

## LOXWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7:30pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009 in the Church Rooms of St John the Baptist, Loxwood.

### MINUTES

The meeting was attended by 3 members of the public.

204/09 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Sanderson.  
Cllr Townsend - Absent

#### **Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned for the North Hall 100 club draw. Cllr Lane drew ticket No13 – Barbara Rick (winner of £135). Thanks extended to Pat Winney from NHMC.

#### **(i) Questions from Members of the Public.**

Mr John Andrews asked the PC what traffic controls are proposed for the current road works linked with HHF. It was understood that the road works will be traffic light controlled. Mr Andrews requested the PC consider the effect the current road works will have on the local shops in Loxwood, including not only the people wanting to get to the facilities, but the vehicles needing to deliver goods. These shops make their profit between now and January 2010.

#### **(ii) To receive reports from District and County Councillors**

District Cllr Brian Hooton: Not present

District Cllr John Andrews: Chichester DC Performance Indicators

The second quarter Performance Indicator report is now available to view on the Council's website. <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4743>, and Jenny has a soft copy.

#### **Local Strategic Partnership launch of Sustainable Community Strategy.**

On 13th October, Chichester in Partnership the wider local strategic partnership (LSP) for the District, launched our Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The aim of the event was to inform partners of our new strategy. The event was well attended with 48 representatives from 25 different organisations attending. The LSP is looking at developing 12 projects based upon the priorities in the SCS, these are:

Access to services, Road Safety, Infrastructure, Recession Busting, Neighbourhoods, Children & Young People, The Student Offer, Geographical hubs, Environment for a thriving third sector, Manhood Peninsula, Improving the Cultural Offer, Reducing Carbon footprint. Please contact Amy Loaring 01243 534726 if you would like any further information on the projects or the LSP.

#### **Village Shop Directory**

Will be aimed primarily at visitors to encourage them to use the village shops when visiting the area, providing village shops the opportunity to promote their goods and services and help residents and visitors to be aware of the breadth of what is on offer. The directory, in both paper and electronic (pdf) format, is planned for publication in April 2010, after consulting with user groups and village shops.

#### **Play Development**

We've appointed an Officer, Lisa Rumbold (01243) 785166 Extn.4684 to help groups with developing play essentially for the up to 5 age groups. Please advise local "toddler" groups of the service which may facilitate Grants.

### **Local Development Framework – Members Workshop “Options”**

A Workshop for all Members regarding the Local Development Framework is to be held on Tuesday 24th November commencing at 11am and finishing at 1pm, in the Committee Rooms. I'm trying to establish whether a PC Councillor might attend in my place as I'll be away at that time, any interest please let me know. The Council will be consulting the public on in January. The Options document will set out broad strategic locations for development across the Chichester District.

**New Code of Conduct for Public speaking at Development Control Committees** - May be found at:

<http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=12264>

and

<http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5833>

### **Grants**

The remaining panels for the current fiscal year are as follows;

Closing date for applications

Grants Panel Date

Friday 27th November 2009

Monday 18th January 2010

Friday 12th February 2010

Tuesday 30th March 2010

LPC may wish to urge the Cricket Club to seek funds for protective netting between the field and the vehicles and back gardens of the houses on Plaistow Road.

### **Service Reviews**

A newsletter outlining the proposals from the Officers of their key service reviews has been published. However, this is subject to substantial review when the complete pictures of reviews of each of services governance, capital expenditure and expected reserves is considered by Members in December. Expect the slaughter of many sacred cows. It is now clear that minimum savings of £5M in 5 years will be necessary. With a National debt of almost £200,000 Million now owed by the 16 Million net payers of tax in the country – less than 25% of the population, added to at around £1,000 Million in annual interest we've quite enough additional taxes to pay each year! Remember that the Public Sector Pension Fund deficit is thought to be between the Government's estimate of £530,000 Million and Watson Wyatt's estimate of £1,000,000 Million. That adds up to exceedingly lean times. [John Andrews, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2009. Cllr.JohnAndrews@gmail.com or 01403 752 170](#)

County Cllr Chris Duncton: A recent visit to Loxwood School had been very interesting. Traffic flow problems in the morning and afternoon are apparent and this will take time to resolve. Work to improve the A24 between Buck Barn and Dial Post is underway. 500 tonnes of aluminium was recycled through collections. It is 20 times more efficient to recycle than produce from new. West Sussex is doing well on the recycling front. Budget juggling still ongoing. It is hoped there will be no service cuts; just means there is less money to spend in the County. Roads will be one of the areas affected. In West Sussex we are funded based on a figure of £120 per person as opposed to £170 per person in the rest of the Country. We are the lowest funded for 7 years. Cllr Whitmarsh extended his thanks to Cllr Duncton.

## **205/09 Declarations of Interest from Members of the Council**

Cllr W Andrews stated she may have an interest regarding any discussions relating to the Wey and Arun Bridge/Canal Trust.

## **206/09 Approval of the Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

Appendix 1 minutes signed by Cllr Thomas.

Appendix 2 minutes to be addressed at the December meeting. Clerk to re-word sentence in Cllr Duncton's report. Proposed Cllr Lane. Seconded Cllr Thomas.

## **207/09 Matters Arising from the minutes**

None

## **208/09 Updates:**

(i) Loxwood Bridge – Cllr Thomas updated members on the latest meeting with WACT.

Costings obtained on a brick parapet in the region of 25K-35K. No costings given for the cut down version of the steel parapets at this stage. WACT informed the Bridge Committee that WSCC should have adopted the bridge but they had not heard from them. CDC have served a 28day legal Enforcement action on WACT. It is understood that WACT's Management Committee have not decided on which option to go for yet. Loxwood Bridge Committee is in talks with CDC to arrange a meeting as a matter of urgency to discuss the matter further.

