

LOXWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7:30pm on Monday 4th October 2010 in the Church Rooms of St John the Baptist, Loxwood.

Minutes

Persons Present:

Cllr Charlie Whitmarsh (Vice -Chairman), Cllr Scott Taylor, Cllr Wendy Andrews, Cllr Howard Thomas, Cllr Sarah Lane, Cllr Anne Kersey and Clerk to the Council – Miss Jenny Hartley.

Also Present: CDC Cllr John Andrews, WSCC Cllr Chris Dunton.

Mr Tony Colling & Mr L Milsom (Loxwood Society)

5 Members of the Public.

Minute No.	Description	Detail/Discussion	Action/Agreed
	North Hall Draw	Number 7 drawn – Winner Mrs P Winney	N/A
290/23	Meeting Opened & Apologies for Absence	Cllr Whitmarsh welcomed everyone present and informed them of the resignation of Mrs Alison Sanderson as Chair and Member of the PC. All members wanted to extend their gratitude to Alison for all the hard work she had done for the good of the village. During Alison's time as Chairman there had been some very difficult situations and issues the village had to face and Alison's determination had led the way and gave the village back its community spirit.	Nil
290/24	Elect a Chairman for the PC	Cllr Whitmarsh asked members of the PC to state if they were interested in standing as Chair. Due to a mixture of work commitments and others feeling they had not been members long enough it was agreed the PC would run a rolling Chairman position until May 2011. Cllr Whitmarsh agreed to cover from October to the November 2010 period.	Nil
290/25	Accept and Declare a Vacancy	Members were reminded that with Mrs Sanderson's resignation, there were now 2 vacancies on the PC to recruit.	Nil
290/26	Apologies for Absence	Nil	Nil
290/27	Adjournment; (i) Questions from members of the public	Mr Milsom reminded Members that AS was also a member of the Bridge and Loxwood Development Strategic Group, so these positions also needed to be filled. Cllr Thomas will lead on the Bridge Committee and Cllr Dugdale will join the Bridge Committee. Mr Colling informed members that the upcoming Community/Localism Bill will devolve power downwards and it is important that the LDSG continues its work. It was agreed to make this issue an agenda item for the November 2010 meeting.	Nov Agenda Item: Community/Localism Bill

(ii) Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr J Andrews:

LDF: I've nothing substantive to add to my July report.

Please note I will be unable to attend the next LDF briefing for District Councillors on 23rd November and I'll ask Cllr. Philippa Hamilton to brief you and the Loxwood Society of any pressing matters.

CLC & Alfold Bars:

As you'll have heard the CLC agreed a meagre 6 month trial at 40 mph from around 11 weeks time. I regard the activities of the Alfold Action group as exemplary.

I've chased Steve Barry to establish whose black hole the Speedwatch sites for central Loxwood agreed with the Sussex Police have fallen into to facilitate the Alfold Bars action group in applying for Speedwatch in that area – I presume LPC would lend their approval.

Planning matters:

Please remember that if as a Parish Council you reply to an application to the effect that "we'd like (i) dfg and (ii) hij, and (iii) klm" it may have no impact. If however you say "we object on the grounds that (i) dfg and (ii) hij, and (iii) klm are essential conditions but do not form part of any obligation of the applicant; however, if the application as documented is modified only to include these essential conditions in full then our objection would be withdrawn.

Budgets: The impact of the cuts to restore the deficit will clearly hit District Councils especially hard, and will be a difficult message to give to you and all our residents, as the level of council tax that we levy will be fixed whereas the level of service that you will receive will reduce distinctly. As I've said before so far as I am concerned there are no "no-go" areas other than to preserve and wherever possible to improve the critical services provided especially to those civil parishes not benefitting from the capital spending in the south of District and Midhurst. The introduction of the bulletin board scheme and of a minimum rolling 12 months program of works at my insistence continues to drive better internal communication at less cost to the tax payer.

The District will be introducing an IT application to provide better self-service provision of District Services with back up to telephone or face to face provision where essential. I think we should press for Schools and Village Halls to provide assisted internet access to such services, particularly for older people who may not wish to have their own PC at home. LPC may wish to take a lead in this.

