

Minutes 3 April 2007

LOXWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of Loxwood Parish Council was held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 3 April 2007 in St John the Baptist Church Room, Loxwood.

Present: Parish Councillors John Andrews (Chairman), Priscilla Phillips (Vice-Chairman), Mirus Kuszel, Mary Ringrose Alison Sanderson and Charlie Whitmarsh

Parish Councillor Tim Spence joined the meeting at 8.30 pm.

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

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

51/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Parish Councillors David Townsend and Peter Winney. County Councillor Peter Moffatt.

ADJOURNMENT:

- QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Andrew Black asked what action had been taken to have the overgrown area of land between Station Road and Willets Way cleared. The Clerk had contacted the landowner and would follow up. The Chairman asked the Clerk to investigate what reserve powers were available in relation to untidy land.

Some kerbstones in Spy Lane were reported to be dangerous. Charlie Whitmarsh provided Andrew with County Highways contact number.

In response to a question about the Parish Council Newsletter, the Clerk said that all Parish Council copy had been sent to the printer more than 6 weeks ago, on 16 February. The delay in publication was the result of the printer's difficulty in attracting local advertising.

- COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

In the absence of County and District Councillors no reports were presented.

52/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL & AMENDMENTS TO REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared. Members were reminded that they might declare interests at any stage during the meeting if it became apparent that it was necessary to do so.

53/07 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Alison Sanderson, seconded by Mirus Kuszel and agreed that the minutes were a correct record of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 27 February 2007. The Chairman signed the minutes.

54/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i Village of the Year Competition (minute 44/07(i), 27 February 2007)): the WI's response to the Parish Council's approach had not been entirely enthusiastic. It was agreed to take no further action this year but to keep in mind what was being looked for by the awarding body, and to reconsider the matter when the 2008 competition was announced.

55/07 PLANNING MATTERS

Members considered the following **new applications** affecting the Parish:

LX/07/00354/FUL - Land East Of Lindene Gate And Newhaven, Guildford Road - 2 no. detached chalet bungalows.

Parish Council – can see no difference between these plans and those for earlier application LX/06/3636/DOM and the Council therefore maintains its objections: the proposal is for backland development, and would be out of character and out of keeping with neighbouring development, which is characterised by large individual houses standing in generous sized plots. To permit development would establish a precedent, which would make it difficult for the planning authority to resist similar applications, the cumulative effect of which would be to change irrevocably the character and appearance of this pleasant semi-rural area. The number of vehicle movements during construction, and when the new houses are occupied, would exacerbate the existing traffic hazards of access from the site to the B2133. Concern has also been expressed about inadequate drainage of the site, which is liable to flooding from a local watercourse. The District Council's reasons for refusing application LX/06/3636/DOM continue to apply.

LX/07/00806/DOM - Cranbrook Farm, Skiff Lane - New room in loft space.

Parish Council - no objection

LX/07/01104/DOM - Pancake Cottage, Station Road - Proposed single storey extension.

Parish Council - no objection

LX/07/01191/DOM – Tegwin, Spy Lane - Conservatory to rear of dwelling

Parish Council - no objection

LX/07/01202/DOM - The Granary, 12 Loxwood Place Farm - A white uPVC hipped back Edwardian style conservatory to the rear elevation.

Parish Council - no objection

Members noted the following District Council **decisions and determinations:**

LX/06/05374/FUL - Meadow Cottage, Oakhurst Lane - Change of use of land from agricultural to recreational and two stables and haybarn

PERMITTED

LX/07/00046/FUL - Headfoldswood Farm, Plaistow Road - The installation of one 24-metre high telecommunications mast with ground based equipment cabinets and ancillary development.

PERMITTED

LX/07/00181/DOM - Oakhurst Cottage, Oakhurst Lane - Single storey link building providing new entrance and two storey extension providing new living room with bed and en-suite over. Internal alterations and new staircase. Demolition of conservatory and link building.

REFUSED

LX/07/00189/LBC - Oakhurst Cottage, Oakhurst Lane - Single storey link building providing new entrance and two storey extension providing new living room with bed and en-suite over. Internal alterations and new staircase. Demolition of conservatory and link building.

