

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held at Kirdford Village Hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

- Cllr Mrs A Gillett
- Cllr T Piedade
- Cllr Mr T Brooks
- Cllr Mr A Campbell
- Cllr N Goddard
- Cllr Mr A Persson
- Cllr M Osborne
- Cllr A Vernon

**In attendance:**  
Cllr Janet Duncton

**174. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Gareth Evans, Cllr C Todhunter, Cllr J Nicholls

**175. Public Participation:**

Three members of the public were in attendance.

**176. Disclosures of Interest:**

Cllr Persson declared an interest in the planning application for Kirdford Chapel as Chairman of the Bramley Close Residents Association, neighbouring properties.

**177. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

To resolve that the minutes from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be signed as a correct record.

**178. Reports from District and County Councillors**

**Cllr Janet Duncton**

Sorry again for the delay but I wanted to wait until after County Council last Friday in case there was anything that would interest you all.

There were 2 motions for voting on one had unanimous support and was about caring for those who had been in care and basically helping them to go forward into adulthood with the sort of help we would give to our own children.

The second one a bit more contentious but basically it was about not wanting the ULEZ scheme that now runs around London more or less in line with the M25 with a little bump so that Chessington gets included. We did not want it coming further south and including parts of Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Hampshire and possibly other Counties as well. This was not unanimous but went through with a big majority and those not wanting to support it abstaining.

There was one motion that the Chairman did not want to take and that was about setting up a joint committee with regard to water issues in the whole area. This wasn't taken as the motion was somewhat out of date because this joint committee is already up and running.

NAG.

Some will have heard about the King Charles 111 England Coast path when completed it will be the longest coastal path in the World and from the 18<sup>th</sup> October a part of it in West Sussex from East Head to Shoreham-by-Sea will be ready for walkers. For anyone interested there are some online sites that you can visit and perhaps the most useful for anyone looking to do a walk can be found at National Trail.co.uk.

The waste and recycling sites are now on their winter timetable. Billingshurst is open 9am to 4pm Monday to Wednesday and Saturday and Sunday. For those who like to use the Chichester centre it's again 9am to 4pm on Monday and then Wednesday through to Sunday.

Buchan Park in Crawley is worth a visit if you haven't already been. It's just outside of Crawley on the A264. It has received official recognition as one of the Country's best Parks.

In the coming week we have another workshop for the Budget and Council Plan so with any luck and quite a bit of work we will be able to present a balanced a good budget for then County in February.

We have decided that the County meeting in February will be only for the budget which means know question time or motions. We feel it is so important that it is best to make it solely a budget meeting.

This makes rather a long space between the budget meeting and the next full Council where we can question Cabinet members etc about anything we feel appropriate. With this in mind the Chairman has brought forward that meeting to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March so that members get their questioning opportunities.

One of my Parish Chairman was interested to know what the percentage was of reuse and recycling that 200.000tonnes last year represented of the amount collected. It's 54% and virtually nothing much goes to holes in the ground as what is over from reuse and recycling is taken to Warnham site and turned into fuel.

Please let me know if there is something in your Parish that needs my attention.

Janet Duncton

County Councillor Petworth division

**Cllr Gareth Evans / Cllr Charles Todhunter**

#### **Local Updates**

**Hyde Housing** – Councillors were recently invited to an introductory day and tour with Hyde Housing. It was an interesting day for our Councillors, who are passionate about improving the standards of our affordable housing and holding Hyde and others to account for resolving tenants' issues.

Hyde leadership committed to improving the way they communicate and will be improving the reporting process for complaints soon. Gareth will update further on this.

**Local Plan** – Prior to the local elections in May, Michael Gove announced that there would be reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework, which would have allowed us to review the draft Chichester Local Plan and potentially reduce the need for us to have a 5 year supply of housing land to 4 years. Unfortunately, despite these changes being promised for Spring 2023, they are yet to materialise. Gareth and Charles remain unhappy with the housing numbers allocated to Loxwood Ward and continue to speak out about this. Housing is one of the issues we continue to work tirelessly on, amongst many others. The Leader of the Council has also written over the summer to

✓ AG

Michael Gove and our local MPs asking for an update on the changes. At the time of writing, no response has been received.

**Tree Planting Scheme** – Chichester District Councillors have voted to continue our popular ‘Tree Chichester District’ programme to increase tree cover in rural and urban areas over the next two years, with a particular focus on improving habitat connectivity across the district. As part of this targeted planting scheme, a publicly accessible interactive map is being developed to highlight priority areas of the district where tree-planting interventions could help increase habitat connectivity and improve environmental resilience. If you’re interested in progressing a tree planting project — whether it’s a community initiative or private land — you are encouraged to contact the Council’s dedicated Tree Project Officer who can offer advice, by emailing [treescheme@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:treescheme@chichester.gov.uk) or calling 01243 521161

#### **CDC Wide Updates**

**Full Council Meeting** – On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July Councillors voted for a number of motions including the ‘Tree Chichester District’ scheme mentioned above and writing to Ministers and rail companies to oppose the closure of our local railway ticket offices.

