

Minutes 4 February 2008

LOXWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of Loxwood Parish Council was held at 7.30 pm on Monday 4 February 2008 in St John the Baptist Church Room, Loxwood.

Present: Parish Councillors Alison Sanderson (Chairman), David Townsend (Vice-Chairman), Elizabeth Dugdale, Mirus Kuszel, Sacha Pawley, Priscilla Phillips, Scott Taylor and Charlie Whitmarsh.

Also in attendance: County Councillor Chris Duncton, District Councillor Brian Hooton, Peter Evans (Parish Clerk), 3 members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

17/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Parish Councillor Howard Thomas, District Councillor Dr Paul Mackey.

ADJOURNMENT: COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Chris Duncton, apologised for having been unable to attend the site meeting with Steve Johnson of County Highways.

Councillor Duncton invited members to attend the consultation on National Parks.

Councillor Duncton raised the matter of the traffic count taking place at Hall Hurst Farm. He had asked County Highways, who knew nothing about them.

Councillor Duncton raised the question of the damage done to Drungewick Lane when the bridge at the canal had been closed. Charlie Whitmarsh was able to inform the meeting that he had been assured that the damage would be put right as soon as the weather became dry.

Councillor Brian Hooton informed the meeting that he would be attending the next WACT meeting.

There were no questions from the members of the public.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

18/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Alison Sanderson declared a personal interest in the Hall Hurst Farm application.

19/08 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was proposed by Priscilla Phillips, seconded by Charlie Whitmarsh and agreed that the minutes were a correct record of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 7th January 2008. The Chairman signed the minutes.

20/08 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Playground: The Chairman reminded members that they had decided to only repair the equipment and replace the wood-chip surface at his time, owing to the uncertainty over the long-term future of North Hall. The work was due to begin in mid-February.

(ii) Police Meeting: Charlie Whitmarsh reported on a meeting held at Farm Close, with PC Hanlon, to discuss village issues.

21/08 PLANNING MATTERS

Planning applications: Members considered new planning applications affecting the Parish and after discussion made the following comments to the planning authority:

LX/07/06094/DOM - Spy Farm, Spy Lane - Single storey extension to rear with open porch

Parish Council comments: No objections.

LX/07/05935/FUL - Lily Meadows, Roundstreet Common - Amendment to approved application 07/03763/FUL. Reposition of approved triple garage.

Parish Council comments: the plans are unclear as to the precise position of the repositioned garage. Members are aware that there may have been concerns raised by neighbours.

LX/08/00098/DOM – Peacocks, Plaistow Road - Construction of a detached garage and ancillary outbuilding Parish Council comments: Objections due to the size, scale, position and purpose, of the proposed structure.

(ii) Hall House Farm planning application: to consider appointing a Parish Council representative to attend the District Council's Planning Committee meeting on 13 February, at which the application is to be considered.

It was agreed the Scott Taylor would represent the Parish Council at the above meeting, and that as many members as possible would attend.

Meeting adjourned:

District Councillor Brian Hooton informed the members that he understood that the Planning Officers were on the point of accepting the proposals. He reminded the members that there could be three objectors who would each have three minutes to speak. He announced his intention of speaking at the meeting. He would oppose the application. Meeting reconvened.

Members also noted recent **determinations:**

Planning determinations

LX/07/04973/DOM - Weavers Cottage, Drungewick Lane - Two storey extension and replacement of garage and outbuilding.

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

LX/07/05634/DOM - Old House Farm, Roundstreet Common - Two-storey side extension to provide family room and forming a bedroom and ensuite on the first floor. Two-storey rear extension to provide larger kitchen/breakfast area.

PERMITTED

LX/07/05949/LBC & 05987/DOM - Oakhurst Cottage, Oakhurst Lane - Revision to approved scheme (LX/07/03540/DOM and LX/07/03545/LBC) to include dormer window instead of rooflight on extension. Raising of ridge height on new link.

APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN

Appeal against refusal of planning permission

LX/07/01233/DOM & LX/07/01234/LBC - Beldhamland Farm, Skiff Lane - New link between house and barn (both in residential use)/alterations to window and door to form en-suite bedrooms.

As the Parish Council originally objected to the original application, because “the proposed extension by virtue of its scale and size will be out of sympathy with the existing listed building and detrimental to its character and appearance” it was agreed that the usual practice would be observed and the Clerk would write to the Planning Inspectorate.

(iii) Planning Concerns- leisure activities at Indigo Cabinet Makers: The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with CDC Planning Enforcement Section, and it was he had received a letter stating that all activities had ceased.

(iv) Planning Website: The District Council Planners assured the Clerk that the updated site had sorted out the problems with downloading information.

(v) Planning Conditions: A recent letter from a resident expressed concerns about ‘wheel washing’ at building sites, and asked that the matter was added by the Parish Council as a condition to all planning proposals accepted. The Clerk had responded that this was already a condition imposed by WSCC.

22/08 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Financial Report: the Clerk reported the Parish Council’s payments and receipts in January 2008, and summary transactions and account balances at 31 January. It was proposed by Sacha Pawley, seconded by David Townsend and agreed to approve the total payments of **£1425.04**.

(ii) Account Transfer: The Clerk explained the need to transfer £5,000 from the reserve account to the current account. It was proposed by Priscilla Phillips and seconded by Charlie Whitmarsh to approve the transfer.

