

LOXWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7:30pm on Monday 7th September 2009 in the School Hall at Loxwood Primary School, Loxwood.

Minutes

There are two appendix to these minutes:

Appendix 1 – Public meeting with Guest Speaker Superintendent Steve Barry from the Roads Policing Unit.

Appendix 2 – Loxwood Parish Council meeting for 7th September 2009.

Appendix 2 – Minutes from PC meeting

181/09 Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Whitmarsh.

182/09 Adjournment for questions from members of the Public:

(i) Mr. Gumbrill informed members of his disappointment at the extra house being allowed on the development of Hall House Farm. This happened at Willetts Way and other sites in the past. We have lost valuable parking. Mr. Gumbrill informed members he is a keen historian in the village and the development should be called Hall House Farm not Hall Hurst Farm. Mr. Gumbrill stated he is more than happy to help with any further history should it be required.

Mr. Beadle asked if members/CDC were aware that there was already a property in the village called 'Mayfields?'

Cllr. Andrews informed members that there was an objection on the basis of causing the Post Office confusion with the mail service.

(ii) Cllr Andrews report:

CDC internals: Well August is supposedly a time of limited involvement in District matters for Councillors: don't you believe it! Meetings on Development Control, and the reviews on "Governance & Community" in other words the roles and duties of Councillors have taken a good deal of time. I am the "lead" Member on the Decision Making group, considering "how can we improve our decision making? Questioning and determining whether our Committee structure is the most effective it can be? Do we hold the right number of meetings? Do our meetings cover the right things? Do we delegate the right number of decisions? Are there options for streamlining what we do?" One of my concerns is that Members are not representative of the electorate, being a good deal older and with fewer female and economically active representatives than seems reasonable. Clearly the geography of the District is unfavourable for many, and I'm determined to enable participation by "virtual meeting" methods, for Members, Officers and members of the Public to make participation more attractive to more people and to take local democratic processes into schools and universities.

It's also clear that a considerable proportion of Members take little part in the Council business; the "Cabinet" structure made mandatory by this Government in 2000 cuts out most Members from decision making. Daft! Why have brains available but unused. We are discussing options to make decision making more inclusive. Your input please!

Signed:..... Date:.....

Sport for younger people: I'm pleased to tell you that after a successful ambushing we now have a very capable Officer – Ben Polhill - committed to bring more sporting activity to the north eastern Parishes, and I hope that the first action will be no later than a “mini-World Cup” for some age groups to take place during school holidays and locally early in 2010. The tournament will link to educational plans by the schools – a simple example, participants will have to understand the colours of the country/ries they represent and will then colour plain tee shirts accordingly, all linked to previous sessions in schools about the countries. Inevitably there is a chance that some may feel unable to participate due to what we might all consider negligible costs for items of clothing or footwear. I've asked the Headmasters to make appropriate enquiries and having identified any needs to request support from their Governors and Parish Councils on behalf of any such pupils. As Loxwood Primary School is likely to participate I hope everyone here tonight will be able to make a donation to school funds to help this venture be inclusive.

Safer Food Better Business Pack - The Commercial Safety Team have been successful in securing £60,880 from the Food Standards Agency to deliver the FSA's Safer Food Better Business pack to 167 food businesses in the district. The law requires that food businesses have food safety management systems in place, and completion and daily use of the SFBB pack fulfils this requirement in the majority of cases. This project builds upon the Councils commitment this year to concentrate food safety inspection resources on improving the worst premises in the district.

Home Improvements -Following a successful bid through West Sussex County Council Supporting People, Chichester District Council has been awarded Handyperson (sorry not a dig at PC, it's what was published) grants for 2009/10 and 2010/11. The grant for 2009/10 is £24,405 and for 2010/11 £35,794. The grants will be used to enhance the Handyperson scheme which is provided in partnership with Anchor Staying Put. The main purposes will be to assist older householders with small repairs, odd jobs and measures to improve fire safety, energy efficiency and home security/safety. Please publicise this service, contact is: John Eccles, Tel: 01243 534816

Choice Based Letting Allocation Update -When Choice Based Lettings was adopted in 2007, it was not possible to foresee every scenario that would present itself to the housing teams and therefore Housing Interventions, Enabling and Improvements have been working on a first revision of the allocation policy since January 2009. This has focussed on a number of areas, including the priority need categories, Local Connection criteria, Category 1 Health Hazards and the use of temporary accommodation/Band A categories. Significantly, in discussion with parish councils, Housing Enabling established that not enough priority was given to rural residents that have lived in the parish the longest. Therefore, the Local Connection criterion (which is used in the allocation of exception sites) has been reviewed and a cascade produced that gives long-standing residents of over 10 years, a priority over residents that have been in the parish for only 12 months. In addition, rural workers have a high priority, as these are key members of a community and should be helped when possible. As a result of the success of Registration Events held in Tangmere and West Dean, it will now be compulsory to host an event prior to the completion of all future exception sites. This process requires local residents to prove (prior to bidding) that they have a local connection and would therefore be eligible to occupy a property. The responsibility relies solely

with the applicant to demonstrate that this exists, therefore greatly reducing the amount of time taken to

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allocate properties when they become available. This is I think a great improvement for local people.

