

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Kirdford Village Hall on Monday 21st October 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

Cllr C Todhunter
Cllr G Evans

- 175. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mr J Nicholls (work commitment)
Cllr Mrs J Duncton (personal event)

176. Disclosures of Interest:

None received

177. Public Participation:

There were six members of the public in attendance.

The Chair of the Village Hall Committee thanked the Finance Committee for their help in understanding KPC's budget setting exercise.

A resident had previously submitted a FOI, followed by written questions to the Parish Council and read out the questions to the meeting.

178. Approval of Meeting Minutes

To resolve that the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 16th October and the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th September 2024 be signed as a correct record.

179. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Janet Duncton

West Sussex Fire and rescue have made 1152 Safe and Well visits over the last quarter. This helps to keep vulnerable residents safe and well so if you know any in your community who would like a visit please contact them and they will make an appointment to visit

While with WSF&R we have recently at the meeting for Fire & Rescue had the figures for core measures for the Service. They have achieved 28 successfully which is up from 26 on the previous quarter. These are out of 30 Core measures.

It is looking at the moment as though County Councils and rural Unitary authorities are facing the biggest shortfalls in funding over the next 5 years. At the moment the total is expected to be about 54bn across the network.

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Much of the extra expense is due to the rising costs in Adult and Children's Services, home to School Transport and of course the ever rising costs of highways and issues that all households face.

You may have seen in a recent Press release that the County Council has submitted an expression of interest in the Governments devolution Plans. Of course County talks with the other Boroughs and Districts in the County and there's a long way to go yet so if things happen I will update in future notes.

If you enjoy animations can I direct you to the YouTube one on recycling. These are short and informative regarding what you can and cannot recycle so some will be interested. While on this subject you know it is now Autumn/Winter timetables at our recycling centres if you need to book a slot. For local information Billingshurst is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, closed Thursday, Friday and open Saturday, Sunday. The hours of opening are 9am to 6pm.

Midhurst times are Monday 9am to 4pm, closed Tuesday and Wednesday open again Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9am to 4pm. I hope that helps.

A question was asked about the number of Ukraine personnel that are in accommodation in the Chichester District part of County and the answer at the time is 165. I don't have any more information except that there doesn't seem to be any problems at the moment.

I'm afraid winter is just around the corner and I am sure most of the Parishes have their winter plans in place to cope with adverse conditions that may occur. Obviously things change according to the conditions but hopefully most eventualities are covered.

Keep safe and well.

Janet Duncton
County Councillor Petworth division
West Sussex County Council

Cllr Gareth Evans / Cllr Charles Todhunter

Local Updates

Crouchlands Development – No further updates at this stage. The Planning Appeal inquiry is ongoing from 1st to 17th October and we hope to be able to provide an outcome shortly afterwards.

Lagoon 3 – The preliminary hearing of the defendant's appeal took place on 19th September at Lewes Crown Court. This hearing was primarily administrative to discuss deadlines for submission of documentation and to set the date for the final hearing. This will take place on 6th February 2025 at Lewes Crown Court.

Local Plan – The Local Plan examination is currently underway in the Committee Rooms at Chichester District Council and will run from the 1st to the 10th of October before a break, resuming on Tuesday 12th November. The timetable (subject to change) and useful information about observing or watching the livestream can be found on the CDC website here:
<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/localplanexaminationstatements>

Land West of Cornwood (Townfield), Kirdford – The developer of this very long running application has now provided documents for a revised scheme, reducing the number of dwellings from 70 to 50 (amongst other changes). We are in regular contact with the officer dealing with this application and will continue to push for a determination before the end of this year and bring this to a close for residents of Kirdford.

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Loxwood Shop – Antler Homes have confirmed that they have exchanged contracts with a purchaser for the retail premises and that they expect to issue a press release with details of the shop owner in the very near future.

