

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Kirdford Village Hall on Monday 15th January 2024 at 7.30pm**

Present:
Cllr Mrs A Gillett
Cllr T Piedade
Cllr Mr T Brooks
Cllr A Campbell
Cllr Mr A Persson
Cllr M Osborne
Cllr A Vernon

In attendance:
Cllr Janet Duncton
Cllr Gareth Evans
Cllr C Todhunter

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr N Goddard, Cllr J Nicholls

2. Public Participation:

Two members of the public were in attendance.

3. Disclosures of Interest:

Cllr A Gillett and Cllr T Piedade declared an interest in the planning application for Herons Farm Cottage as a neighbouring property.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November 2023 be signed as a correct record.

5. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Janet Duncton

I am sure you are very aware that the past couple of months have not been an easy time for our Highways teams. Not only did we have floods but also slipped Banks, fallen Trees and of course a sink hole. Sadly when we are in times like this other works do get delayed so although I log every road issue or indeed other County issues for my Parish's it may take a while for the teams to catch up.

There is little that can be done about this at the moment but they are doing their very best to catch up and maybe by the time you read this things will have improved.

In these awful conditions please residents drive with care. It's always the unexpected that catches us out.

Although in past years I have had problems getting home from the south and on one occasion especially I remember not being able to get through floods at Coultershaw so trying Shopham Bridge and no go there either so eventually off through Selham and Heyshott and onto the A286 and head for Midhurst. Fortunately I managed to get through North Mill at Midhurst and so home but it wasn't easy.

✓ AG .

We start this new year with of course the County Plan and budget but at the time of writing this I am not in a position to give you the outcome of all the deliberations. What I do know, and of course I've said it before, it is very difficult and our budget will balance but there are bound to be some changes.

At both West Sussex County Council and South Downs National Park we are in the process of finding new Chief Executives.

At County Becky Shaw our current Chief Executive has been amazing but you will know we share her with East Sussex and the time has come when she is returning full time to East Sussex. She will stay with us until we have appointed her replacement.

At South Downs Trevor Beatty had reached just past his retirement age and decided it was the time with many changes coming to hand over the reins. Trevor has done a sterling job as CEO and has been acknowledge by organisations like National Parks UK for his forward thinking work and how generally SDNP has performed.

It is unlikely that we will have a new CEO until probably June time but we are with our interim Chief Executive Tim Slaney who you will know from SD Planning in capable hands for the interim.

All change for 2024 but I for one have confidence in the way these changes are being handled.

A quick mention that from February you will need to book your slot at the waste and recycling sites in West Sussex. This has already been in operation for over a year in several of our sites and has proved very successful as it has in other Counties.

Although as already mentioned I report all highways issues and indeed any other County issues to the appropriate departments I am sure you know that any member of the public can also go on line and report issues that they come across.

I very much enjoy attending Parish lunches when I have the time. Not only do we get fed well but it's a great opportunity to meet and talk with residents. I can thoroughly recommend these events.

Although very busy it is a bit of a slow news month for me to give to you but be assured there is a lot going on so I will hopefully be able to give you a fuller report at a later date

Janet Duncton
County Councillor Petworth division

Cllr Gareth Evans / Cllr Charles Todhunter

Local Updates

Local Plan – CDC Officers are preparing a full briefing note for Councillors on the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that was released by the government just before Christmas. Initial headlines are that, as our Local Plan has reached 'an advanced stage of preparation', the Council will only need to demonstrate a 4 year Housing Land Supply when determining planning applications and contesting appeals. This is positive news in refusing unacceptable applications and defending similar appeals, however this is a time limited provision for 2 years and it is therefore important that we maintain the supply of housing land going forward.

Planning Enforcement – We continue to work with residents across the ward in dealing with Planning Enforcement issues, most recently with several reports from Brewhurst Lane in Loxwood. If there are any planning enforcement issues that you would like to bring to CDC's attention, please let us know and we are happy to contact the Enforcement Team on your behalf.

✓ AG

New Year - We hope everyone enjoyed a very Happy Christmas and wish you all well for the New Year. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to continuing to work together.

CDC Wide Updates

Full Council Meeting – Tuesday 23rd January will be the next full council meeting.

Council Panel Meetings – As a District Council we want to ensure that meetings are more accessible to our residents. In addition to changing the time that Full Council meetings start from May 2024 to 18:00, rather than 14:00 as they do currently, the majority of our panel meetings have now been made public. Meetings will take place in person apart from the Boundary Review panel, which will usually be held online. All of these meetings will be broadcast on our website at: Chichester Council Webcast - Listing (nucast.live)

Meeting your District Councillors:

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

Saturday 13th January 24 The Stag Inn, Balls Cross

Saturday 3rd February 24 Kirdford Stores, Kirdford

Saturday 17th February 24 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.

6. Correspondence

The Chair had received an update letter from Andrew Griffith MP, which had also been circulated to all Councillors.

7. Chairperson's Announcements

Kirdford open gardens weekend would be taking place on 8th and 9th June.

