

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held at Kirdford Village Hall on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.45pm**

**Present:** Cllr Mrs A Gillett  
Cllr Mrs N Goddard  
Cllr Mr T Brooks  
Cllr Mr D Irwin  
Cllr Mr A Persson

**In attendance:**  
Parish Clerk

**61. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mr J Nicholls, Cllr Mr D Gerrard due to prior commitments, Cllr Mr T Piedade due to holiday.

**62. Disclosures of Interest:**

None

**63. Public Participation:**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**64. Report from PCSO Billingham**

**Kirdford Parish Council Update for March 2022.**

**Introduction.**

We are still getting reports across the area of the "Police Officer reporting suspicious Activity on your card/account" scam. This involves a fake officer asking victims to transfer the balance of their account to a third part account for "safekeeping". Please be aware, neither the Police nor the banks will **never** ask anyone to transfer money over the phone or ask them to take money from an account and post it!

**Incidents of Note.**

We have had an attempted break to a van, targeting tools. We have also had a theft of heating oil from a storage tank. I would advise looking at locks or alarms for the tanks to help prevent theft.

**PCSO Activity over the next month.**

Now we are getting the lighter evening and (hopefully warmer) please can I draw attention to property security. I would ask people to avoid leaving larger windows open in unoccupied rooms and to avoid leaving doors open or unlocked.

**65. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

To resolve that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 be signed as a correct record. Approved.



## 66. Reports from District and County Councillors

Gareth Evans

District Councillor Report – April 2022

### Local Updates

#### Tribute to Cllr David Ribbons

My most important update this month is to pay tribute to the extraordinary contribution of David. 27 years is an incredible and generous contribution to the community. My heartfelt thanks and admiration for everything you have done. Your knowledge and wise counsel will be missed by all. I particularly appreciated your kindness when I first took on the role of District Cllr. I hope you enjoy your free time now – you have certainly earned it. Thank you so much.

#### Land West Of Guildford Road Loxwood West Sussex

Several residents in Loxwood have contacted me recently asking for an update on this. The last update I **received** from Jo Bell cited the Water Neutrality issues. I have written again to her asking for an updated.

**Townfield Application, Kirdford** – I have been liaising with the officer responsible for this application to ascertain which way determination will fall. The Water Neutrality issues are still holding this application up. The last reply back in early March demonstrated that the applicant had not resolved the water neutrality issue and the officer was due to meet Jo Bell in order to work out how to proceed. I have been in contact with the officer asking for an update since it is now a month later

#### 21/02849/FUL-Land South West of Willets way

A couple of residents have raised concerns over the proposed solution to the Water Neutrality issue by sinking **five** 3000 gallon tanks on site with absolutely no detail as to how they will work. There are obvious concerns as to the noise element to operate these. I would be interested to hear the views of the Parish Councillors and will then liaise with the planning officer as this is potentially concerning. I am aware that one resident has also written to the Parish Council.

**Hyde Housing** – Several residents have approached over concerns with the communication process and the **quality** of the housing stock. I am working with the Cabinet Member and CDC to apply pressure on Hyde over these issues. I have also asked a CDC officer to visit some of residents who have raised significant concerns and these visits will take place in the coming weeks. Last week I asked SLT the following question:

*“In asking this request I would like to say that I am by no means directing criticism at the portfolio holder for social housing and I have been grateful for all Cllr Sutton has done to try and help me but the issues with Hyde with regards to extremely poor communication, unresolved issues, poor treatment of their tenants and poor housing stock with serious issues of mould continue and are having an impact on our residents mental health and well-being. I have lost count of the amount of residents who are contacting me on this issue and it is not just Loxwood Ward or Chichester District wide but on talking to residents and a cursory review of sites such as trust pilot it would appear this is a national issue. Therefore, will the CEO at Chichester District council write to the relevant Government department to demand that Hyde is held accountable for these ongoing issues and get this sorted once and for all?”*

I have since had communication from Louise Rudziak who is the Director of Housing and Communities who has agreed to investigate the growing issues not just in this Ward but across the district.