CDC Wide Updates

Cabinet & Committee Changes – a small number of Cabinet Member and Committee Member changes were announced at the CDC Full Council Meeting on 1st October:

- David Betts becomes Vice-Chair of the Council
- John Cross becomes Cabinet Member for Sport, Place & Culture
- Harsha Desai becomes Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Communication & Events
- Oona Hickson becomes Cabinet Member for Housing, Revenue & Benefits
- Stephen Jonson becomes Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee

Pension Credits Campaign – The Council is currently one of a number of organisations running a campaign encouraging those aged over State Pension age to check to see if they are eligible for Pension Credits and the Winter Fuel Allowance. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit> to check your eligibility or call our Supporting You team on 01243 534860.

Community Orchards Funding - Grants are now available to plant more community orchards across the District in public spaces. A total of £9,000 is available, as part of the second round of the Tree Chichester District Community Orchard initiative. The fund is open until Friday 17 January and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. It will help to pay for trees and items, such as stakes, cages and tree ties. All planting must be completed before the end of March 2025. Those wishing to apply should request an application for by emailing: treescheme@chichester.gov.uk

Stopham Mount - We're launching a crowdfunding campaign this month to help us keep a rare local Saxon find within Chichester District.

The rare Anglo-Saxon gold and garnet pyramidal sword mount, which was discovered in 2022 near Stopham in the Chichester District, dates back to 600-700 AD and is only the second of its kind to be found in West Sussex.

If successful in crowdfunding, the local treasure would be displayed in the Novium museum's first-floor gallery, within an area dedicated to Saxon history. The gallery is free of charge to visit, making the piece accessible to all.

The crowdfunding campaign will run until Tuesday 19 November.
www.thenovium.org.uk/stophamtreasure

Surgeries

Cllr. Gareth Evans is available to meet residents face to face via one of his regular surgeries. Winter surgery dates will be advertised shortly.

Should the suggested dates not be suitable for you or there are any other reasons preventing you from attending then it is possible to arrange home visits, telephone calls or zoom meetings.

Cllr Gareth Evans
Cllr Charles Todhunter

180. Correspondence

The Parish Council had received a FOI request and several items of correspondence from a resident between 21 September and 18 October. The Clerk had responded in detail to the FOI request, which was challenged by the resident. Complaints of impropriety had also been made against two Councillors. The

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resident was asked to direct FOI complaints to the Information Commissioners Office and complaints against Councillors to the Monitoring Officer at Chichester District Council.

181. Chairperson's Announcements

The Chair asked Councillors to try to attend an on-line course "*Handling online abuse and intimidation for councillors*" which was to be hosted by the Local Government Association on Thursday 31 October, 2.00pm - 3.30pm.

Remembrance soldiers to be placed – Cllr Persson to action.

Wreath laying – Cllr Piedade to action.

182. Adoption of Policies

It was agreed to adopt a vexatious complainants policy.

183. Finance

- a) Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
- b) Summary of receipts and payments – this was approved
- c) Payments for approval – these were approved
- d) Review of Financial Regulations – defer to next meeting
- e) Kirdford Village Hall Committee grant application for £21,206.74– this was approved in order to facilitate extra works necessary to the village hall roof. It was agreed to re-allocate this amount from allocated funds for the Village Hall Extension.
- f) Kirdford Village Hall Committee grant application for £60,000. There were no budgeted funds available to furnish this grant request. The request would be re-submitted in 2025.

184. Planning

CDC Local Plan Update – there was no update at this time.

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 December 2024. This application would go to the Planning Committee in November/December.

24/02046/DOM | Replacement of 2 no. detached ancillary barns with 1 no. ancillary annex. | Filliams Farm Plaistow Road Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0JR

It was noted that the HRA and water neutrality reports had not been uploaded to the portal. Therefore the Parish Council were unable to comment at that time.

SDNP/24/03021/HOUS | Installation of 1 no. new padel court. | Stroods A272 Croucham Lane to Linfold Road Strood Green Kirdford West Sussex RH14 0HL

This application no longer appeared on the SDNP planning portal.

KD/24/02282/PA6ABE Land North Of Sewage Works Glasshouse Lane Kirdford West Sussex
Proposed agricultural barn.

It was noted that this application is associated with an ongoing planning enforcement by Chichester District Council.

