

## LOXWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

**An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7:30pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010  
in the Church Rooms of St John the Baptist, Loxwood.**

### Minutes

249/10	<b>Persons Present</b>	Cllr Sanderson (Chairman), Cllr Whitmarsh (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Taylor, Cllr W Andrews, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Dugdale and Cllr Kersey. Also present: Mr L Milsom and Mr T Colling (Loxwood Society), Mr Andrew Black and 4 Members of the public.
	<b>Apologies Received From:</b>	Cllr Lane. Absent – Cllr Townsend
	<b>Adjournment:</b> <b>(i) Questions from Members of the Public</b>	North Hall draw – winning number 26 – Mrs Page.
	<b>(ii) Receive reports from District and County Councillors</b>	<p><b>(i) District Councillor John Andrews</b> Report to Loxwood Parish Council 6th April, 2010, John Andrews Cllr. Chichester District</p> <p><u>Activities for young people:</u> The Mini-world cup at Loxwood Sports Club was outstandingly good fun for the children and their teachers. The teachers were convinced of its schooling values, too, with integrated social, geographical and sports education combined. It'll drive up demand for wholesome local foods as well thanks to the Loxwood Society providing volunteers to cook an excellent BBQ of John Murray's Sussex burgers and Colin Allmark's Henfield baps, sauces, and Nutbourne tomatoes. Football in the Community will be on Thursday. Do drop by to support the initiative.</p> <p><u>Loxwood Shops:</u> The Loxwood shops have been battered by the hideous traffic problems over the storm drain works over some 6 months. I do urge that you make every effort to encourage the fullest use of these facilities. The PO is a loss maker; without breaching any confidences, I can assure you that the business loses from having a PO, it is there as a community service, making no contribution to Store sales. Whether having it as a community service encourages other shoppers we don't know. The beauty parlour has lost, as I recall, more than 35% of its regular custom. I'm fairly sure our butcher would be more profitable as an out of village business butcher without a retail shop that only accounts for 30% of sales but more of the costs. We do need to encourage wider and deeper use, without them we'd be even worse off than Ifold, having to drive 5 or 6 miles to buy anything and pay through the nose for parking. We need to consider reminding people of the true cost incurred in driving to Tesco/Sainsbury/Waitrose.</p> <p><u>District Service Reviews</u> No disruption seen so far towards adoption of new means of reaching decisions and revised services to meet budgetary constraints despite a few twitches from one or two old guard, now reassured. I hope to make this a theme at the next NE Parishes</p>

Forum in Loxwood on June 10th at North Hall where the CEO has undertaken to attend provided I supply burgers as good as for the Mini World Cup. It's interesting that I led the Decisions team as a Conservative, but was fully supported throughout by the LD Leader. I won't name the opposition in deference to sensibilities now that a General Election has been called! But actually there was none; the Executive essentially was told by almost all the other Councillors that they wanted change and this is the best on offer. It's noteworthy that the CEO favours the move because it puts Members firmly in the driving seat and makes his Officers have to argue cases up to a year ahead rather than presenting "there's no alternative" cases as papers enter the Executive mill. This leads to a greater opportunity to have direct input from civil Parish Councils and involved members of the public, as well as making the role of Councillor more interesting and accessible by those employed and/or with major child or other dependent care responsibilities. It's my view that it has the capacity to reduce the disproportionate bias towards Chichester and Midhurst in favour of District wide services in the discretionary areas.

#### Roads and Footways

I received a thoroughly disingenuous reply from WSCC about the continuous damage to our shops caused by the inappropriate routeing of the storm sewer for HHF and the incompetent management of works and lights. I've been ignored on my question why the storm drain was not dug across Simon Carter's fields, beneath the Canal and into the River Lox rather than under the road. I'm working with others to finalise a case on the matter.

I'm greatly concerned, too, by a reply noted by the reporter from the Chichester Observer to my question about policies towards holes around gullies (i.e. sharp-edged nearside potholes) and problems for dangers to cyclists. This, the day following a death of a cyclist from such circumstances, struck an uncaring note, discordant with the eco messages of get on your bike!

#### Speeding Traffic and Health issues from Traffic Noise

The recent CLC in Midhurst refused to defer consideration of the proposed speed control measures for Alfold Bars/Tokens Farm until its meeting in Loxwood during June, and thus it was sent into limbo awaiting Surrey Police reporting. There was no timescale given, so some 100 of our residents must carry on suffering from high volumes of speeding traffic. The reason given was that under WSCC policies the section would at best warrant a 50mph limit, but in some mysterious way if Surrey Police recommend a 40mph limit from Alfold to the County boundary then Sussex Police would agree a 40 mph limit for Alfold Bars to Tokens Farm – maybe. If like me that makes you want to bang heads .let's go do it. This is an example of officiousness at its appalling worst. I know of several issues that will excite local interest in June.

I've noticed a slow drift towards more speeding vehicles and anti-social behaviour.

#### Enforcement Activity

An active review for a Loxwood property is underway, and I'm pleased to say in productive cooperation between Waverley BC and Chichester DC. The help given to WBC by much Loxwood Society effort undoubtedly earned a little mutual respect.