(iii) Insurance: The Clerk notified the members of an offer from a firm of insurance consultants, to provide a quotation from the Norwich Union for the Parish Councils insurance. It was proposed by David Townsend and seconded by Charlie Whitmarsh to ask for a quote.

23/08 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Southern Water: Notification of a questionnaire from Southern Water, following the work carried out at Brewhurst Mill. It was agreed that the Clerk would fill in the questionnaire making specific mention of the damage that had been left.

(ii) WACT: A letter of complaint had been received from a local resident regarding the canal works and associated matters. The Clerk had forwarded all matters to the WACT and had received assurances the in fact all the concerns raised had already been dealt with.

(iii) Nicholsfield: Priscilla Philips raised concerns over unkempt land at the end of Nicholsfield. She also raised the issue of parking, or rather lack of it, for residents who could not drive across the land to access their homes, thereby adding to the parking congestion, this also impacted on the user of the disabled parking bay. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Martlet Homes, clarify the situation and see if a solution could be reached with regard to the parking, access and the need for the area to be tidied up. A copy of the communication would be sent to CDC.

24/08 RECREATION GROUNDS, HEDGES, TREES, OPEN SPACES

(i) TPO – the TPO on the trees at Mellow End, The Walled Garden has been confirmed.

(ii) Charlie Whitmarsh queried the situation regarding the amenity land at Station Road. The Clerk would follow-up the current situation with the Solicitors.

The exact status of the footpath through the area would be queried once again, as Steve Johnson of County Highways, had known nothing about it when he toured the Parish.

25/08 HIGHWAYS

(i) Charlie Whitmarsh reported on his and Howard Thomas’ ‘on site’ meeting with Steve Johnson from County Highways, which he felt to have been very useful. They drove around the entire Parish, and discussed the pre-prepared list of problems. Following the meeting Mr Johnson sent a copy of the spreadsheet of problems he felt needed remedial work.

The B2133 – Skiff Lane- Plaistow Road would be repaired 08/09.

Steve Johnson would keep Charlie Whitmarsh posted on all developments.

All the signs south of the village are to be replaced.

The 'slow' indicators are to be repainted.

Chris Duncton. Indicated that he thought Loxwood had done well, as following his attendance at the Plaistow Parish Council meeting, he felt that they had possibly an even greater problem.

(ii) Traffic Survey – Hall Hurst Farm - The issue of traffic volume through the village was mentioned with regard to the figures to be presented at the HHF planning meeting. Chris Duncton asked for copies of the surveys carried out by the PC.

As discussions moved on to the application for HHF. Alison Sanderson reminded members of her personal interest and left the room.

David Townsend took the Chair.

Pedestrian Crossing – The revised proposal was felt to be the same as before, in that although the crossing had been moved to closer to Station Road, the same issues of, safety, proximity to junction/visibility, street lighting, loss of on road parking and its traffic calming potential, were the same, and had already been rejected. The 10 parking spaces were considered to be inadequate and of no benefit to the village. The lack of on road parking would continue to have an adverse impact on the local shops, especially the butchers.

A copy of the PC decisions would be sent to David Few.

Alison Sanderson rejoined the meeting and took back the Chair.

26/08 NEW NOTICEBOARD:

The potential position of the board was discussed. The favoured site being next to the Bus Shelter at the Post Office. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask County Highways as owners of the land, if they would allow the board to be erected there. It was also thought to be good idea to move the bicycle racks nearer to the Post Office, whilst work was being carried out.

A map was to be put in the central panel of the board. The Chairman asked members to decide exactly what the purpose of the map was to be so that a choice of design could be made. It was decided that if possible, it would be a good idea to show the entire parish, with an enlarged section showing the centre of the village, to include road names, and if possible, house names, dependent on the scale required.

Priscilla Phillips and Elizabeth Dugdale wanted footpaths included, and if possible, some general topography. A compass and points of interest were other suggestions.

The Clerk would approach Tim Spence and ask if he would allow his map of the Parish to perhaps form the basis. The Clerk would look into finding someone to produce the map, possibly the District or County Council.

27/08 YOUTH PROVISION:

The members were keen to have the Purple Bus visit Loxwood.

The North Hall Management Committee would be approached and asked if they would allow the bus to park at the Hall. The Sports Ground was considered as potential venue especially in the summer.

28/08 NORTH HALL:

Priscilla Phillips reported that the Chairman had resigned, and that she was acting Chairman.

The Church had given a donation of £400, for a new vacuum cleaner. The plan to show films at the Hall had been put on hold.

The Management Committee was producing a questionnaire, for the 3 different user groups.

It was agreed that the PC would allow the questionnaire to go out with the newsletter, and that the return envelopes would be provided. The NHMC would arrange for the envelopes to be addressed, and for boxes to be put in the local shops.

29/08 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS, INFORMATION AND MEETINGS

(i) Members' questions and information: no matters were raised.

(ii) Meetings: Priscilla Phillips had attended a meeting on entitled 'Rural Watch' which aimed to find out what people in rural locations really wanted, and how to best move forward to achieve these aims.

The Chairman drew members' attention to the forthcoming meetings that may be of interest.

30/08 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

There were no items.

31/08 DATES OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next ordinary Parish Council meeting would be held at 7.30 pm on 3 March at the Church Rooms. Other ordinary meetings would be held on and 7 April and unusually on 12 May, to avoid the May Bank Holiday.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

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

(Signed)

Chairman