

MINUTES 9 MAY 2006

LOXWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

An extraordinary meeting of Loxwood Parish Council was held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 9 May 2006 in St John the Baptist Church Room, Loxwood.

Present: John Andrews (Chairman), Jez Mumford (Retiring Chairman), Priscilla Phillips (Vice-Chairman), Mary Ringrose, Chris Kershaw, Roy Setterfield, Tim Spence, David Townsend.

Also in attendance: Peter Evans (Parish Clerk), 1 member of the public.

The Retiring Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

87/06 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2006/7

There were two nominations for the post of Chairman. John Andrews was proposed by Mary Ringrose and seconded by David Townsend. Jez Mumford proposed himself and was seconded by Chris Kershaw.

It was agreed to conduct the election by signed ballot. On being put to the vote John Andrews was elected by a majority. He signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk, and took the chair.

88/06 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Priscilla Phillips was proposed by Tim Spence, seconded by Roy Setterfield and elected Vice-Chairman unopposed. She signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.

Jez Mumford left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

89/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members regretted that Steve Hawker had written to the Clerk stating his intention to resign from the Parish Council. The Chairman paid tribute to Steve's work with the Youth Club, and said he would prefer Steve to remain a member of the Council if at all possible. Among other things it was important to maintain the links between the Council and the Youth Club. Other Members echoed the Chairman's sentiments. It was proposed by Chris Kershaw, seconded by Priscilla Phillips and agreed that the Chairman should try to persuade Steve to continue to serve both as member of the Parish Council and as Chairman of the Youth Club Committee: and if unwilling to remain on the Council, at least to continue to serve on the Youth Club Committee.

If the Chairman's approach did not bear fruit, Chris Kershaw was willing to act as the Parish Council's representative on the Youth Club Committee.

90/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

In response to Members' questions, the Clerk clarified the definition of interests under the Code of Conduct. A **personal interest** was one which had to be disclosed in the member's register of interests (financial and property interests, membership of other organisations). A **prejudicial interest** was one which a member of the public would reasonably regard as so significant that it was likely to prejudice the council member's judgment of the public interest. Interests could be declared at any time during a meeting when a member became aware of his/her interest, not only under the specific agenda item.

The informal advice from a local Monitoring Officer was - "If in doubt, declare an interest ". It was better to declare an interest when it was unnecessary than not to declare an interest when it was necessary.

In light of this, the following interests were declared in **Agenda item 5 - Analysis of Parish Survey**:

- Roy Setterfield - occupier of a property in close proximity to North Hall
- David Townsend - occupier of a property adjacent to the existing School site
- Chris Kershaw - occupier of a property adjacent to the site north of Little Garton and Garton House
- Priscilla Phillips - member of the North Hall Management Committee
- Mary Ringrose - North Hall
- John Andrews - occupier of a property adjacent to the Hall House (Hurst) Farm site
- Tim Spence - occupier of a property opposite the conifer nursery.

91/06 DISCUSSION OF ANALYSIS OF PARISH SURVEY TO BE COMPLETED

The Chairman reported that there were no more than moderate inconsistencies in the data. There were 3 major differences from the responses to the Parish Action Plan (PAP) survey, namely:

- There was a stronger emphasis on improving road safety, for both pedestrians and drivers
- There was a high level of interest in the possible relocation of the School, with a slight preference for the field adjacent to the surgery as a site for a new School
- There was now a significant majority in favour of development of the Hall House (Hurst) site for a Village centre. The PAP survey had indicated a strong wish that the site remain a green space.

The Chairman hoped to finish the analysis shortly and would send copies to all Members.

Tim Spence confirmed that 272 forms had been returned to date. Completed questionnaires would be kept in the Parish archives.

Priscilla Phillips noted that many people wished to see a new Village Hall built, though Chris Kershaw warned that residents were not prepared to provide a blank cheque for it. The Council needed to see the full survey results see the latest LDF proposals and then form its responses.

The Chairman noted that there was a meeting at Chichester District Council for all Parishes on 16 May to discuss the LDF. He suggested an informal meeting for Parish Councillors at his home at 8 pm on Thursday 18 May to brief any Members not attending the District Council/Parishes meeting, and to review in light of the meeting the findings from our survey. The Clerk would supply details of the District Council meeting to all Parish Councillors.

The Chairman hoped to provide a display for the results at the Annual Parish Meeting. The development consultants for the school site would attend the Meeting, and it was agreed to ask them to speak for 5 minutes and to take questions for a further 10. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk would draft the Agenda for the Meeting shortly. It was hoped to attract a good turnout at the meeting, with wide publicity. The Chairman suggested inviting local shopkeepers, farmers and representatives of the Canal Trust to attend and speak on their activities in the community. He felt that the Parish Council needed to engage with them and the electorate.
(The Chairman declared an interest as his wife is a member of the Canal Trust). Priscilla Phillips suggested it might be preferable to invite them to answer questions only.

For Members' information, the Chairman then spoke about the issues he hoped the Council would address over the next few years, and how it might approach them. It was agreed to place an item on the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting to discuss management of trees planted by the Parish Council.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9 pm.

Approved at Parish Council meeting (*date*)..... 2006

(Signed)Chairman