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KD/24/02275/TCA - Tree Apps (TCA's and TPA's) Bridgefoot Cottage, Glasshouse Lane, Kirdford, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 0LP. Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Weeping Willow tree (T3), crown reduce by 3m on 1 no. Liriodendron tree (quoted as T1) and crown reduce by 2m (to previous pruning points) and crown thin by 20% on 1 no. Bramley Apple tree (quoted as T2).

There was no objection to this application.

Decisions The following decisions were noted:

SDNP/24/02249/HOUS Brownings Wing , Glasshouse Lane, Kirdford, West Sussex, RH14 0LW
Installation of a vehicle crossover **REFUSE**

KD/24/01042/LBC Repair 2 no. chimney/stacks (no.1-2) and associated works. Church House
Glasshouse Lane Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0LT **PERMIT**

SDNP/23/01730/FUL Conversion of former cricket pavilion into a holiday let (retrospective) | The
Old Coach House Hawkhurst Court Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0HS **PERMIT**

24/00403/FUL | Erection of agricultural shed. | Land North Of 1 Thornhouse Cottages Scratching Lane
Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0JN **REFUSE**

KD/24/01039/PA20ZA Slifehurst Farm Scratching Lane Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0JN
Demolition of existing light industrial building and erection of 1 no. detached dwelling.
PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED HEREBY PERMITTED

KD/24/02060/PA6ABE

Track North East Of Thornehouse Farm Scratching Lane Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0JN
Repair and upgrading of existing farm tracks. **PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED**

185. Assets of Community Value

Cllr Brooks had contacted David Hyland at Chichester District Council to discuss whether the parish could add the Foresters public house back on to the list of assets of community value and the community right to bid.

Mr Hyland said that due to case law surrounding ACVs, it was not possible unless there was overwhelming evidence that a public house was used for other purposes other than a business. (For example, one public house was used as the village hall in one parish).

He advised that a public house had to be marketed for 2 years before a change of use could be applied for (i.e. residential).

186. Neighbourhood Plan – the outcome of the Local Plan was awaited.

187. South Downs National Park

A landscape study report had been commissioned from Terra Firma Consultancy.

188. Recreation Ground and Pavilion Upkeep – Update

Finishing touches were due to be complete in the next couple of weeks.

189. Great Common Pavilion Update

The HRA report from The Ecology Co-op had been submitted to CDC. It appeared that the HRA is acceptable, waiting on comments from Natural England.

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190. Village Hall Refurbishment

Discussed under Finance (item 7e).

191. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies

No update.

192. Footpaths

Cllr Vernon had tidied some branches from a fallen tree at the junction of footpaths KIR606/2 and KIR821/4 and the remaining high branches were being taken care of by the landowner.

It was agreed that the Parish Council could make repairs to the footpaths adjoining Herons Farm to ensure their accessibility to residents. It was noted that the occupants of Herons Farm had undertaken a lot of work to keep the footpaths clear. The landowners had sought permission from the Access Ranger to place waste bins within the line of their property boundaries and they would be solely responsible for the emptying of these bins.

It was noted that the footpath adjoining the Chapel needed some repairs.

193. Speed Limits Plaistow Road

Cllr Campbell was preparing a submission to Highways regarding the speed limits on Plaistow Road and Village Road. He had obtained supporting notes from local businesses and residents and was awaiting input from others.

194. Bonfire

Letters to advise Boxall Stud and Barkfold to be sent by the Clerk.

195. First Aid Refresher Course

It was agreed that a first aid course would be postponed until February 2025 due to the VH not being available on dates supplied by the trainer.

196. Health & Safety

WS Highways to be contacted again regarding a give way sign at the end of Plaistow Road.

The twitten between Townfield and Village Road had been reported to the housing association on several occasions. Cllr Todhunter had also tried to make contact and had since contacted the housing officer at CDC.

A resident had reported a possible damaged sewer by the Pump House on Glasshouse Lane.

The playground inspections are a weekly requirement of the insurers. As this was quite a large job, Chair suggested sharing the inspections amongst councillors.

197. Public Participation

A resident asked further questions and was asked to contact the MO and ICO.

198. Date of next meeting: 18 November 2024 at 7.30pm

199. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

None raised.

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200. Confidential Matters

None

Amanda Gillett

Chairman

18.11.24

Date