John Andrews, Cllr.JohnAndrews@gmail.com or 01403752170

Note: Further notes: are not supplied this month, the Council business is winding down into tidy-up mode as we end the annual cycle

**(ii) County Councillor Chris Duncton**

		<p>Cllr Sanderson asked Cllr Duncton to help co-ordinate the Speed issue with Surrey.</p> <p>Cllr Duncton stated there may be benefits in waiting for the Surrey information to come through. The CLC criteria used needs the limit to be low before it can be considered to reduce further. The information from Surrey may help back this cause - their readings may show a need for a lower speed limit. Cllr Duncton said he would feel more hopeful if Surrey carried out the research on the shorter section of road.</p> <p>There is a vacancy on the Governing Body at Loxwood Primary School if anyone is interested in applying.</p> <p>A 6 week planned road closure in Petworth (Station Road) from April 12<sup>th</sup> 2010. This is to install Storm Drains.</p> <p>Cllr Thomas asked Cllr Duncton to investigate the recent issues relating to the manhole covers which are 'blowing up'. The manholes relate to the Storm Drain which crosses an orchard in Spy Lane. (These are due to the new storm drains recently installed from the HHF development). There had been a recent visit to these manhole covers by 2 men in High Visibility jackets, but they appeared to seal the manholes down rather than deal with the actual cause.</p> <p>Mr Colling also added that it appeared to be sewage coming up through the manholes' covers.</p> <p>Mr Colling asked members/Cllr Duncton for an explanation of the CDC signs placed in the village regarding parking.</p> <p>Cllr Duncton explained these were relating to the car parking changes – mostly affecting Midhurst and Petworth. It is parking control. This has been given to CDC to control to help free Police time. Police will still attend in the instances of obstruction/delays.</p> <p>Thanks extended to Cllr J Andrews and Cllr Duncton for their reports.</p>
	<p><b>Declaration of Interest from members of the Council</b></p>	<p>Cllr Scott Taylor declared an interest in Sheaves Farm Planning Application (LX/10/00673FUL &amp; LX10/00534/FUL) and Westdene (LX10/01078/DOM) planning application due to the location of his property.</p> <p>Cllr Wendy Andrews informed members that she had resigned her directorship of WACT and WALE so no longer needed to declare an interest in their activities reported at PC meetings.</p>
	<p><b>Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (01.03.10)</b></p>	<p>To be reviewed at the May 2010 meeting</p>
	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 01.03.10</b></p>	<p>Covered under 'Updates'.</p> <p>Mr Colling asked if there had been any further update to the Farm Close planning application (LX/09/04816). The response on the CDC website indicated that the application will be refused.</p> <p>Cllr Sanderson informed everyone of a company which had contacted CDC and the Clerk for addresses of residents in the Parish so a questionnaire could be sent out on behalf of Cascade Housing regarding housing needs in Loxwood. Both the Clerk and CDC were unable to give out residents' information so the company said they will consider a mail drop.</p>
	<p><b>Updates/Issues on the following:</b></p>	

	<p><b>(i) Loxwood Bridge</b></p> <p><b>(ii) North Hall</b></p> <p><b>(iii) Alfold Bars</b></p> <p><b>(iv) Speedwatch</b></p>	<p>Cllr Sanderson gave a full update on the current parapet situation. An initial 'rough' set of plans had been looked at during the last Bridge Committee meeting. The end result will still be a brick clad parapet. The delay is due to Simon Brett who is looking at the amended plans. This information has recently been chased with Sally Schupke as they are due to be ready to view after Easter.</p> <p>It was decided at the last meeting it would be beneficial for WACT to submit the plans to CDC before the APM to help with resident questions regarding the current design of the bridge parapets.</p> <p>Southlands Lock update– we saw initial plans at the last PC meeting, these have not been validated by CDC.</p> <p>Cllr Dugdale updated members on the current fundraising for North Hall: £153,500 from secured grants, and a further £93K awaiting decisions from grant funding – hopefully by end of May 2010. The expected success rate of these grants is around 30%. Disappointing results from the Big Lottery Fund as they decided North Hall was too big a project.</p> <p>Community Fundraising is gathering steam and going well. NHMC has delayed giving the contract to Chiverton's as it felt the committee could not commit to this by the end of April 2010. NHMC may come to the PC for a development grant, and NHMC needs the PC's response on funding detail by June 2010. The £67K granted by the Parish Council for the repairs to the roof at North Hall will now be used to do the extension (£30k phase 1), and £37K for the main hall ( phase 2).</p> <p>There is a North Hall mailing list. You can add your name by contacting Jean Spira on at: <a href="mailto:bookings@loxwoodvillagehall.org.uk">bookings@loxwoodvillagehall.org.uk</a></p> <p>North Hall will require a stand at the APM.</p> <p>Cllr Sanderson stated the speed/changes had been covered in Cllr Duncton's report. Community signage still ongoing.</p> <p>Cllr Kersey informed members that no further volunteers had come forward. We are now waiting for the survey to be completed by the Police for positioning of the SID. Full report at the APM.</p>
	<p><b>Planning</b></p>	<p>LX/10/00534/FUL + LX/10/00673FUL Sheaves Farm House, Pigbush Lane. Loxwood</p> <p>Object. All members in agreement. Information received from CDC/Waverley regarding the application and Enforcement issues.</p> <p>LX/10/00748 Moat Bungalow, Drungewick Lane, Loxwood.</p> <p>The PC has received no plans for this application and there are no plans on the CDC website. Clerk has asked the planning officer for a further extension to the response date to allow Councillors time to view.</p> <p>LX/10/01119/PLD 9 Oak Grove, Loxwood.</p> <p>No Objection on the condition the neighbouring properties acceptthe height of this proposed application.</p> <p>LX/10/01070/DOM Crabtree Cottage, Drungewick Lane. Loxwood.</p> <p>Object. Significant change already to this property. Must remain part</p>

