

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Kirdford Village Hall on Monday 20th May 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:

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

In attendance:
Cllr C Todhunter

88. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair: Cllr A Gillett unanimous
Vice-Chair: Cllr T Piedade unanimous

89. Apologies for Absence: Cllr N Goddard (prior commitment) Cllr M Osborne (Family commitment) Cllr J Nicholls (work commitment)

90. Disclosures of Interest:

None received.

91. Public Participation:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

92. Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

93. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Janet Duncton

To those not involved in Council work on West Sussex and indeed the South Downs National Park Authority there is not a great deal that the Councillor can tell you about for this month, but of course so much of the work is done with an individual who has a specific problem or items that arise but of no interest to our towns and villages here.

A lot of County work involves the whole of the County but I am sure you don't want or need details of say a roundabout in Crawley or similar. On the other hand there are overall County issues that involve everyone and I do try and keep you informed especially through your Parish/Town Council or by meeting up at events like lunch Clubs and Coffee mornings that I can manage to attend. These are really good ways of speaking to those who live in their Parish.

I also report and see things like of course the Potholes which from whatever source I get them or those I come across when driving around I do report as of course others can report on the web if they would

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like to do so. It doesn't matter if they have been reported by me or others it is just good to get them reported.

I am afraid the old timescale of 21 days from when they prove to be deep enough and have the white line around them has now gone out of the window with the dreadful weather we have had since last October which has made an enormous increase in our highways work load. Not only Potholes but slipped Banks and fallen Trees and of course blocked drains. We are gradually getting around to do the work but it's a slow process. When in the rural areas our marvellous Patching machines can be used they do a great job and can do large areas at a time. We now have 3 of these machines but not sure we can get more. Unfortunately they do a great job but can't be used much in the Urban areas but in rural areas they are great.

Fostering is an on going concern. Despite our fostering recruitment and retention being the strongest it has been for 10 years the number of young people we care for has also increased and continues to grow at over 900 at the time of writing.

If you know of anyone who is interest in looking into fostering please check the website. There is ample training opportunities and how wonderful to be able to help some who have had a difficult time so far in their lives. It is of course a commitment and like all commitments has its up and downs but what a great thing to do.

We are already working on our budget for 25/26 but at the time of writing we have not had the first of our members workshops. I can only warn at the moment that things financially do not get any easier and this year we managed to balance the budget without cutting our Services and when we get closer to setting our budget we will have a better idea of how we can manage the 25/26 budget. Of course we have statutory duties which we have to fulfil but as I've said before it's not always a case of cutting Services but often as last year doing some of them differently.

The County Council has a new Chief executive coming. His name is Leigh Whitehouse and he comes from the position of deputy CEO at Surrey County Council. Until such times as he arrives Becky Shaw that was working with us and East Sussex will remain until Leigh arrives and then she goes back full time to East Sussex.

For those Parishes within the National Park we are also in the process of recruiting a new Chief Executive and although a small committee of us have been working on this for some time we are now at the stage of another company going out to the market for prospective candidates to apply. We are expecting a very large postbag of interested parties for this post so I will update when I can. I think and hope a new Chief Executive will be in situ August/September. In the meantime of course Tim Slaney who was Director of Planning is holding the fort as interim Chief Executive.

As I write we have had some really good weather and long may it last so I hope all have a good June. There are lots of open Gardens in our area and they are always a joy to see. Such a beautiful part of the World.

Janet Duncton
County Councillor Petworth division
West Sussex County Council

Cllr Gareth Evans / Cllr Charles Todhunter

Local Updates

Crouchlands – We have been made aware that the developer intends to appeal all live applications on grounds of non-determination. Charles and I are in close contact with the Planning Team who will be working on this. They will update us as soon as there is further information.

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Shop Development Loxwood – The latest update received on this is that the shop development is still going ahead as planned, will be built at the same time as the rest of the development and will begin in the next few weeks.

Potholes – Continuing to have residents approaching me about Potholes in the community. Advised that this is a WSCC issue but Charles and I report them as we become aware of them. The emergency number for Potholes which are a safety risk can be reported via the emergency number 01243 642105

Speed awareness – Charles and I have been out in recent weeks volunteering with other local residents in Loxwood, helping to gather important data to get a picture of the speeding issues in the village. Speeding is also a number 1 concern within the community.

Supporting Community Events – There are a number of community events coming up across May and June which I will be supporting. On May 6th (Bank Holiday) I will be the mc at the Plaistow Preschool Maypole, Saturday 18th May sees me competing in the 5km Northchapel run raising funds for their local school and on Sunday 9th June I will once again be taking part in Runwisborough.

CDC Wide Updates:

Local Plan – The Chichester District Council Local Plan for 2021-2039 was submitted on Friday 3rd May to the Secretary of State for Examination. We now await their response to this and will update once further information is available.

Evening Meetings – next Full Council meeting on Tuesday 21st May will see us moving to evening meetings. The long-term aim is that this extends to more meetings and there can be a mix of daytime and evening meetings, opening the democratic process to many more people.

District Councillor Surgeries:

Cllr. Gareth Evans is available to meet residents face to face via one of his regular surgeries. Gareth will be available at the advertised venues from 12pm-2pm:

Saturday 18th May 2024 – Old Mill Café, Wisborough Green
Saturday 15th June 2024 - The Onslow Arms, Loxwood
Saturday 22nd June 2024 - Northchapel Club, Northchapel
Saturday 13th July 2024 - Plaistow Stores, Plaistow
Saturday 24th August 2024 - The Stag Inn, Balls Cross
Saturday 7th September 2024- Kirdford Stores, Kirdford
Saturday 21st September 2024 - Old Mill Café, WisboroughGreen

94. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from Andrew Griffith MP with an update of his work to date.

