

## LOXWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

**An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7:30pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010  
in the Church Rooms of St John the Baptist, Loxwood.**

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### Minutes

**227/10 Persons Present:** Cllr Thomas (Chairing the meeting), Cllr Taylor, Cllr Lane, Cllr W Andrews, Cllr Dugdale and Cllr Kersey.

**Apologies received from:** Cllr Sanderson and Cllr Whitmarsh.

**Absent:** Cllr Townsend.

**Also Present:** District Cllr John Andrews and County Cllr Chris Duncton.

#### **Adjournment:**

North Hall Draw: Cllr Thomas drew number 29. Thanks extended to Mrs Winney.

Member of the public Mr Tauber requested an update regarding the Speedwatch initiative. He had been in touch with Mr B Steele and Mr Hyde and understood there would be a Speed Survey expected in the near future.

Cllr Duncton informed members that Tracey Webb and Steve Johnson will be in attendance at the CLC meeting to be held at Loxwood School on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010. This would be an ideal opportunity to further raise the profile of this issue.

**Action:** Clerk to confirm the CLC information nearer the time and forward the agenda to members and Mr Tauber.

#### Cllr Duncton Report:

£2.5million is required to fund the pothole repairs needed across the County. One resident from Spy Lane commented on how pleased they were with the response time to a recent repair to a pothole, so WSCC must continue to be informed. West Sussex roads were surveyed and were found to be of some of the better standards in the UK. It costs £35K per night for the gritting lorries to be out on the roads of Sussex. The CLC agreed £1k for North Hall which was used for a structural engineer.

Thanks extended to Cllr Duncton.

#### Cllr Andrews Report:

##### Activities for young people:

The Street Dancing Programme for 5 to 15 year old children nearest Loxwood will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, all adjacent schools including Loxwood, Wisborough Green and Billingshurst have been invited to send children.

##### District Service Reviews

The next phase, to lift savings from £2.6M planned within <3 years to at least £5M within 5 years has started. The new means of arriving at Council decisions is planned to start with the Council Year 2010/11 in a pilot form, with the new Council of 2011 invited to adopt the process and inevitable amendments fully. Alterations to the Constitution are essential to enable these changes, and will be voted on shortly. The increase in efficiency of Senior Officers is expected to be at least equivalent to the 33% reduction in their numbers with a somewhat comparable improvement in productivity of other Officers concerned with Policy. The alterations include making a rolling 12 month plan for actions and decisions in place of this Government's requirement of 3 months. This will enable both members of the public and Councillors to become involved at an early stage before the typically "concreted in" nature of most decisions currently taken in Local Government. The objective is improved transparency and thus enhanced democratic decision taking. By clean sweeping away the 20 plus non-obligatory panels and similar groups, Councillors will have more time to be involved with determining the longer term business of the Council as well as giving greater services to their Wards. It is also expected that these changes will encourage a wider range of candidates to stand as Councillors with the attendant arrangements to facilitate much

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Council business from home or place of work rather than in Council offices all at markedly lower costs. It's acknowledged that some current Councillors are likely to find the alterations beyond their comfort level.

#### Roads and Footways:

The issue of there being no funding for coordinating responses to heavy snow or similar bad weather is to be subject of joint District reports to WSCC and I understand MPs from West Sussex.

Ironically some key footways became blocked in areas where ploughs were deployed and used for the exclusive advantage of vehicular traffic. As you'll recall from local surveys pedestrian journeys are the most frequent by people in villages like Loxwood.

On a cheerful note WSCC clearly did a superior job coping with the relatively heavier snow in the Haslemere area this morning; the roads into Surrey were safe, those in Surrey had black ice and Haslemere was gridlocked for some hours.

The short term pothole fixes locally are laudable but are being eroded daily. The speed of effective WSCC response to the fallen hedge blocking the narrow footway just north of the Loxwood Stream was good, in the circumstances exceptional.

The shambles at Guildford Road for the new storm sewer was only made relatively safe after 4 days of complaining through the WSCC Highways line when I finally wrote to Henry Smith, and most Members of Parliament. The report handling has clearly been unsatisfactory, I assume through lack of resources caused by slashed budgets.

#### Speeding Traffic:

I have sent Jenny (Clerk) copies of reports showing the seriously adverse effects on well being and health of residents abused by noise from traffic driving at high speeds. Given the planning framework that encourages both ribbon development and the development of small satellite settlements such as at Tokens Farm and Roundstreet Common I recommend that you all read these, and perhaps the WHO and EU research reports too on this subject to understand better these key aspects of your efforts to reduce speeds and bring effective enforcement.

I have noticed an increased proportion of the 44 buses through Loxwood speeding – again and have logged one on the Operation Crackdown site. Please do the same for any occurrence you notice, time, direction, location and your judgement of speed suffices, although all other details would be welcomed.

[John Andrews, Cllr.JohnAndrews@gmail.com](mailto:John.Andrews@gmail.com) or 01403 752 170

Thanks extended to Cllr Andrews.

#### **228/10 Declaration of Interest from Members of the Council**

Cllr W Andrews declared her position regarding Wey and Arun Canal Trust.

Cllr Taylor declared his position regarding the planning application LX09/05016/DOM Westdene and his property.

#### **229/10 Approval of the minutes of previous meetings – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

Minutes of the meeting of 7th December 2009 - Proposed: Cllr Taylor. Seconded: Cllr W Andrews.

Minutes of the meeting of 11th January 2010 – Proposed Cllr W Andrews. Seconded: Cllr Taylor

All minutes signed by Cllr Thomas as an accurate record.