The SDNPA has chosen to move into Capron House – the old Grammar School – in Midhurst, taking a dead loss off the hands of WSCC (I assume) but at taxpayers' expense instead

of sale to the private sector. As a result the Council Tax payers of the District are to come under pressure to provide a massive increase in off-street parking to take the cars of the INITIAL 60 plus bureaucrats and 28 members of the authority many centrally appointed). You can imagine the huge cost to you on the reduction in your services caused directly by this car park matter. The SDNPA should be reduced to what it was previously saving £6M yearly and improving the democratic input to planning decisions.

These and other matters can be discussed both at the next NE Forum and very importantly at the Annual Parishes Meeting on 17th November next at which later meeting you may find useful guidance about service impacts on Loxwood's people.

Bulletin Boards: If you read the note prepared for possible candidates as Councillors, there's a substantial emphasis on competence with IT and I claim a moral victory for driving this change from the Luddite tendency.

Accounts 2009/10: Are available on the District Web Site. So far I have donated around 50% of my net of tax fees and allowable expenses claimed, leaving me roughly financially neutral after all my direct costs serving as a Councillor have been taken into account. I don't intend to publish any greater break-down as auditing it would be impossibly expensive.

Vacancies: There are always vacancies for Councillors of all political persuasions so anyone interested might like to contact Electoral Services in Chichester DC or the relevant Groups – Conservatives, Independents, or Liberal Democrats.

WSCC Cllr Chris Dunton:

Cllr Dunton extended his thanks to Mrs Sanderson for all her work with WSCC and the PC.

National Park: The cost to the community is an unnecessary luxury.

Winter Management Plan: The PC should submit where it feels bags of salt needs to be delivered to in the Parish – this is then distributed by local residents/community group.

These bags will be topped up.

CLC at Midhurst – Presentation by the Fire Service showed the impact of cuts affecting their service.

Finance: Waiting on the date 20.10.10 to know the impact on our authorities. Priority on cuts had recently started.

Speed: Alfold Bars campaign for 40mph speed limit had been temporarily agreed. This should help slow the traffic down. Cllr Dunton said he felt confident this would then become permanent. The CLC meeting scheduled for September 2010 was cancelled as the Cabinet Member had agreed the limit to go in place.

Recycling: Doorstep glass recycling is due to be introduced in

		<p>Spring 2011. Glass will go to the recycling plant in Ford. WSCC have compensated CDC so they do not lose out financially.</p> <p>Loxwood School – Still a vacancy on the Governing Body.</p> <p>Bridge Parapets – WSCC are waiting for plans from WACT to move this issue forward. WSCC are aware ‘not to drag their heels’.</p> <p>Thanks extended to both Cllr J Andrews and Cllr C Duncton.</p>	
290/28	Declaration of Interests from Members of the Council	Cllr Taylor declared an interest relating to planning application: LX10/03177/FUL Loxwood Garage	Nil
290/29	Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on 5 th July 2010	Agreed and signed by Cllr Whitmarsh. Proposed: Cllr Thomas. Seconded: Cllr Taylor 7 th June 2010 – amendments made. Minutes proposed: Cllr Lane. Seconded Cllr Thomas. Signed by Cllr Whitmarsh.	Nil
290/30	Matters Arising from the above minutes	Sports Association Car Park – Cllr J Andrews stated the lorries used for glass recycling would be sold following the last collection next year.	Nil
290/31	<p>Updates:</p> <p>1. Loxwood Bridge</p>	<p>Mr Milsom informed members that planning was granted to WACT on 18.08.10. The consent was based on works starting within 12 months of this date. The legal issues with WSCC will take approximately 3 months, so WACT hope to start in Spring 2011. The bridge committee/Loxwood Society were responsible for £13k5 of the fundraising so far. This had included £5k from CDC grants and £6k5 from the ‘Buy a Brick’ campaign ¾ of which came from WACT Membership holders. The 2 cruises run by the PC raised £1265.</p> <p>The fundraising will continue next year with the possibility of further cruises/grant monies.</p>	
	<p>2. North Hall</p>	<p>Cllr W Andrews Report: On behalf of the NHMC I should like to stress how grateful we are to the PC under Alison’s chairmanship for our support without which we would be miles away from reaching the required funding target – so a special thank you to Alison on her resignation. With Section 106 money from Bewley Homes (£16,503) now deposited in the PC bank account, the £20,000 loan to NHMC confirmed and approval of a PWL of £75,000 to the PC the NHMC agreed to ‘press the button’ and draw up contracts with Chivertons for a late October start with phase 1 – the extension. Initially, because of an unexpected complication regarding the way the CDC grant could be allocated, phase 1 was not expected to include the new staircase, fitting out the first floor meeting room and internal decorations. However, with a generous donation of £10,000 from a member of the</p>	

