

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Kirdford Village Hall on Monday 19th February 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Mrs A Gillett
Cllr T Piedade
Cllr Mr T Brooks
Cllr N Goddard
Cllr Mr A Persson
Cllr A Vernon

In attendance:

Cllr Janet Duncton
Cllr Gareth Evans
Cllr C Todhunter

22. Apologies for Absence: Cllr J Nicholls, Cllr M Osborne, Cllr A Campbell

23. Public Participation:

Four members of the public were in attendance. Mr Simon Lush of Henry Adams made representations to the Parish Council on the proposed application to relocate footpath 768 at Boxall Stud. There was currently an alternative permissive route in place. The owner of Boxall Stud cited health and safety concerns as the footpath crossed the main yard where farm machinery was in use.

24. Disclosures of Interest:

None.

25. Approval of Meeting Minutes

To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th January 2024 be signed as a correct record.

26. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Janet Duncton

At last our budget is done for 24/25 and what a task it's been. We've had 3 workshops during the year for us bank benchers to have our input and although some will be disappointed I am sure we now have a balanced budget and no cuts to our Services.

As I have said before this is not only achieved by making cuts it is much about doing some things differently and most of the time we have found ways to perform our responsibilities without making cuts but doing things in a different way and this year we had a new Director of Finance who looked at every issue and did just that.

One of the good things is that although we don't like using our reserves we had put in the budget that we would be using some very limited reserves that we knew could be replaced. However, good news. Just days before making budget decisions and of course after releasing the original papers the Government came up with another 16 million plus and the upshot was that we did not have to touch the reserves.

Just some headlines

An additional £31.2m for vulnerable children and young people

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£18.3 million more for adults social care

An extra 4 million to maintain the county's 4000km of roads

An extra £27.8m to manage increased costs, as inflation levels remain high and the increase in minimum wages.

All very well received and put to good use for the residents.

You will be aware that this has kept us pretty busy for the last few months and at the end of the day it is a 4.99% increase in County Council Tax which equates to £1.57 per week on a Band D property.

There's also been a very busy period at South Downs National Park.

I have said before but both South Downs and County are looking to get new Chief Executives. In County's case the current excellent Chief Executive is returning to East Sussex full time and will remain at West Sussex until we have replaced her.

In the case of South Downs National Park the Chief Executive officer left on the 1st of January and we are in the middle of a long process to get a new Chief Exec. Judging by the experience of other National Parks who have also needed new CEO's there are large amounts of people applying for these positions so we expect many applicants which will have to be sifted through and a short list obtained. It is probably unlikely to have a new CEO until at least July/August.

On top of this both organisations have also had to replace key Directors and in the case of SDNP this has already been achieved but at County Council we have only recently been apprised of our great Finance Director obtaining a new position in a London Borough. She really has been an asset to County and we are sorry to lose her. She has been great with this budget programme.

Apart from the above not a lot to add.

Highways have had a very difficult time with the weather conditions etc as you can imagine and some of the hot spots I have in my division. That said I am in competition with 69 other Councillors so need to keep working at it.

Cllr Gareth Evans / Cllr Charles Todhunter

Local Updates

Lagoon 3 – The hearing at Worthing Magistrates took place on Thursday 25th January. The Lagoon 3 owner was deemed guilty beyond reasonable doubt of failing to comply with the enforcement notice and fined £4000 and £4800 for CDC's legal fees. There is a 21 day period whereby the defendant can appeal the conviction. We also understand that they have been in touch with the EA and that an online meeting had been scheduled. It is therefore hoped that plans are underway to get the site cleared.

Gareth and I have asked to meet with Council leaders so that we can apply pressure to resolve this situation. We have subsequently secured agreement for a meeting to update the Parish Councils on the next steps, following the court proceedings.

We also have been made aware that there was a leak from the Lagoon and Gareth has written to the EA for further details on this and to question why we were not notified at the time. Going forward it has been agreed with CDC and the EA that, as your District Councillors, we will be informed as soon as any further incidents occur.

Wisborough Green Solar – Gareth and I attended the public consultation on Monday 5th Feb in order to find out more information on this proposed development. We will keep an eye out for any planning application that is subsequently submitted.

