

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Kirdford Village Hall on Monday 15th June 2026 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 A Vernon

In attendance: Cllr Mr G Evans, Cllr Mrs J Duncton

99. Apologies for Absence: Cllr, Mr C Todhunter, Cllr Mr T Piedade

100. Disclosures of Interest: None.

101. Public Participation: There were no members of the public in attendance.

102. Approval of Meeting Minutes

To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th May 2026 be signed as a correct record.

103. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Gareth Evans / Cllr Charles Todhunter

Local Updates

Hawthorne Cottage, Loxwood – The revised application for 18 dwellings is due to be heard at the CDC Planning committee meeting on 10th June. We are pleased to see that the developer has worked with the Parish Council to address their concerns with the previously submitted application.

Land at Loxwood Place – We have asked the case officer for a progress update on the application for 223 homes, plus Class E employment use, at the land behind Loxwood Farm Place in Loxwood.

Land South of Common House Road, Plaistow – Officers are assessing the latest application for 15 dwellings on this site, which previously had a very similar application refused. Whilst Charles is unable to comment, as Chair of the Planning Committee, Gareth remains able to support residents and the Parish Council in opposing the proposals.

West Sussex County Council – Following the May elections, it was confirmed at their Annual Council meeting that West Sussex County Council will be run by a group comprising of the Liberal Democrats, Labour, Green Party and an Independent. The group will be known as the 'Alliance for West Sussex'. The Council Leader will be Jay Mercer (Lib Dem) and the Chair of the Council will be Donna Johnson (Selsey Local Alliance).

Local Government Reorganisation – The government consultation, on a revised proposal that would combine Chichester, Mid-Sussex, Horsham and Crawley into a proposed new Unitary Authority and Arun, Adur and Worthing into another Unitary Authority is now live at the following link: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/west-sussex-two-unitary-proposal-modification/>

For Parishes in Loxwood Ward this may actually be better than the previous proposals, as we often feel closer to Horsham & Crawley (or Surrey!) than we do to Chichester. Please do make your views known to the Government.

CDC Wide Updates

Public Bins & Recycling – A project has been launched at CDC to include reassessing litter bin locations, installing new bins in highly used areas and devising a behaviour change campaign aimed at encouraging more people to take their litter home so that it can be more effectively sorted and recycled. The district currently has around 600 litter bins and 250 dog mess bins and combined these are emptied 134,000 times a year. Initial analysis has highlighted that while some bins are extremely well used, there are others that are not well used, which could possibly be re-sited.

Food Waste Collections - Our new food waste collection service has now been successfully rolled out across the district. Uptake has been excellent, with around 80% of households actively taking part. Although this level of participation has been higher than expected, and we have experienced some early teething issues, additional resources have been put in place in response and the service is now settling in well.

Thanks to the strong support of our residents, we are already making a significant impact, with over 400 tonnes of food waste recycled since collections began in March.

Collections for flats and properties with shared bins are being introduced separately and are scheduled to begin later this autumn.

Housing Matters Roadshow - Residents across the Chichester District are being invited to get free housing advice as part of Chichester District Council's Housing Matters Roadshow, which is visiting communities throughout the summer and autumn.

The roadshow will make it easy for residents and landlords to speak directly with housing officers, ask questions, and find out about the wide range of housing support available.

Members of the council's Housing team will be attending a series of local events, markets and community days, offering informal face-to-face advice on everything from social housing and private renting to energy efficiency and access to grants to deliver adaptations for disabled residents. The roadshow will be at **North Hall in Loxwood from 2pm-6pm on Tuesday 13th October**

Surgeries

Cllr. Gareth Evans is available to meet residents face to face via one of his regular surgeries.

Gareth plans to start the next round of his surgeries shortly. Look out for the dates on Facebook or in our next update.

Cllr Mrs J Duncton

As you may imagine there is not a lot to report at the moment. We have had one Council meeting and that is the annual meeting where basically it just tells you who has been put on to which committee so not a lot of interest to you at Parish.

That said I will tell you that I remain on Planning and Rights of Way and I have been put on Health and Social Care known as HASC. I have not been put on this committee before and not sure of my qualifications but that said I will get to grips with it a bit as soon as we meet. Of course I know what it does and what we hope for but I've not been on it so my in depth knowledge is limited at the moment.

I guess it is to be expect that they will replace me on the South Downs National Park Authority about which I am sorry because the majority of my division sits in the National Park and of course it's Statutory responsibility is Planning which does affect us most.

The outside bodies are usually sorted at the next full Council which will be in July so then we will all know our fate.

As I can't give you a lot of news I can give you assurance that everything is going on as it should and I am reporting any issues that arise in my division.