8. Finance

- a) Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
- b) Monthly summary report – this was approved
- c) Payments for approval – these were approved
- d) The Interim Audit Report and recommendations was noted.

9. Planning

CDC Local Plan Update

CLlr Todhunter said he hoped that the Local Plan would be submitted in early 2024 and was at the pre-inspection stage.

Chichester Local Plan Examination

It was agreed to make an provision to enable Troy Hayes Planning to represent the Parish Council in the estimated sum of £13,000.

Water Neutrality

It was agreed to make provision to enable Envireau Water to undertake a review of abstraction licence applications in the parish in the sum of £3,250 + VAT.

✓ Aa

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 had been given an extension of time to 12th January 2024.

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 0HS –
The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

23/02517/DOM | 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. | Herons Farm Cottage Herons Farm Lane Kirdford –

The Parish Council is content with the physical proposal to the property, however, it is not satisfied with the screening out of Water Neutrality.

The policy states *"It is likely that householder planning applications (with the exception of proposals for annex accommodation and swimming pools) and all development granted under Schedule 2 Parts 1 and 2 of the General Permitted Development Order (GDPO) will be screened out under the Habitat Regulations, as there is no evidence that minor alterations to dwellings will directly result in an increase in water consumption."*

This application is one of a number emerging where the proposals are significant and represents a considerable enlargement of the existing footprint. It remains unclear to us how planners are defining "minor alterations".

KPC will review this application again once a Water Neutrality Statement and calculations have been provided.

KD/23/02716/ELD - Great Slifehurst Farm Scratching Lane Kirdford Billingshurst. Use of land as part of the domestic curtilage to the dwelling at Great Slifehurst Farm.
O.S. Grid Ref. 500475/127679

The Parish Council had no comments on this application.

SDNP/23/04779/FUL | New vehicle access (retrospective). | Windy Hill Ark Land East of Bulchins Copse A272 Croucham Lane to Linfold Road Strood Green

The Parish Council objected to this application and await the traffic reports.

KD/23/02905/PA14J - Prior Approvals Installation of array of 30 no. solar photovoltaic panels on south facing roof slope. Kirdford Village Hall, Village Road, Kirdford, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 0ND

The Parish Council noted this application.

KD/23/02903/PNO - Howick Farm Scratching Lane Kirdford Petworth
Timber framed and clad agricultural building for the storage of agricultural equipment and machinery.
O.S. Grid Ref. 499498/128679

The Parish Council had no objection to this application, but would like to see conditions on the building solely for farm machinery.

Decisions

The following decisions were noted:

✓ Aa

23/02425/FUL | Erection of 1 no. timber workshop building on existing light industrial /commercial land - Removal of Condition 6 (water neutrality) and Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission KD/21/00427/FUL for revision to site plan omitting reference to the storage tank. | 2 The Workshop Village Road Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0NW **REFUSE**

Enforcement Notices: None received

10. Recreation Ground and Pavilion Upkeep – Update

It was noted that quotations were awaited for internal decorations.

11. Great Common Pavilion Update

The planning application had been submitted to Chichester District Council. It was hoped that the application would be available for consideration at the next meeting.

12. Village Hall Refurbishment

The Chair of the Village Hall Committee (VHC) provided a brief update. A Prior Approvals application for the installation of solar panels had been made to CDC.

The Schedule of Works was being prepared by the architect prior to the tender process.

The Parish Council confirmed that it was happy for the full extension planning application to be submitted to CDC.

13. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies

Cllr Persson reported that the flooding at Foxbridge Lane had recurred and he had reported this to WS Highways. Due to the large amount of rain, WSH were having to deal with the major highways as a priority.

14. Footpaths/PRoWs

It was noted that no application had been notified to the Parish Council regarding the footpath at Boxall Stud.

Cllr Vernon had been in contact with the Ramblers volunteers who suggested they may be able to assist with keeping the footpaths accessible in the parish.

A resident had made enquiries regarding accessible stiles and footpaths with easy access for dogs. Cllr Vernon had contacted the PRoW Officer for advice and he would contact the landowners.

15. Resilience working Group update

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

16. D-Day 80th Anniversary.

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

17. Health & Safety

A tree on the corner of Plaistow Road was in need of attention. Cllr Brooks agreed to contact an arborist for advice.

During the routine inspections, some minor issues were identified at the play areas and it was agreed that RJS Playground Services should be contacted for advice and a quote for the necessary works.

✓ Aa

It was noted that the bund at Butts Common had been damaged by work vehicles at the Foresters Arms. They contractors had agreed to make the necessary repairs once the works on the Foresters had been completed.

Speeding in the village was still a concern and Cllr Campbell would investigate with Highways what course of action could be taken.

18. Public Participation

Two members of the public were in attendance.

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

19 February
18 March
15 April
20 May

17 June
15 July
16 September
21 October
18 November

20. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

Village Spring clean.

21. Confidential Matters

None

Amanda Gillett
Chairman

19.2.24
Date