Contact Sam Irving, Tel: 01243 534699

St Richards Hospital – Fit For the Future update

The PCT is no longer using the term 'Fit for the Future' – it always terrifies me when a bureaucracy or a group of politicians puts time into changing slogans - but its key elements remain as the basis for its 'Review of Commissioning Intentions for Maternity, Inpatient Paediatrics and Emergency Surgery'. The review is being completed during the summer and a final decision on the shape of these services was expected to be considered by the PCT Board in September. However, at its July Board meeting the PCT Board agreed to delay the decision until the November Board meeting to allow the Hospital Trust more time to respond to the commissioning intentions.

The Joint Health Oversight Scrutiny Committee will be reconvened in line with the revised timetable to consider the impact of any decisions taken by the PCT Board and decide whether to reactivate the referral to the Secretary of State. The PCT are planning a 'deliberative Event' – in plain English? - for stakeholders, the date for this has not been announced yet.

MEND - The 5th MEND – to help overweight young people - programme is currently being planned to start in the new school term in mid September and will be based at Portfield Primary school. It is hoped that we will be able to include children and their families from Tangmere and Chichester East at this location. Local pressure could add resources to the program to be used more locally to or in Loxwood.

Contact Claire Parnell tel. 01243 785166 ext. 4589

Cllr. Sanderson extended her thanks to Cllr. Andrews.

(iii) Cllr Chris Duncton Report:

Cllr Chris Duncton informed members he will take the comments back from Superintendent Steve Berry to CDC. He had recently read 20 points from a paper recently, but not one had related to making a driver safer so that was an interesting idea.

County Council was quiet in August. £50 million to save in 2 years.

Cllr. Sanderson extended her thanks to Cllr. Duncton.

183/09 Declarations of Interest from Members of the Council – None.

184/09 Councillor Vacancy – Apologies for absence received from candidate Mrs. Ann Kersey.

Cllr. Sanderson talked members through the vacancies and gave time for the CV's of all three candidates to be read. All members were given ballot papers to vote.

Cllr Sanderson informed Wendy Andrews she was successful and that she would inform Anne Kersey that she too had been successful. Cllr Sanderson thanks Mrs Gardner for her time and interest in this position and hoped that she would not hesitate in coming forward again should there be another PC vacancy in the future.

Clerk signed papers with Wendy Andrews.

185/09 Approval of minutes of previous meeting dated 6th July 2009.

Proposed Cllr Townsend. Seconded Cllr. Lane. Minutes signed by Chairman.

186/09 Matters arising from the minutes of 6th July 2009 - None.

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187/09 (i) North Hall – Report by Cllr Dugdale: Planning permission granted on 30th July 2009. Architect looking at phasing as tenders are quite high. A new Chairman was appointed at the AGM – Peter Winney. Fund raising is off to a good start. Next meeting is on 17th September 2009.

(ii) Loxwood Bridge/Parapets – Discussions going well. Options have been narrowed down and we are at a point where the Parish Council need to decide on the way forward for WACT. Tony Gee & Partners have offered two viable alternatives – a cut down version of what is already there, or reinforced concrete/brick faced up to 1metre and rail – handout given to members to view.

Cllr. Wendy Andrews left the room as she had an interest in this issue and made no comment.

All members voted unanimously in favour of option 2 reinforced concrete/brick faced up to 1 metre with rail to stay in keeping with the surround area.

Cllr. Wendy Andrews returned to the room.

9:05pm Mr Peter Foulger and Mr Eric Walker (WACT) left the meeting.

(iii) Major Planning Applications – Historically we have been trampled over, and some issues raised have not even been considered.

The Town Planner we used (Mr Edward Gittins) warned against identifying sites.

It was decided that being pro-active would be much better and trying to develop relationships with CDC to help prevent another Hall House Farm situation in the future would be best practise.

Mr Tony Colling informed members that Loxwood Society would be keen to work with the Parish Council to set up a working party to move with issue forward and help work towards the upcoming LDF etc.

Cllr Sanderson informed members that these two groups would have good experience to bring to the table, and we could enlist the help of a professional when we needed, but not at this stage. Members to take time to think and send any idea's for this group to the Clerk for the next meeting. Next Agenda – Planning Action Group and Newsletter.

(iv) Speed/Roads – covered in Appendix 1.

(v) Newsletter – moved to next month's agenda

188/09 Planning – None.

189/09 Financial and Administration report – Clerk had left the files and cheque books at home so pushed to next meeting.

190/09 Correspondence – None.

191/09 Members Questions and Information & Meetings

Cllr Sanderson informed members of the PCSO briefing attended at North Hall. Cllr Sanderson asked them to be more visible in the village to help tackle low level crime.

Sports Association meeting attended by Cllr. Dugdale and Cllr. Andrews. Floodlights will be painted green.

- North East Parishes Forum meeting – 17th September 2009 7pm Winterton Hall, Plaistow.

- New Councillor Training Evening 12th October 2009 6:30pm Wisborough Green Village Hall.

Cllr Sanderson proposed a donation to the school for the use of the hall this evening. £25 agreed all voted unanimously in favour.

192/09 Items for next agenda – Planning working group, Newsletter and North Hall VAT. Any other please inform Clerk.

193/09 Dates of future Parish Council meetings – Monday 5th October 2009 at 7:30pm in St Johns the Baptist Church Room.

Meeting closed 9:15pm.

Signed:..... Date:.....