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Flooding in Loxwood – We have contacted WSCC and Gillian Keegan about persistent flooding on the road through Loxwood. It has now been prioritised for a CCTV survey to inspect the drainage system and ascertain why it has failed.

CDC Wide Updates

Full Council Meeting – Tuesday 27th Feb will be the next full council meeting where we will agree the CDC budget for next year.

The following Full Council meeting is on Tuesday 19th March.

South Downs National Park Agency Agreement - The Development Management Division provides planning services, including dealing with applications and enforcement matters, on behalf of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) for land within the national park area of our district. The current agreement was due to expire in October 2024, unless an extension was agreed by the council and the SDNPA. CDC is delighted to confirm that terms have been agreed to extend the agreement for a two-year period between 2024 and 2026. The agreement will see an uplift in the fee received by the council for the services delivered in recognition of the increasing costs of delivery. The relationship with the SDNPA is valued and so it was great to hear how positive the SDNPA are about the service delivered by our council and their willingness to negotiate terms to enable us to continue our delivery of planning services within the national park area of Chichester District

Food Waste Recycling - The introduction of food waste recycling is a particularly major project and will include procuring vehicles and associated equipment; looking at how the new service will be accommodated on the depot site; waste transfer and processing points; designing efficient rounds; recruiting staff; and rolling out the service. The Government requires all councils that collect waste to be delivering this service by March 2026. We will keep you updated on this as further information is shared.

Happy Birthday CDC - This year marks 50 years since CDC was formed alongside all other district councils. The Spring edition of the Initiatives Magazine will be focussing on the council's key successes over its 50 year history and snippets of this will be shared on social media as well.

Meeting your District Councillors:

Gareth has the following surgery dates scheduled from 12pm-2pm:

Saturday 17th February – Old Mill Café, Wisborough Green

Saturday 2nd March – Onslow Arms, Loxwood

Saturday 16th March – Northchapel Club, Northchapel

Saturday 6th April – Ifold Stores, Ifold

Saturday 20th April – Stag Inn, Balls Cross

Saturday 4th May – Kirdford Village Stores, Kirdford

Saturday 18th May – Old Mill Café, Wisborough Green

Should the dates suggested not be suitable for you or there are any other reasons preventing you from seeing us we are also happy to do home visits, telephone calls or zoom calls.

27. Correspondence

None received.

28. Chairperson's Announcements

It was noted with sadness that Sheila Baker had recently passed away and thoughts were with the family.

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The Chair wished the Parish Council's thanks to be noted to Sean Lisney for all of his hard work collecting litter in the village and beyond.

The Chair suggested a meeting be arranged with Vistry regarding the rubbish and debris in and around the Orchard Park site.

29. Finance

- a) Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
- b) Monthly summary report – this was approved
- c) Payments for approval – these were approved
- d) Recreation Ground Grant. This was agreed in the sum of £66,000 for the refurbishment of the Recreation Ground Pavilion. Existing fund is £40k.
 - I. Move £5k from the Recreation Ground Play Equipment Reserve
 - II. Move £10k from the Village Improvement Fund
 - III. Move £11k from the General Fund

30. Planning

CDC Local Plan Update

There was no update.

21/00466/OUT | Outline application (with all matter reserved except Access) for the development of up to 70 new homes, of which 30% would be affordable, new community sporting facility, new vehicular access and associated parking and landscaping. | Land West of Cornwood Townfield Kirdford West Sussex

It was noted that CDC had requested a further extension of time to 22nd April 2024.

24/00005/DOM | Demolition of existing rear conservatory and construction of a replacement single storey extension. | 22 Townfield Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0LZ

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

023/01968/FUL | Demolition of existing B2 and B8 floorspace. Erection of 3,100m² flexible use floorspace falling within the following use classes: E(g) Uses which can be carried out in a residential area without detriment to its amenity; E(g)(i) Offices to carry out any operational or administrative functions; E(g)(ii) Research and development of products or processes; E(g)(iii) Industrial processes; B2 (restricted to only take place inside buildings); and, B8 Storage or Distribution and change of use of existing building to office building and B8 building to fuel store. | Little Springfield Farm Plaistow Road Ifold Loxwood Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0TS

The Parish Council objected to this application. The scale and design of the application is disproportionate for this location and would adversely impact the landscape and rural nature of the area.