		<p>of the current dwelling in perpetuity.  LX/10/01078/DOM Westdene, Loxwood Road, Alfold Bars.  No Objection.  (Cllr Taylor left the meeting whilst discussions took place regarding Westdene and Sheaves Farm applications).</p> <p>LX/10/00930 Headfoldswood Farm – object to this application due to the height of the new replacement building. It is out of keeping with the surrounding properties as it would be a 2 storey building (policies BE11 &amp; 12).</p>
	<b>Financial &amp; Administration Report</b>	<p>The financial report was agreed for payment. Proposed Cllr Thomas; seconded Cllr Whitmarsh.</p> <p>It was decided that no donation would be made to Crimstoppers following their letter of request.</p> <p><b>Willetts Way:</b> A quotation had been received from Paul Swan Landscaping for £1650 (if 1 skip is used) £2250 (if 2 skips are used). Cllr Sanderson had spoken with Sally Schupke from WACT to establish whether their clearance team would consider this job for the community in return for a small donation to be made from the PC to the WACT bridge parapet fundraising initiative.</p> <p>Members agreed this may be the most cost effective way to move this issue forward. Cllr Sanderson to pursue.</p> <p>Clerk to check the detail of Howards Garden Leisure quotation received some time back and send the information to members.</p> <p>NHMC had given the Clerk this evening a copy of the Tree report for the trees needing work carried out at North Hall.</p> <p>Cllr Dugdale informed members she had informed NHMC that the PC may consider the cost of the removal of the tree which is deemed to be dangerous, however, the rest of the report would need to be considered.</p> <p>It was agreed Cllr Taylor would study the Tree report issued and report back to the PC at the May meeting.</p>
	<b>Correspondence</b>	<p>Cllr Sanderson read out a letter received from the Houses of Parliament (Mr Andrew Tyrie) thanking her for her time given on his recent visit to the village.</p>

	<p><b>Members Questions and Information and Meetings</b></p> <p><b>(i) To receive Members questions and reports on matters of interest to the PC</b></p> <p><b>(ii) to note reports of meetings attended on behalf of the PC and invitations to forthcoming meetings</b></p>	<p>Cllr Taylor informed members of the recent request from Mr Charles Walker regarding the TPOs. Cllr Taylor has spoken to the Tree Officer at CDC – Henry Whitby - who is aware of these trees following the initial report completed before the works commenced at HHF. It was agreed that a TPO application will be supported for the first two trees, and Henry Whitby from CDC will decide if the third tree is a good enough specimen to be included in this application.</p> <p>Cllr W Andrews also stated the potholes at the Sports Association car park need urgent attention. Clerk to progress the situation.</p> <p>Cllr Sanderson informed members that due to a recent illness she had been unable to attend the Action in Rural Sussex Seminar regarding Rural Housing.</p> <p>Cllr W Andrews sent a written report regarding her attendance to the recent North East Parish Forum.</p> <p>Cllr Whitmarsh requested the following be reported to WSCC: Potholes in Spy Lane, and the B2133 just before Drungewick Lane. Safety Barrier over the stream – 100metres east of the 30mph speed limit in Station Road.</p> <p>Sunken Manholes in Station Road – this was caused when the road was scoured for the HHF storm drain works and caused brickwork to be removed.</p> <p>Flooding during heavy rain near to Four Houses/30 mph speed limit sign at the North end of the village. It creates a ‘ford’ in the road. Changes to the A281 junction have caused lorry drivers to damage street furniture and the grass areas. Clerk to contact Alfold to see how this is being dealt with/Surrey CC. Similar issues had been noted along Vicarage Hill.</p>
	<p><b>Items for discussion since preparation of the Agenda</b></p>	<p>Cllr Sanderson informed members of the recent email issues the Clerk had been suffering. It was agreed the Clerk should consider getting a new email address.</p>
	<p><b>Items for the next Agenda</b></p>	<p>Report from Cllr Taylor regarding NH trees.</p>
	<p><b>Dates of Future Parish Council/other meetings</b></p>	<p>Future meetings:  APM – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at 7:30pm  PC meeting – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 7:30pm  North East Parishes Forum – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 7pm at North Hall in Loxwood.</p>
	<p><b>Meeting Close</b></p>	<p>9:15pm</p>