		<p>North family and continuing support from community fund raising it seems we are now just £4,000 short of funds to complete the original plan for phase 1 though we will need a little more for the decorations. Labour from willing local volunteers will be used wherever possible to help reduce costs.</p> <p>The contract with the Parish Council for the main structure of the extension is expected to be ready for signature by early next week. It's important that we sign it promptly so as not to cause any delay to the start which will, hopefully, be w/c October 18th 2010.</p> <p>Recent community events have continued to be successful; Loxwood's 'Chelsea Flower Show' raised around £3,000, Jazz Club and the October Barn Dance averaging a profit of around £500.</p> <p>Please remember to subscribe to the '100 Club' which is continuing again this year. It raised some £1,860 last year with an equivalent amount going to draw winners.</p> <p>I attended the AIRS Annual Conference in September where I identified a small number of so far untapped opportunities for grant applications which I am pursuing with David Wellington.</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Lane and Cllr Dugdale would be additional signatories for the PC account so there is no delay in payments for the NH works.</p> <p>Discussions took place confirming the information relating to Precept and the impact on the Parish.</p> <p>Mr D Wellington (NHMC) commended the PC for the work they had done in relation to North Hall. He felt the PC should be very proud and not have to justify it.</p>	
	<p>3.Cascade/Planning/ Affordable Housing</p>	<p>Mr T Colling (Loxwood Society) informed members he had met a contact at the recent SALC course attended on behalf of the PC who had good experience of dealing with Cascade.</p> <p>It was agreed that Mr Colling would attend the Kirdford meeting on 18.10.10 with David January (Planning Consultant) on behalf of the LSDG and report back.</p> <p>Cllr W Andrews reminded members she had identified a site on a website that appeared to be The Conifer Nursery along Guildford Road as having planning permission.</p> <p>There was also a possibility that there may be a site in Drungewick Lane. Cllr Dugdale said she had spoken with the agent involved and it was under offer and due to exchange – this piece of land was on a small lane. It was agreed the Clerk would contact CDC to establish if there was any news regarding the Conifer site or a site along Drungewick lane.</p>	<p>Clerk to contact CDC regarding land at the Conifer nursery/Drungewick Lane. Agenda item for November 2010 .</p>

	3. Parish Council newsletter	<p>Discussions took place regarding the need to promote the good work of the PC and the Parish, and keep residents informed of issues that may affect them. Costs and implications on the budget were discussed in detail.</p> <p>Following a vote (5 in favour & 1 against), it was agreed an A4 style newsletter, consisting of 1 or two pages depending on the news to report would be produced twice a year, with any additional newsletters being produced when required. They are to be in black and white print.</p> <p>1st edition to be for end October/early November 2010.</p>	Clerk to cost the newsletter in this format & agree before going to print via email with members.
	4. Sports Association Car Park	<p>The Clerk informed members that she was hopeful the contractor would start works in the next two weeks. Discussions took place regarding the recycling bins and the lorries that use the car park to empty the containers, and the long term reoccurring damage to the Car Park. It was however, decided in the safety of the car park users, these pot holes needed to be repaired.</p>	Clerk to ensure the works start as soon as possible
290/32	7. Planning	<p><u>LX10/03177/FUL Loxwood Garage, Loxwood Road, Alfold Bars</u></p> <p>Meeting adjourned for members of the public:</p> <p>Mr M Loxton (ML) spoke on behalf of 6 residents from Alfold Bars: ML gave members a hand-out showing a suggested diagram for the residents preferred layout – west facing so as to project the noise away from residential properties.</p> <p>ML informed members of the following concerns and that they would request that CDC planning refuse based on the following:</p> <p>The Garage is a sizable Operation, 4 bays for servicing and also a valeting area.</p> <p>Scale of the operation for a rural village.</p> <p>Noise: Works, compressors, machinery, valeting, high pressure washing, radio's (no music when the doors are open)</p> <p>Service Bay doors to be closed as much as possible.</p> <p>8.30am-5.30pm working hours Monday to Friday. No Saturdays.</p> <p>Lighting – no flood lighting.</p> <p>Preserve trees that are on site.</p> <p>In future this could be sold to a major company for example someone such as Kwik Fit if permission is granted for Saturday hours too.</p> <p>Lack of parking facilities causing issues to the highways.</p> <p>Meeting reconvened:</p> <p>Cllr Taylor left the room while Members discussed the application. Following a vote (5 in favour, 1 against) It was agreed the PC would object to the application based on the Local Plan policies affecting car parking/highways/noise pollution/light pollution. Mr Colling and the Clerk to draft a response. Cllr Taylor returned to the meeting.</p> <p><u>LX10/0351LBC + LX10/03845DOM Bedhamland, Skiff Lane, Loxwood.</u></p> <p>LPC has no objection to the above applications. Property to remain in keeping with the area etc.</p>	