The site is in a rural residential area and would substantially increase the volume of heavy goods and other vehicle movements in a peaceful residential setting.

22/03114/FULEIA | Erection of 108 dwellings (Use Class C3), and associated access and street network, footpaths, open spaces, plant, landscaping and site infrastructure. | Crouchlands Farm Rickmans Lane Plaistow Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0LE <https://publicaccess.chichester.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RMRZ49EROZU00>

The Parish Council objected to this application. The scale and volume of the development was excessive and not sustainable.

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Decisions

The following decisions were noted:

KD/23/01866/FUL

Kirdford Chapel Plaistow Road Kirdford West Sussex. Relocation of existing shed. Construction of modular outbuilding for use as youth hub.

PERMIT

KD/23/02517/DOM - Herons Farm Cottage Herons Farm Lane Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 OPR. Two storey side/rear extension, first floor front extension, first floor balcony to east elevation with associated roof works and various alterations including changes to fenestration.

PERMIT

KD/23/02903/PNO - Howick Farm Scratching Lane Kirdford Petworth West Sussex GU28 9JY Timber framed and clad agricultural building for the storage of agricultural equipment and machinery.

PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED

SDNP/23/04913/HOUS - 2 storey side extension, relocation of front entrance door and porch and works to front elevation. The Pheasantry Hawkhurst Court Kirdford West Sussex RH14 OHS

PERMIT

SDNP/23/01947/HOUS Alterations to an existing incidental building to create a residential annexe to include the addition of 3no dormer windows. Mitfords , A272 Croucham Lane To Linfold Road, Strood Green, Kirdford, West Sussex, RH14 OHN

PERMIT

Enforcement Notices: None received

31. Village Hall Refurbishment

A quotation for the installation of a fire alarm system was agreed in the sum of £3905 + VAT.

32. Great Common Pavilion Update

The planning application had been submitted to Chichester District Council. Chichester District Council had requested a sewerage report. This was being prepared by DMA Building Designs. It was hoped that the application would be available for consideration at the next meeting.

33. Recreation Ground and Pavilion Upkeep – Update

A quotation for the renovations to the Recreation Ground Pavilion had been received (see item 29 (d)).

34. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies

Cllr Persson reported that the flooding at Foxbridge Lane had recurred and he had again reported this to WS Highways. There was a large pothole under the flooding and this had caused damage to several vehicles.

35. Footpaths/PRoWs

To date no application had been notified to the Parish Council regarding the re-siting of the footpath at Boxall Stud.

A representative of Henry Adams advised that it was necessary for all parties to agree (PC, Ramblers) before an application could be submitted to WS Highways. KPC questioned this process as a Parish Council was not

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considered to be a decision maker in any planning matters. The Parish Council still objected to this footpath being relocated.

It was noted that the Twitten linking Village Road to Townfield had become very uneven and there were many trip hazards along the footpath. Hyde would be contacted for remedial action.

Cllr Vernon would contact volunteers to see if they could assist with footpath upkeep, particularly along footpath 602.

36. Resilience working Group update

There was no update. A further meeting was to be arranged.

37. D-Day 80th Anniversary.

It was agreed that this item would be considered at a future meeting.

38. Spring Clean/Litterpick

It was agreed that this item would be considered at the next meeting.

39. Health & Safety

It was reported that a resident had fallen on a damaged footpath opposite the Village Hall.

The post code of the Village Hall should be prominently displayed on the noticeboard located next to the main entrance.

40. Public Participation

Four members of the public were in attendance.

41. Date of next meeting: 15 January 2024 at 7.30pm - to be held at the Chapel

19 February	17 June
18 March	15 July
15 April	16 September
20 May	21 October
	18 November

42. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

Village Spring clean.

43. Confidential Matters

None

A Gillett
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Chairman
Amanda Gillett

18.3.24
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Date