

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Kirdford Village Hall on Monday 17th July 2023 at 7.30pm

Present:

- Cllr Mrs A Gillett
- Cllr T Piedade
- Cllr Mr T Brooks
- Cllr Mr A Campbell
- Cllr J Nicholls
- Cllr Mr A Persson
- Cllr M Osborne
- ~~Cllr A Vernon~~

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In attendance:
Cllr Janet Duncton
Cllr Gareth Evans

127. Apologies for Absence: Cllr N Goddard due to prior commitments, Cllr A Vernon due to family commitments.

128. Public Participation:

Two members of the public were in attendance.

129. Disclosures of Interest:

Cllr Gillett and Cllr Piedade declared an interest in the planning applications for the Foresters Arms and Herons Farm Cottage as neighbouring properties. Cllr A Persson declared an interest in the planning application Land on the East Side of Plaistow Road as Chair of the Bramley Close Residents Association.

130. Approval of Meeting Minutes

To resolve that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th June 2023 be signed as a correct record. Approved.

131. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Janet Duncton

We are very aware at County that the state of the roads is of great concern to many residents and I can assure you that this will play a prominent part in the forth coming budget meetings. We have already agreed several more millions in the current budget so that works on the roads can be continued.

Lots going on at the moment as ever trying to get things done so that we can have some free time during August. Usually the only meetings actually in the diary for August are the Planning and Rights of way meetings and it's the same this year although there is only one application this coming month and that's for a rights of way application but not in our area.

Hopefully you will have seen that the new Fire, Rescue and Training Centre at Broadbridge Heath is now up and running. It is now names as Platinum House and is already taking 999 calls as well as bookings from all over the Country for training purposes. It has been recognised as state of the art

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and considered the best facility in the County at the moment. Quite a feather in our cap and a lot of the thanks go to our Chief Fire Officer Sabrina Hatton-Cohen.,

When she arrived with us she immediately set to work on this project and has produced something that the Council and indeed the whole of West Sussex can be proud of. She is an exceptional Chief Fire Officer and has the respect of all who work with her.

For once I don't have a report on childrens services and you can be assured that the required improvements are going ahead as planned. Another Service that we have worked hard on to make all the improvements required of us and we've done. Nothing's perfect but it's a continuing process and it will be as good as it can be so that the young people in Care get all the help they need.

You know all about the Midhurst and Pulborough road situation and to add to things last month I also had a sink hole in Middle Street Petworth. It sounds dramatic but it was quite small in diameter but inspection showed it to be 1.2mtrs deep. I have a suspicion which could be right as pipe that probably once carried water was found, that one of the many underground tanks in Petworth built in the time of the third Earl on of which is situated under the present British Legion building in Petworth probably had pipes laid to supply public pumps in the town and my guess would be that this is one of them. However, whatever the history it has been dealt with for now and hopefully for some time to come.

We recently had a locality day for the members representing divisions in the Chichester District and some interesting trends were in it since the 2021 Census. There is a tremendous amount of data but one or two interesting items.

One discussion was about the refugee situation in West Sussex and the current trends. This is mainly for Afghan and Ukraine refugees.

Originally we had some 2500 Ukrainians with sponsors, that number is now about halved for various reasons. Some of the host only committed to the 6th month period, some decided to go back to Ukraine or indeed other Country's not all in Europe. It difficult to know exactly because some known as tourist visitors do come and go back several times.

I don't have a lot of information on the Afghan refugees except that some are doing really well especially when they have medical training. They are taken on and trained in our way for medical care and then can go on as Doctors, Nurses etc.

One more slightly scary figure for us is the average house price in Chichester District which is now some £700k. The most expensive place is apparently Wisborough Green.

That is most of the items for this month but I will of course take back any issues for County that may arise at the meeting.

Janet Duncton
County Councillor Petworth division

Clr Gareth Evans

10th – 14th July is Local Council Clerk Week. We would therefore like to use this top of this meeting to recognise the formidable work that your Clerk puts into supporting the Parish. It is an understatement to say how lucky you are to have such a wonderful Clerk.

Local Updates

21/00466/OUT – Land West of Cornwood Townfield Kirdford West Sussex – Was expecting to go to planning committee in July however has now been given an extension of time till 30th September.

