting – Wednesday 22nd January 4-6pm at the South Downs Manorial Hall in Midhurst. Caroline Neville and Tim Holloway to attend.
- WSALC Chair Forum – Thurs 23rd January at 7pm via Zoom. Caroline Neville to attend.
- All Parishes Meeting – Monday 3rd February via Zoom at 5pm

13/25 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 3rd March 2025

14/25 Date of next Parish Council meeting

Monday 10th March 2025

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm

SIGNED.....

DATE.....