

LOXWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held at 7:30pm on Monday 11th January 2010 in the Church Rooms of St John the Baptist, Loxwood.

MINUTES

215/10 Apologies received from:

Cllr Charlie Whitmarsh, Cllr Sarah Lane, Cllr Elizabeth Dugdale, County Cllr Chris Duncton and Clerk Jenny Hartley.

Absent Cllr David Townsend.

In attendance: Cllr John Andrews and Mr Len Milsom – Loxwood Society

216/10 Adjournment:

LM asked if he could speak later regarding Canal.

Cllr Andrews report:

Bin Collection.

Amazingly, the Refuse Collection teams have restarted collections over the weekend.

Activities for young people:

I'd appreciate LPC publicizing the soccer training session for 6 to 15 year olds run in conjunction with Brighton Football Club at Loxwood Sports Club on April 8th.

Local Development Framework Core Strategy Consultation

I trust this has reached LPC. We've spent a good deal on web based facilities for gathering opinions

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.

Car Parking in Rural Car Parks

Charging for parking in the larger rural car parks was approved by Council on 15th December.

Traffic speed enforcement

May I suggest Councillors' use of the Crackdown web site to report anti-social drivers is publicised?

Grants to disabled people to facilitate life at home

This is, like so many Government "initiatives", ill thought out, poorly managed and under-funded. The "Initiative" is designed to enable more people to be cared for at home by their family at lower costs than from living in state-paid nursing homes on the pretext that it is fully funded and will improve the lives of people. It requires at least four parties to agree on every detail.

While it is mandatory that awards are granted, the central funding does not follow the award but like "free" bus passes, "free" swimming and such follows an inadequate funding formula. So inadequate is the funding that CDC has already run out of funds allotted for 2009/2010. For the balance of this year we have therefore allocated a substantial amount from capital reserves. Since uncommitted reserves have now been reduced to the minimum acceptable, such transfers will not be available in future and thus awards are likely to be made on a "deferred until next year" and then even later basis.

I think this will have a poor effect on the lives of a few families in this Ward.

Snow, power cuts and "gritting"

I have complained vigorously that the policy of gritting rural roads is inadequate in times of heavy falls of snow largely due to failure to plan and coordinate with utility suppliers. Several

major electricity outages were greatly prolonged because minor roads were not just roughly snow ploughed to make them accessible to utility repair 4*4s. I suggest you may consider lending your weight.

Storm & Foul Drains in Loxwood and a TPO

An oral report will be given.

John Andrews, Cllr.JohnAndrews@gmail.com

Further discussions took place regarding the drains. HT said he had had an Environmental Officer look at the storm drain. The Environmental Officer said that the size of the outlet into the stream was of a good size, and the blockage could be further up.

JA has asked Tony Colling (an Engineer) to look at the technical details.

217/10 Declarations of interest. None.

218/11 Minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2009

Some inaccuracies in Dec. Minutes. So not signed. Clerk to be notified by email so that changes can be made before next meeting.

219/10 Matters Arising:

Draft terms of Ref. for Development Commit. discussed. Chairman read out the concerns of Cllr Dugdale. Points discussed. It was decided to adopt T of R. Proposed AK Seconded ST.

220/10 Updates

Lox Parapets: WACT agreed to proceed with brick faced option. Quotes obtained.

Brick faced £36,523 + vat + £5876 design fee.

Cut down metal £13,708 + vat + £1107 design fee

WACT to put cost of metal option into the fund.

WACT to cover Planning costs

Canal Commit. To hold an urgent meeting to discuss the above and other issues proposed by WACT. Then to meet with WACT.

Len Milsom explained that on the suggestion of Cllr Dugdale, the Lox Soc were looking into trying to obtain money from the Community Chest. This would be based on the potential improvement to the environment for the village is the parapets were altered. The form had to be in by Feb 12th. There was a max of £5,000 available.

JA mentioned the Leader Fund. PC to look into.

North Hall: Fund now at £153,500.

Chairman raised the matter of the hope by the NHMC that the PC would pay for the land transfer being undertaken. Chairman explained history and that NHMC had been asked to come to the PC with a proposal for the exact amount they needed. NHMC Chairman had

asked for £900. Cllrs felt that as they were being asked for such a large sum, they needed to see the invoice from the Solicitor.

221/10 Planning: None

222/10 Financial: none

223/10 Correspondence: Now via googlemail as per email today from Clerk.

Some Cllrs had tried the system and felt it was good.

224/10 Members Questions : none

Discussion about making sure vulnerable residents were taken care of during bad weather etc. Cllrs felt that anecdotal evidence suggested that this was not a problem as family and neighbours helped out. David Gumbrel was suggested as a possible source of information.

An item would go out in the next newsletter.

225/10 Items for next agenda: none

226/10 Next meeting date: Monday 1st Feb 2010 at 7:30pm

Meeting closed at 8:30pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____