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Reasoning seems connected to CDC staffing levels and fighting appeals. Charles and I have spoken to Fjola outlining disappointment in time to determine this application 956 days if not determined by 30th September.

Lagoon 3 – Reminder trial date is 23 August 2023 at 10:00am at Horsham Magistrates. Will update when there is further guidance.

Crouchlands Proposed Developments and 22/02346/OUT Foxbridge Golf Club, Foxbridge Lane – A meeting with the developer, Loxwood District Councillors and Senior Officers taking place on 11th July. The Leader of the Council has also been invited and will attend time permitting.

Old School House, Loxwood – This has been refused on the grounds it is a locally significant heritage asset and any future application need to take its status as a locally listed building. It also was refused due to the cramped layout and location outside the settlement boundary.

Loxwood Shop Update: There has been a further delay to the S106 but the CDC are proactively keeping us up. We will update as soon as we have something more concrete we can comment on.

Bittlesfield, Balls Cross We visited a resident who is having challenges getting a planning application through to renovate their house that they purchased in 2019. There are several inconsistencies in CDCs determination approach that Charles and I are trying to unpick.

CDC Wide Updates

Midhurst

Midhurst road has reopened ten days ahead of schedule.

Next Full Council Meeting – Tuesday 18th July

Meeting your District Councillors:

Gareth has the following surgery dates scheduled:

Saturday 1st July – Old Mill Café, Wisborough Green (12pm-2pm)

Saturday 15th July – Ifold Stores, Ifold (12pm-2pm)

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.

Our contact details:

Cllr. Gareth Evans, email: gbevans@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 07958918056

Cllr. Charles Todhunter, email ctodhunter@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 07986344365

132. Correspondence

A resident had contacted the Clerk to outline their concerns

- (a) speeding in the village – it was agreed to contact Mike Dare at WSCC Highways to seek his advice on any steps the Parish Council could take.
- (b) Rubbish accumulation. There appeared to be a large amount of rubbish strewn around the village, particularly in the hedgerows. The resident had kindly collected five bags and disposed of them. Much of this was in the vicinity of the development at Plaistow Road and it was agreed to write to Vistry.

The Chair had received a letter from Andrew Griffith MP with updates which may be of interest to Councillors.

133. Chairperson's Announcements

The Chair reported that they would be meeting relatives of the late Reverend Pauline Lucas to discuss siting of a memorial bench.

A request from Kirdford PCC had been received for assistance in repairing St John the Baptist Church clock. It was agreed to pay for the repairs in the sum of £450 plus VAT.

There had been reports of building activity at Churchlands Farm.

Some trees on Butts Common needed attention. It was agreed to arrange for this work to be done by a local contractor.

A hole had appeared on the verge outside Kirdford Village Stores. Repairs to be organised.

Clr Vernon and Clr Piedade had met with the PRow officer and had been appraised of their extensive schedule. The maintenance of footpaths was being reprioritised due to limited contractors to clear paths, and therefore the service was disappointingly reduced.

Clr Vernon had contacted the PRow Officer again to ascertain their views on re-routing footpath 768/3, and also asked him about whether we are able to get volunteers to cut back any particularly overgrown paths, bearing in mind the contractors limited input. KPC are able to undertake maintenance with the help of volunteers, as long as it is organised by KPC.

134. Finance

- a) Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
- b) Monthly summary report – this was approved
- c) Payments for approval – these were approved

135. Planning

CDC Local Plan Update

Kirdford Parish Council were awaiting the results of the consultation.

South Downs National Park Local Plan

As part of SDNP's Local Plan Review, the Parish Council had been asked to complete a Parishes Priorities Statement. Clr Piedade would prepare a submission to SDNP.

Inclusion in South Downs National Park

It was considered beneficial for the whole of Kirdford Parish to be included within South Downs National Park. At present approximately one third was included. KPC would require some external support in making the case for Kirdford Parish to be fully absorbed into the SDNP and it was thought that there are both environmental and landscape cases that could be made to support this. Assistance was sought from Terrafirma Landscape Architects for a phased plan as follows:

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| I. | Desktop evidence gathering | £ 1,340 plus expenses and VAT |
| II. | Fieldwork evidence gathering | £ 2,000 plus expenses and VAT |

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III.	Preliminary processing of baseline evidence	£ 1,600 plus expenses and VAT
IV.	Pilot study	£ 1,800 plus expenses and VAT
V.	Landscape Character and Value report	£ 4,080 plus expenses and VAT
	Total cost	£10,820 plus expenses and VAT

It was agreed that Terrafirma Landscape Architects should be asked to undertake this work.