I thought as I don't have a lot to tell you I could give you my take on the updates etc for the new authority proposed by Government.

On the 16th December 2024 the Government sent out their plans for a Mayor and Strategic Authority and the disappearance of District and Borough Councils in West and East Sussex including Brighton and Hove. They wanted us to come up with Unitary Councils and for Steve Read the now Cabinet member for Housing and local Government to consider and decide upon.

To cut to the chase and not go into detail about the amount of work and time that has gone into this which is exorbitant, this is what we came up with and I can assure you the decision was made after much consideration especially about financial implications not least the disparity of Council Tax in all 7 Districts and Boroughs. Do they go up to the highest or down to the lowest. You get the picture.

The County took this into consideration although it would be for a new Unitary to decided but part of County recommendation for one Unitary was that the whole of West Sussex residents would get the same Service and costs. The highways contracts for instance which have already been let for a 10 year period would be the same for all plus all District and County current Services would under one hat be the same for all and on top of that the pay back time was the most favourable. This was all checked out financial and proved to be the best pay back option in time and money.

A few weeks ago all Council Leaders went to meet the Minister and to cut to the chase he told them that West and East Sussex on authority in each area, District & Borough Councils wanting 2 in each area and Brighton and Hove wanting 5 Unitaries were not acceptable to him he wanted 4 and as most of you know Chichester was put in with Horsham, Mid Sussex and Crawley and would be called the Urban Unitary for some strange reason!! They must have forgotten that they set most of the southern area with a National Park and a lot of the central area is AONB.

Having said that this was his choice he then as you know has gone out to public consultation again for I guess their opinion. The Jury is out and we shall all have to wait and see what finally happens. What I do know is all of us including I suspect the Officers are totally fed up with it and if it's going to happen we need some decisions pretty quickly. They have already delayed the Mayor election to 2028 although I believe the Statutory Authority is in place.

I can only add watch this space.

Sorry I can't be with you Tillington but please let me know if there is some issue I need to be checking on and I have reported the rails etc left at the bottom of Brookfield Lane. As every year I go over to Ranville, Petworths twin village and the first liberated on d day.

Janet Duncton
County Councillor Petworth division

104. Correspondence

None received.

105. Chairperson's Announcements

Trees which need some works had been reported to the National Trust and they had visited to do an inspection. There is one where the ownership had not been clarified.

The Chair reported that as there had been low attendance at the toddler group, it may now reduce the days on which it operates.

It had been reported that people had been walking their dogs in School Court Playground.

106. Finance

- a) Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
- b) Summary of receipts and payments – this was approved
- c) Payments for approval – these were approved
- d) AGAR
 - i. Final Audit Report. The final internal audit report was noted.
 - ii. Annual Governance Statement – This was agreed and signed by the Chair and Clerk
 - iii. Accounting Statements were approved and signed by the Chair
- e) SDNP CIL Monitoring Report
- f) CDC CIL Monitoring Report

A grant of £480 was agreed for the Chichester District Foodbank

107. Planning

Local Plan/Neighbourhood Plan

21/00466/OUT | Outline Application (with all matter reserved except Access) for the development of up to 50 new homes, of which 40% would be affordable, new vehicular access and associated parking and landscaping | Land West Of Cornwood Townfield Kirdford West Sussex. No update. S106 Agreement discussed, to be added to future agenda.

SDNP/26/01948/24BC Wanderlust Camping Club Two safari tents and three glamping tents providing short stay holiday accommodation for members of the club. Bulchins Farm, A272 Croucham Lane to Linfold Road, Strood Green, Kirdford, West Sussex RH14 0HN

KD/26/01070/FUL - Minor Dev - All Others. Reinstatement of 6 no. prefabricated garages within existing garage court. Land Rear Of 150L Townfield , Kirdford, Billingshurst

DECISIONS

The following CDC decisions were noted:

KD/26/00466/TCA Half Moon Inn Glasshouse Lane Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0LT. Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Elm tree (1) and 1 no. Ash tree (8) and crown reduce by 25-30% and crown thin by 15% on 6 no. Apple trees (2-7) NOT TO PREPARE A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

Enforcement Notice – none received.

108. SDNP

Defer to next meeting.

109. Great Common Pavilion Update

Artists impressions were provided.

110. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies

No update.

111. Footpaths

Cllr Vernon had reported a broken finger post to the Access Ranger.

112. Speed Limits Plaistow Road

Councillor Campbell was awaiting photographs to submit to Highways.

113. Health & Safety

Dead and damaged trees to be reported to the National Trust.

114. Public Participation

None

115. Date of next meeting: 20 July 7.30pm at Kirdford Village Hall.

116. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

None

117. Confidential Matters

None

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Chairman

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Date