WITHDRAWN

LX/06/05916/DOM - Walthurst Barn, Wephurst Lane - Single storey extension to utility and first floor extension above flat roof to the south of the property.
PERMITTED

LX/07/00332/DOM - 2 Tokens Cottages, Oakhurst Lane - Single storey rear extension. Single and double side extension.
PERMITTED

LX/07/00334/DOM - Penlands 7 Pond Close - Single storey conservatory extension to rear.
PERMITTED

LX/07/00280/DOM – Glendale, Guildford Road - Extension to garage/store.
WITHDRAWN

LX/07/00499/TPA - 10 Pond Close - Re pollard Lime Trees Nos. 1 - 4, within Area A1, subject to TPO/1/LX and TPO/3/LX.

PERMITTED – work to be supervised by a representative of the planning authority and at a time to be agreed with that representative

One appeal against refusal of planning permission had been lodged:

LX/06/3207/DOM - Woodfold, Guildford Road - 2-storey side and rear extension
(The Parish Council had no objection to the application)

56/07 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Post Office closures: Members were concerned at the scale of possible closures, and at parish councils' exclusion from consultation on closures. This ran counter to the Government's expressed intention of empowering and supporting local communities, and, when new housing development was planned in many rural settlements, made a mockery of a commitment to "joined up" government.

It was agreed to write to the DTI with copies to DEFRA, SALC and the local MP.

(ii) Wey & Arun Canal Trust: Members noted the Trust's invitation to join a VIP cruise on the canal. It was agreed to defer consideration until the newly elected Parish Council took office in May, and to ask the Trust the value of the hospitality offered should Members need to declare it.

57/07 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Financial Report: the report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members noted the list of Parish Council payments in February and March 2007, and summary transactions and account balances at 31 March 2007. It was proposed by Mary Ringrose, seconded by Charlie Whitmarsh and agreed to approve the payments of **£1,782.86**.

(ii) External Audit: Members noted the reappointment of Mazars as the Parish Council's external auditors for 2006/7.

58/07 RECREATION GROUNDS, HEDGES, TREES, OPEN SPACES

(i) Children's playground at North Hall: after discussion it was proposed by Priscilla Phillips, seconded by Alison Sanderson and agreed to ask RoSPA to carry out an annual safety inspection of the playground. The Clerk would advise the North Hall Management Committee that they would not therefore need to carry out a risk assessment on the trees adjacent to the playground.

(ii) Tree Preservation Order: Members noted that a TPO had been imposed on several trees at Broomfold, The Walled Garden. This followed the felling of a number of trees on a neighbouring site.

Concerns were expressed about unprotected trees in the Parish, which might be felled on a potential building site prior to the submission of a planning application for development of the site. It was proposed by Priscilla Phillips, seconded by Alison Sanderson and agreed to ask the Tree Officer to clarify the District Council's tree protection policies in view of the threat posed by future housing development.

59/07 EMERGENCY PLANNING

Members noted receipt of District Council's strategy for community based emergency planning. It was agreed to defer consideration of the matter until the May meeting of the Parish Council.

60/07 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS, SEMINARS, TRAINING COURSES,

(i) Meetings attended: prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated notes of meetings he had recently attended of the County Local Committee, North East Parishes Forum and Society of Local Council Clerks.

(ii) Forthcoming courses: SALC would hold training courses for new members in May and June. The Clerk would circulate details. It was agreed to ask SALC why the Parish Council's subscription for 2007/8 had risen by 27%. Other parishes had reported similar large increases.

61/07 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION

(i) Chairman's report: the Chairman spoke about the proposed Village/Parish archive. Charlie Whitmarsh suggested that details could be included on the Village website.

62/07 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

(i) Youth Club equipment: Priscilla Phillips asked that the future use of equipment bought for the Club by the Parish Council be discussed at the next meeting.

(ii) Highways matters: Charlie Whitmarsh and Tim Spence would report the current position at the next meeting.

(iii) Risk assessment: Priscilla Phillips said that speakers at a recent SALC members' course had stressed the need for parish councils to carry out risk assessments of their activities. The matter would be placed on the agenda for the May meeting.

63/07 DATES OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Annual Parish Council Meeting would be held on 8 May.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.38 pm.

Approved at a meeting of the Parish Council held on (date)

(Signed)

Chairman