95. Chairperson's Announcements

The Chair thanked all those who helped with the village tidy up on 18th May.

96. Finance

- a) Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
- b) Summary of receipts and payments – this was approved
- c) Payments for approval – these were approved

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d) Infrastructure Business Plan Review

The following changes were agreed:

IBP/77 - Townfield/Cornwood Parking – remove as not owned by us

IBP/81 - Butts Common Parking – remove as not owned by us

IBP/76 - Highway alterations Cornwood - remove as not owned by us

IBP/828 - Footpath from Village Hall - remove as not owned by us

IBP/79 - New footpaths etc. - remove as completed by developer

IBP/75 - Bus on demand – remove as provided by others

IBP/83 - Village Stores alterations – remove as now not a community shop

IBP/829 - Village signboard – completed

IBP/825 - Alterations to Village Sign to become war memorial – remove as unable to change the designation

IBP/86 - Play area off School Court – completed

IBP/1318 - Great Common Pavilion – Duplicate, remove

IBP/87 - Remove as non-sensical

New – Add project to increase bat boxes in village and surrounds

97. Insurance Renewal

The 2024/2025 renewal invitation from Clear Insurance Management Ltd was agreed in the sum of £1,001.59

98. Appointment of Committees and Working Groups

The following committees and working groups were agreed:

Finance Committee:	Cllr T Brooks (Chair) Cllr A Gillett, Cllr T Piedade, Cllr A Persson
Planning Committee:	All Councillors
Human Resources:	Cllr A Gillett (Chair), Cllr T Piedade, Cllr N Goddard, Cllr A Persson
Emergency Plan WG	Cllr A Gillett (Chair), Cllr T Brooks, Cllr M Osborne, Cllr A Persson, Cllr A Vernon, Cllr T Piedade
Health & Safety WG:	All Councillors
Football Pavilion WG	Cllr A Gillett, Cllr T Brooks, Cllr N Goddard
Village Hall Representative:	Cllr N Goddard
Recreation Ground Rep:	Cllr N Goddard, Cllr M Osborne, Cllr A Campbell
Gatwick Rep:	Cllr A Persson
Police Liaison Rep:	Cllr N Goddard
Local Parishes North Rep:	Cllr T Piedade
Environment Rep:	Cllr J Nicholls
Footpaths Rep:	Cllr A Vernon
Drains, Gullies & Grips Rep:	Cllr A Persson
PCC/Church Liaison Rep:	Cllr T Brooks
Play Equipment WG	Cllr T Brooks, Cllr A Persson

99. Planning

CDC Local Plan Update

Cllr Todhunter reported that The Chichester District Council Local Plan for 2021-2039 was submitted on Friday 3rd May to the Secretary of State for Examination.

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 a further extension of time was granted to 21 June 2024.

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KD/24/00897/TCA - Case Officer: Henry Whitby

Bridgefoot Cottage Glasshouse Lane Kirdford Billingshurst

Notification of intention to crown reduce by up to 2m on 1 no. Liriodendron tree (quoted as T1). Pollard down to 5m (above ground level) to last pruning points on 2 no. Weeping Willow trees (quoted as T2 & T3). Remove lowest branch on west sector (over driveway) on 1 no. Cedar tree (quoted as T4).

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

23/02425/FUL 2 The Workshop, Village Road, Kirdford, Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0NW Proposed Development: 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. **Application No: 23/02425/FUL DCLG Ref No: APP/L3815/W/24/3339109**

It was noted that this application enforcement was being appealed.

Decisions

KD/24/00356/DOM Yew Tree Cottage Glasshouse Lane Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0LT Replace existing conservatory glass roof with slate roof. PERMIT

KD/24/00559/PA14J Chair Village Hall Management Com. E Phipps Kirdford Village Hall Village Road Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0ND Installation of an array of 30 solar photovoltaic panels (1m set back from roof edge and not more than 200mm above the plane of the roof) on the south facing roof slope. PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED HEREBY PERMITTED

KD/24/00575/FUL Kirdford Village Hall Village Road Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0ND Single storey side extension to provide improved toilet facilities and accessible facilities for disabled people. PERMIT

KD/24/00549/ELD High Barn Farm Plaistow Road Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0JS Existing lawful development certificate for the continued use of parcel of land/garden at High Barn Farm as residential curtilage. PERMIT

Enforcement Notices: None received

100. Recreation Ground and Pavilion Upkeep – Update

Renovations were on schedule for the pavilion to be re-opened in early June.

101. Great Common Pavilion Update

Updated water neutrality and bat surveys were awaited.

102. Village Hall Refurbishment

The Village Hall Committee had accepted a quotation for the installation of solar panels and were awaiting a start date for the works.

103. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies

There had been further correspondence with Highways regarding the flooding, but no further update at present.

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104. Health & Safety

The planned footpath clearing had been postponed due to wildlife monitoring taking place.

105. Public Participation

No members of the public were in attendance.

106. Date of next meeting: 17 June 2024 at 7.30pm

17 June
15 July

16 September
21 October
18 November

107. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

River Kird Pollution.

108. Confidential Matters

None

Amanda Gillett *17.6.24*
Chairman Date