#### **230/10 Matters Arising from the minutes – see 231/10**

231/10 Updates on the following issues:

- i. Loxwood Bridge – Last meeting held between the Bridge Committee and WACT on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Discussions took place regarding the outline plans to be submitted, although WACT had suffered difficulties with finding someone to undertake their planning work. The PC is supporting fundraising, but there will be no financial donations from the PC to WACT. The PC is looking into available grants, as are Loxwood Society. WACT have started on its own fundraising initiatives.

Meeting adjourned:

Mr Milsom (Loxwood Society) informed members he agreed the meeting with WACT had progressed well and Sally Schupke was very positive. Cllr Dugdale had suggested the Community Chest grant funds for which Loxwood Society had now received the pack and have proceeded to apply for. The discretionary panel is on 30.03.10.

Meeting reconvened.

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- ii. North Hall – Cllr Dugdale informed members the fundraising is going well. The grants are not so positive. The Leader Grant was unsuccessful as the decision was taken to only allocate funds to two big village halls rather than lots of little ones like NH which was disappointing. Jazz night continues to be a success.
- iii. Newsletter – It was agreed that the Clerk would instruct Image Data Group to proceed with the printing of the PC’s newsletter but in order to help save costs that Cllr Andrews and Cllr Kersey would list the roads they could hand deliver the newsletter to. Clerk would then post the rest as usual.  
**Action: Cllr W Andrews to list the roads for hand delivery of newsletters**
- iv. Willetts Way – Clerk is waiting for the company who is going to clear the land to come back from holiday. Commencing of works had been further delayed by the poor weather conditions in January. Cllr Taylor is in talks with the Gardening Club. Replanting conditions to be sent to Cllr Taylor, and also agree a possible meeting with members of the PC and the Gardening Club regarding the future financing of this project.  
**Action: Clerk - Replanting conditions to be sent to Cllr Taylor, and also agree a possible meeting with members of the PC and the Gardening Club regarding the future financing of this project. Arrange clearance of the land when weather permits.**

**232/10 Planning**

LX/09/05117/PLD. Lindene Guildford Road Loxwood Billingshurst. Rear single storey extension. LPC has no objection to this application.

LX/09/05118/COU. Oakhurst Farm Oakhurst Lane Loxwood Billingshurst  
Use of land adjacent to dwelling house as residential curtilage. LPC has no objection to this application.

LX/09/07508/LBC Froggats Cottage Oakhurst Lane Loxwood.  
Installation of three rooflights LPC has no objection to this application.

LX/09/04807/FUL Land East Of Pancake Cottage Station Road Loxwood Billingshurst  
New access (vehicular) to woodland. Subject to safety survey being carried out by WSCC highways  
LPC has no objection to this application.

LX/09/04817/FUL Loxwood Surgery Farm Close Loxwood Billingshurst  
Install a small enclosed generator for standby power during electrical mains power cuts.  
LPC has no objection to this application.

LX/09/05016/DOM Westdene Loxwood Road Alfold Bars Loxwood  
Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.  
Meeting adjourned for Mr Taube (applicant) to inform the PC that the plans were being withdrawn as he had since received a request to make this property a listed building. Mr Taube had taken the time to drive to CDC to check the property was not in a conservation area before purchasing/submitting a planning application and nothing was highlighted to him at that time. This had proven frustrating.  
Meeting reconvened.  
Cllr Thomas offered to write to CDC on behalf of the applicant expressing concerns of this decision, but Mr Taube declined this offer at this time. LPC cannot comment on this application as it is now withdrawn.

LX/09/05119/DOM + LX09/05023/LBC The Fletchings Brewhurst Lane Loxwood Billingshurst.  
Take down existing outbuildings and construct a new single storey pitched roof building to form a games room, garden equipment store and log stores. LPC has no objection to this application as reviewed before.

LX/09/05041/DOM Tree Tops Vicarage Hill Loxwood Billingshurst  
Proposed extension, conservatory and loft conversion.  
Meeting adjourned as applicant present: Mr Douglas informed members the application is sympathetically designed ensuring matching bricks/grout etc to the current building. Consultation with

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neighbours had taken place, and Mr Douglas had ensured the height of their proposed extension will be less than the extended bungalow to the left of Tree Tops. Mr Douglas explained the difficulties he had experienced with the Planning department at CDC and thanked the Clerk for her help during this time. Meeting reconvened. Loxwood PC has no objection to this application.

The Clerk gave copies of an email received earlier today from a company called Cascade claiming to want to meet to discuss their planning application for 10 affordable homes in Loxwood. Unfortunately the email had been received too late in the day to discuss with CDC, but there was no record of this on the CDC website. Clerk to investigate further with CDC and inform the PC. It was also agreed that Edward Gittins should be involved at the early stages once the facts have been established to assist us with moving this issue forward.

**Action: Clerk to talk to CDC regarding this application and update members asap. Alert Edward Gittins once information established.**

### **233/10 Financial Matters**

Payments agreed as per report. (Correct A/C balance to £72396.34 on financial report)  
£300 grant to Loxwood PCC agreed, however due to budget constraints being placed on the PC, this and any other grants would need to be carefully considered in the future.

Proposed Cllr Lane. Seconded Cllr Dugdale.

Clerk to include a copy of the expenses sheet with the financial report for future meetings.

### **234/10 Correspondence**

Urgent information emailed daily to Cllrs, otherwise Cllrs are reminded to check Google Docs/email page for all other correspondence.

### **235/10 Members Questions and Information and Meetings**

Cllr Thomas updated members on the recent Speedwatch meeting. Latest minutes from the meeting are on Google Docs. Cllr Kersey has volunteered to be the Speed watch co-ordinator. Recent Police presence had caught some speeding offenders; it is unknown at this stage if they were residents of the village.

### **236/10 Items for the next Agenda**

Email to Clerk

Meeting Closed at 8:54pm

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