**Planning Committee** – At the meeting of Full Council on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September Charles was elected to the position of Planning Committee Chairman, taking over with immediate effect from Cllr. Stephen Johnson.

**Chichester Park Hotel** – West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council have recently been advised by the Home Office that a hotel in the Chichester area is being considered for use as contingency accommodation for people seeking asylum. Decisions around use of hotels and placements for those seeking asylum are made by the Home Office. We are not involved in the decision-making process. Should members of the public wish to contact the Home Office directly they can be contacted on [public.enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:public.enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk) or by calling 0207 035 4848

**Next Full Council Meeting** – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November

#### **Meeting your District Councillors:**

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

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – Stag Inn, Balls Cross

Further dates to follow shortly

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.

#### **179. Correspondence**

The Chair had received a thank you note from Kirdford Players for the grant awarded to them.

Correspondence was received from a resident enquiring about the replacement of road signs at the junction of Croucham Lane and the A272, where a width limit sign was missing. The residents in Croucham Lane were having problems with HGVs causing damage to the road and banks. There were also no passing places along the road. The Clerk had reported this to WS Highways.

#### **180. Chairperson’s Announcements**

The Chair had no announcements.

*VA*

**181. Finance**

- a) Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
- b) Monthly summary report – this was approved
- c) Payments for approval – these were approved
- d) The External Auditor Report and Certificate were noted.
- e) After consideration, it was agreed that no revisions were necessary to the Financial Regulations at this time.

**182. Planning**

**CDC Local Plan Update**

No further update. Kirdford Parish Council were awaiting the results of the consultation.

**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

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

**KD/23/01866/FUL** Demolition of existing shed replaced with modular outbuilding for use as youth hub. Kirdford Chapel, Plaistow Road, Kirdford, West Sussex

The Parish Council had no objection in principle to this application. However, consideration should be given to the current water neutrality legislation as a precautionary approach due to potential increase in capacity and water usage in the future.

**Decisions:** None Received

**Enforcement Notices:** None received

**183. Neighbourhood Plan – Update**

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

**184. Recreation Ground and Pavilion Upkeep – Update**

It was noted that drawings had been produced and would be brought to the Parish Council at a future meeting.

**185. Great Common Pavilion Update**

The water neutrality report had been received and had been sent back for revision.

**186. Village Hall Refurbishment**

The Chair of the Village Hall Committee (VHC) provided a brief update. A water neutrality consultant had been instructed. The viability of solar tiles or panels was being investigated.

VAG

**187. Fingerpost Maintenance**

One of the parish finger posts had become badly damaged and corroded, with the top finial and one of the direction boards missing. It was agreed that Ralph Restorations should be engaged to make repairs at a cost of £1,820.

**188. Bonfire & Fireworks**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would take on responsibility for organising the annual fireworks and bonfire in future years. It was agreed that the deposit for 2024 would be paid by Parish Council in the sum of £600 + VAT.

Bonfire Committee membership was agreed as Cllr Gillett, Cllr Goddard, Cllr Brooks and Cllr Vernon.

**189. CAGNE**

It was agreed that a donation of £1,000 would be given to CAGNE to assist with legal fees.

**190. Traffic Calming**

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

**191. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies**

Cllr Persson reported that he had cleared four drains of mud, leaves and debris.

**192. Footpaths/PRoWs**

Cllr Vernon reported that the footpath at the rear of Herons Close had been cleared of branches.

The footpath at Boxall Stud had become inaccessible due to farm vehicles blocking the path. Some walkers had to divert on to farm land to access the footpath.

**193. Resilience working Group update**

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

**194. Health & Safety**

The Chair reported that a parcel of land at the junction of Plaistow Road, which belonged to the Leconfield Estates, had some trees which needed attention.

It was reported that two fir trees belonging to Chestnut House were impacting on the Recreation Ground Pavilion. It was agreed that the Chair of the Recreation Ground Committee should write to the occupants.

**195. Public Participation**

Three members of the public were in attendance.

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**196. Date of next meeting: 20 November 2023 at 7.30pm - to be held at the Village Hall**

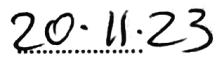
2024  
15 January  
19 February  
18 March  
15 April

20 May  
17 June  
15 July  
16 September  
21 October  
18 November

**197. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting**

Traffic Calming

  
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Chairman

  
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Date