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 this application was now likely to be considered at the September CDC Committee meeting.

Water neutrality calculations had not, to date, been provided.

22/02346/OUT – Case Officer: Jane Thatcher Outline application for a wellbeing and leisure development comprising up to 121 holiday units; the construction of a spa with accommodation of up to 50 bedrooms; the conversion of the former clubhouse into a restaurant and farm shop; the formation of a new vehicular access from Foxbridge Lane, new internal roads, footpaths, cycle routes and car parking areas; the construction of a concierge building and new hard and soft landscaping, including the formation of new ponds. All matters reserved except for means of access. | Foxbridge Golf Club Foxbridge Lane Plaistow West Sussex RH14 OLB

There was no update for this application.

22/02154/FUL | Rear extension with associated internal reconfiguration and works to external front and rear trade areas including new fence and double gate. | Foresters Arms Village Road Kirdford West Sussex RH14 OND

Revised water neutrality documentation had been provided for this application and Natural England had responded.

23/01066/DOM | Two storey side extension. | 18 Townfield Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 OLZ

It was noted that no water neutrality calculations had been provided for this application and the application had been screened out of water neutrality considerations by CDC even though the proposal included a further bathroom. It was agreed to write to CDC.

23/01581/DOM | Resubmission of 22/02805/DOM - Two storey extension, raised roof height and associated works, 3 no. dormer windows and second floor balcony to North elevation and changes to fenestration. | Herons Farm Cottage Herons Farm Lane Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 OPR

It was reported that this application was likely to be withdrawn.

Decisions: The following decisions were noted:

KD/22/02943/ELD Mr Ian Crouch

Sussex Game Farm Scratching Lane Kirdford West Sussex RH14 QJN

Existing lawful development certificate for buildings 1, 5, 6 and 7 (all B2 use) and open storage area (B8 use).

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Enforcement Notices: None received

136. Dark Skies

It was noted that the Clerk was trying to ascertain whether Kirdford Parish was wholly included in the SDNP dark skies designated site.

137. Planning Enforcement / TPOs: None received.

138. Neighbourhood Plan – Update

The Neighbourhood Plan was being reviewed by Troy Hayes Planning. There was no update.

139. Recreation Ground and Pavilion Upkeep – Update

It was noted that drawings were being produced and would be brought to the Parish Council at a future meeting. Cllr Goddard was meeting with the Chair of the Junior Football team.

140. Great Common Pavilion Update

In order to obtain water neutrality calculations, Cllr Brooks had obtained quotes from:
ASAPS – no reply
Falcon Energy
It was agreed to employ Falcon... to undertake this work in the sum of £2,394

It would be necessary to clear some of the vegetation at Great Common.

141. Village Hall Refurbishment

It was reported that after a survey undertaken by the electricity company, high voltage underground cables might need to be relocated prior to commencement of any works to the Village Hall. The proposed new extension is being re-designed to take account of the high voltage cable location in the event that it cannot be moved

A bat survey had been completed by The Ecology Co-op at a sum of £2,817.46. This was approved for payment.

The roof is in need of replacement, and this should be added to the projects list for the Parish Council and budgeting acknowledged.

142. Traffic Calming

It was agreed to contact Mike Dare at WSCC Highways to discuss options for traffic calming in the village.

143. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies

There was no update.

144. Resilience working Group update

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

145. CAGNE

A flyer had been received from CAGNE outlining the plans for a second runway at Gatwick Airport.

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146. Health & Safety

It was noted that the noticeboard in Russett Place had become loose and the noticeboard in Plaistow Road needed some refurbishment. Cllr Persson would investigate.

Cllr Brooks had replaced the missing bolts on the swingset at Butts Common.

Cllr Osborne would undertake weekly inspections of the playground equipment.

147. Public Participation

Three members of the public were in attendance

148. Date of next meeting: 18 September 2023 at 7.30pm - to be held at the Village Hall

18 September	2024
16 October	15 January
20 November	19 February
	18 March
	15 April
	20 May
	17 June
	15 July
	16 September
	21 October
	18 November

149. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

None

Amanda Gillett
Chairman

18.9.23
Date