(ii) Speed/Roads update– Meeting scheduled for 3.11.09 with Superintendent Steve Barry to try and move to the next stage in Loxwood for the Speed Initiative. Meeting also on 13.11.09 with Peter Bradley and Tracey Webb from WSCC to discuss the roads and slowing the traffic in Loxwood. Update at the December meeting.

(iii) Newsletter – the future. Deferred to the December meeting.

(iv) Planning Sub Committee/Action Group – meeting date set for 17.11.09 to set terms of reference etc.

(v) BT Phone Box –Clerk informed members the kiosk could be purchased for £1, but PC would have the responsibility for upkeep/insurance etc, or for £300+vat (this figure was a nominal figure reached by BT by looking at the overall total of boxes across the UK and their use/maintenance costs) per year (payable to BT) we can keep it as is (however, I have yet to obtain in writing that leaves the PC with no liability and maintenance)- some Parishes found this a more appealing option if they had poor mobile phone coverage and there had been reasonable use of the phone box. The Clerk informed members that virtually no Parishes were going down this route of adoption as BT were too 'woolly' with the T & Cs of this proposal. Clerk will offer more information as and when it becomes available.

(vi) HHE – Update on proposed lighting recently highlighted to the PC. Cedrick Whiting of WSCC informed the Clerk after investigating the reported lighting that he has spoken with the site office at HHE and it is understood it to be low level lighting - possibly something along the lines of bollards with a dim light to show the way to the garages. Cedrick is going to monitor this and should there be any further mention of any other sort of lighting he would be keen to hear of it. Tony Colling informed Members of the WSCC document he has that contradicts this information. He will send the information to the Clerk to follow up with Cedrick.

(vii) Highways – Update on scheduled road works – already covered. Storm Installation of foul and storm sewers. Electrical main to be installed at the same time. Station Road to Pond Copse. 26.10.09 to 14.02.10 8am to 5pm. Contractor Gracelands.

(viii) Safer Routes to School/Hedge visibility – A recent visit to Old Oak House, Station Road by Ben Wiffen of WSCC had apparently proved their hedge to not be at fault for the poor visibility and possibly the angle of the road may be the cause. Ben Wiffen has suggested this is now to be taken up with the Safer Routes to School Team at WSCC. Clerk has emailed the team for advice and is also trying to establish the owner of the hedge in question.

(ix) North Hall – Cllr Dugdale informed members that £40k has been officially awarded by CDC. The projected redevelopment costs are £290,326. It was mentioned that a possible

Working Capital Loan may need to be considered/sanctioned in the future by the PC.

(xi) Sports Association – Car Park Pot holes/speed hump and litter bin update.

Clerk gave costs for the Sports Assoc car park pot hole repairs: approximately £280.

For a speed hump to be included it would cost in the region of £1000 in addition to the pothole costs. If a speed hump were installed warning signs should also be displayed – these had estimated costs of £40 per sign.

The litter bin issue raised at the last meeting, CDC says it is over spill being left there from the recycling, and not an increase in litter. The street team will be asked to double check it is being emptied regularly. Only other option is new 240 litre wheelie bin with support post and clamp lock at a cost of £287.50 (jncl VAT) - cost to empty this bin would be the approximately same as the current one which is £49.92 per annum.

It was decided to try and establish when the works are commencing at the Sports Ground as the Car Park may be subject to further damage. Cllr Andrews also informed there are talks of introducing a collection from home for glass which may reduce the recycling waste by this bin at the Sports Ground. It was agreed to review this issue in 3 months.

Clerk informed members that work is due to commence on the trees at Willetts Way on 11<sup>th</sup> November 09.

### **209/09 Planning**

LX/09/03080/FUL Woodside Guildford Road Loxwood Billingshurst.

Proposed two storey dwelling to replace poor quality prefabricated timber clad bungalow.

LPC object to this application as it is too high for the area and therefore out of keeping with the surroundings. Vehicular access should be on to Pond Copse Lane. Due care and attention must be adhered to for neighbouring properties whilst building works are carried out.

WACT Pump House – Drawings were handed out for initial thoughts on this. No objections to this initial document.

### **210/09 Finance and Administration**

It was agreed the Clerk should request a full breakdown from the NHMC for the costs of the Solicitor and a formal request or the PC to pay this invoice.

Clerk to set a date for the Budget meeting via email as AS & DT not present this evening.

Financial report Proposed Cllr Thomas, Seconded Cllr Lane.

### **211/09 Correspondence**

Emailed to Member when received.

### **212/09 Members Questions, Information and Meetings**

#### **(i) Questions/Reports**

Cllr W Andrews raised the issue regarding dog fouling on the tow path by the canal. WACT would like to deal with it; Dog Orders are not enforceable in the car park. The Dog Warden will put up further signs, but it was suggested to move the bin from the car park to the top of the tow path. If the PC is in agreement, a letter can be sent asking CDC to empty from the new position rather than the costs of a new/extra bin. Proposed Cllr Kersey. Seconded Cllr Thomas. Clerk to liaise with Cllr W Andrews.

#### **(ii) Meetings attended/forthcoming meetings**

Recent Cllr training attended by Cllr Dugdale, Cllr Lane and Cllr Andrews was felt a worthwhile event and would encourage other to go along should the opportunity arise again.

### **213/09 Items for next Agenda**

Appendix 2 Sept minutes/Newsletter.

**214/09 Date of next meeting** – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at 7:30pm

Apologies from Cllr Whitmarsh and Cllr Kersey for that meeting.

Tony Colling mentioned to members the Horsham DC LDF proposals which can be viewed on the HDC website and the impact these could have on our infrastructure should the sites be selected close to here. Meeting closed 9:20pm