

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall
On Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.30pm**

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

In attendance: District Councillor Francis Hobbs

PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Comments and Questions from members of the Public

There were no members of the public in attendance.

12/26 To note apologies for absence

Apologies from Parish Councillor Luke Gilchrist and County Councillor Tom Richardson.

13/26 Declarations of interest

The Chairman reminded members of the code of conduct.

14/26 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of a meeting held on Monday 12th January were approved and signed as a correct record.

15/26 Reports from elected representatives of WSCC and CDC

Francis Hobbs updated the meeting on local planning issues.

WSCC elections are going ahead on Thursday 7th May. Francis Hobbs will be standing as a County Councillor for Midhurst ward. Tom Richardson will be standing for re-election in the Rother Valley ward (this includes the parish of Lodsworth). Francis is disappointed at the lack of movement with The Angel in Midhurst and wants to make progress with this as the health of the town is deteriorating.

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.

Francis Hobbs left the meeting at 7.55pm

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

16/26 Working Party Reports

Highways: The "Make Our Village Safer" meeting is on Tuesday 17th March at 7pm at the Village Hall hosted by two residents to gauge parish support. It is hoped that a reduction in the speed to 20mph within Lodsworth village and 40mph outside will discourage lorries and change the algorithm on Sat Navs. Please email any problems encountered with vehicles travelling in the village that have involved accidents or near misses to martin@river-view.org.uk

Overgrown hedges continue to be a problem in the parish especially past the Village Hall where accidents continue to happen and on Church Lane and School Lane. Clerk to contact WSCC Highways, Hyde, Cowdray and some home owners requesting action. Caroline Neville has spoken to the local farmer who has offered to cut hedges if directed by residents. However it is now the bird-nesting season (1 March–31 August) so only light or hand-cutting should be carried out, and only where you are satisfied that no active nests will be disturbed. Thanks were given to David O'Malley for putting up the new no parking sign on the junction of Shepherds Lane and The Street. It was agreed to put up a no parking on the junction sign on the corner of Gills Lane and The Street.

Caroline Neville encouraged everyone to use the phone in the BT kiosk on Gills Lane – all UK calls are free of charge.

- **Footpaths and Rights of Way:** Aurele O Malley had reported a tree down on a footpath on Bexley Hill.
- **Play Area:** The Clerk had contacted Playsafe Playgrounds to enquire when the replacement zipwire would be installed. The CDC grant expires on 23rd March however it is hoped due to the poor weather this year that this will be extended to allow the ground to dry out.
- **Green in front of The Hollist Arms:** Jim Summers will purchase some weed killer to help improve the area.
- **Village Hall & Recreation Ground:** The Clerk to invite a representative of the Village Hall Management Committee to give an update on the hall at the next meeting.
- **Allotments:** Paul Phillips said he would contact the new owners of Duck Cottage to discuss hedge maintenance. There was no update with regard repairs to the allotment wall.
- **Parish Repairs including Tidy Up sessions:** There was nothing to report.
- **Winter Plan:** There was nothing to report.
- **GREENHEAL:** Jim Summers reported subsidised fruit trees are available to order and will be delivered 28th March to the Lodsworth Larder. www.greenheal.org.uk/fruit-trees
- **Planning:** The following applications have been discussed at tonight's meeting or since the last meeting:

SDNP/26/00771/TPO

Lodsworth Stables and Coach House Block Gills Lane Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9BW

Reduce height (back to previous pruning points), reduce northern sector (back to previous pruning points) on 1 no. Beech tree (quoted as 02) within Area, A1 subject to LD/02/00610/TPO

SDNP/26/00495/HOUS

Brickyard Cottage Surrey Road Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9DR

Proposed glazed link between main cottage and detached office

SDNP/26/00111/HOUS and SDNP/26/00112/LIS

Highwood Barn Highstead Lane Lickfold Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9DY

Erection of a single storey rear extension to create a sun room

Chichester District Council/South Downs National Park made the following decisions since November's meeting.

SDNP/25/05010/CND

Langham Stables, Unit 4 Langham Lane Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9BU

Single storey extension to existing office building to replace part of existing stable block, and linking stable block and office building. Refurbishment of remaining stable building, relocation of oil tank and associated landscape works to include parking areas and electric vehicle charging points. Construction of car port and store building, with solar mounted roof panels. Continued use of existing first floor flat for residential purposes. Installation of rainwater harvesting tanks (Removal of condition 16 (water neutrality) from planning permission SDNP/24/05334/FUL - Condition no longer applies)

Decision: Approved

SDNP/25/04491/HOUS

Duck Cottage Hollihurst Road Lodsworth West Sussex GU28 9BT

Single storey side extension following demolition of existing conservatory and link

Decision: Refused

17/26 Resilience planning

Caroline Neville stated she had attended several meetings now where parishes are being encouraged to create a resilience plan to include community hubs and to address the problem of cyber-attacks resulting in loss of communications, power or water.

18/26 Annual Parish Meeting (APM) 2026

It was agreed to invite the chair of the SDNPA, Vanessa Rowlands along to speak at the APM. The Clerk to contact her to check availability and set a date. ***Update: APM will be held on Thursday 28th May at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.***

19/26 Financial Matters

- The Councils current financial position of £29,474 was noted.
- The bank reconciliation (Appendix 2) as at 2nd March 2026 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts (Appendix 3) submitted for payment was approved as follows; WSCC (Clerk's January salary) @ £776.
- The Budget Monitoring sheet (Appendix 4) as at 2nd March 2026 was noted

20/26 Reports back from meetings attended by Councillors

Aurele O Malley had attended the Himalayan Balsam training day organised by SDNPA and the Western Sussex Rivers Trust. The action group is looking to remove and clear the weed completely from the River Rother and advise how to manage it going forward. SDNP will be contacting landowners and working parties will be organised in May with volunteers to remove the Balsam. Aurele O Malley is hoping to set up a local group session.

Caroline Neville had attended the WSALC meeting and SDNPA Parishes meeting. There are currently changes to the National Planning Policy going through consultation and the SDNP draft management business plan will be considered by full Council on 20th March, then published for formal comment in May 2026. The Clerk to forward full information on these to all Councillors.

Caroline reported on South Downs Youth Action which gives young people 16-25 the opportunities to gain new skills getting involved in events throughout the year:

www.southdowns.gov.uk/learning-and-youth-volunteering/youth-volunteering/south-downs-youth-action/

SDNP believe young people's contributions are vital in helping them to manage the park and protect it for future generations.

www.southdowns.gov.uk/learning-and-youth/

Want to know what's going on in the SDNP -sign up to their monthly newsletter to learn more

www.southdowns.gov.uk/join-the-newsletter/

21/26 Clerk's report including any correspondence

She had nothing further to report.

22/26 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 May 2026

23/26 Date of next Parish Council meeting

Monday 11th May 2026

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

SIGNED.....

DATE.....