290/33	Financial & Administration Report	<p>The following Payments were agreed as per the financial report: Proposed Cllr Thomas. Seconded Cllr Lane.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="491 250 1228 1037"> <tr> <td>NH Tree Surgery</td> <td>£875.38</td> <td>Chq 1242</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Playsafe Playgrounds</td> <td>£101.06</td> <td>Chq 1243</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mothers & Toddlers</td> <td>£260.00</td> <td>Chq 1244</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Members Training – Airs</td> <td>£71.50</td> <td>Chq 1245</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerks Expenses. J Hartley</td> <td>£425.89</td> <td>Chq 1246</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WSCC August 2010 Salary</td> <td>£912.43</td> <td>Chq 1247</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SALC Planning Course</td> <td>£29.38</td> <td>Chq 1248</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WSCC Clerks Salary Sept 2010</td> <td>£912.43</td> <td>Chq 1249</td> </tr> </table> <p>It was agreed the Clerk and Cllr Lane would act as signatories for the North Hall Contract Papers.</p> <p>2009/10 Year End Accounts Members had been given copies of the accounts prior to the meeting. The accounts and audit for 2009/10 were approved.</p> <p>Cllr W Andrews reminded Members of the report sent to all regarding the conference attended by herself and Cllr Kersey. Cllr W Andrews also reminded Members of the importance of sending a representative to the Annual Parish meeting on 17th November 2010. Mr T Colling will forward a report to members following his attendance at the SALC Planning Course. Cllr Dugdale will attend the invitation to the Centenary Girl Guide Service.</p>	NH Tree Surgery	£875.38	Chq 1242	Playsafe Playgrounds	£101.06	Chq 1243	Mothers & Toddlers	£260.00	Chq 1244	Members Training – Airs	£71.50	Chq 1245	Clerks Expenses. J Hartley	£425.89	Chq 1246	WSCC August 2010 Salary	£912.43	Chq 1247	SALC Planning Course	£29.38	Chq 1248	WSCC Clerks Salary Sept 2010	£912.43	Chq 1249	
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290/34	Members Questions/information /meetings	<p>Cllr W Andrews informed members that Steve Johnson from WSCC stated at the recent CLC meeting he know nothing of the Speed Watch initiative for Loxwood. It was agreed the Clerk would contact Superintendent Steve Barry for an update on this situation as the PC had been told on several occasions this was now with Highways to approve.</p>	<p>Clerk to contact Superintendent Steve Barry for an update on this situation as the PC had been told on several occasions this was now with Highways to</p>																								

290/35	Items since preparation of the Agenda	Nil	approve.
290/36	Items for the Agenda (01.11.10)	Update on Speedwatch Update on traffic/WSCC meeting with Tracey Webb North Hall Loxwood Bridge Land at the Conifer nursery Community/Localism Bill Meeting closed at 9.31pm	

Signed: _____ Date: _____