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**Lagoon 3** – the next progress review meeting between parish councils, CDC and EA takes place on 14<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00am

**Loxwood Claypit** – The latest update that has been issued from WSCC Planning is that they are working towards this going to committee by 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Updates will be provided once it is known

**Fracking** – Last month at the Wisborough Green Parish Council I was asked the following question:

**In view of the government’s moratorium on fracking, the Chairman was interested to know if CDC had any change in policy**

I received the following reply:

*“As fracking is a minerals operation, planning control falls to the County Council, and any necessary planning application would be submitted to that authority to consider. CDC would likely be a consultee if within our district, however on previous applications we have responded that we do not have the necessary specialist technical expertise in our Environmental Strategy Unit to make comment on such applications. There is no specific District Council policy in relation to fracking.*

*The best contact at WSCC for the Parish would be James Neave - [james.neave@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:james.neave@westsussex.gov.uk)”*

### **Chichester District Updates**

**Full Council Meeting (Budget)- At the council meeting on 8th March the Lib Dem group were successful in getting two motions through. These were:**

- 1) To employ a full time Growth and Sustainability Officer to promote economic growth in the District by supporting Local businesses and the creation of local apprenticeships and jobs - all in the context of supporting the Climate Emergency Action Plan
- 2) To employ a full time Landscaper Officer to provide specialist landscape design advice on development management matters and to monitor and manage the discharge of conditions on development sites

### **£150 energy bills rebate 2022**

The Chancellor announced on 3 February 2022 that council tax payers in properties in tax bands A to D will receive a one-off payment of £150 to support households with rising energy bills. It was also confirmed that this rebate will not need to be repaid. Good progress has been made on the preparations for administering the energy rebate scheme and CDC will be starting this work in early April. CDC will be prioritising those paying their council tax by direct debit followed shortly thereafter with those not paying by direct debit and opening up the Discretionary Energy Rebate scheme. Residents who pay their council tax by direct debit will receive their £150 Energy Payment quicker.

### **Water Neutrality**

On 16 March 2022 Natural England (NE) published updated advice on Water Quality and Nutrient Neutrality for 27 protected Habitat Sites, including the Solent. The advice issued by NE amends the methodology used to calculate whether a proposed development would be nutrient neutral.

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/nutrientneutrality>

### **CIL Spending Plan**

Projects in the published IBP CIL Spending Plan have been approved by Full Council in principle (as at that stage the full details of a project are not normally known).

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Before CIL money is handed to infrastructure providers the following procedures take place in accordance with the governance arrangements set out in paragraphs 41-46 of the S106 and CIL protocol. [https://www.chichester.gov.uk/media/36358/Section-106-and-CILProtocol/doc/S106 and CIL Protocol v4.docx](https://www.chichester.gov.uk/media/36358/Section-106-and-CILProtocol/doc/S106%20and%20CIL%20Protocol%20v4.docx)

The full details about a project are requested once a project on the CIL Spending Plan for the current year is reached and sufficient CIL is available to cover their costs. At that point the infrastructure provider is asked to complete and return a detailed pro-forma. The information submitted is checked and either returned with a request for more information, or if satisfactory is used to draft a report to either the Director of Planning (projects less than £50,000), Cabinet (projects between £50,000 - £100,000) or Council (Projects over £100,000) for drawdown of actual CIL Spend.

Once the spend is approved the completed pro-forma is attached to the legal agreement and the information in the pro-forma is used at the quarterly S106/CIL monitoring meetings to ensure that the milestones are met.

**DEFRA Consultation on new environmental targets:**

DEFRA is currently consulting on long-term targets as proposed by the Environment Act 2021. The consultation, which closes 11 May 2022, is seeking views on a number of new targets (biodiversity on land, biodiversity in the sea, water quality and availability, woodland cover, resource efficiency and waste reduction and air quality). From the Environmental Protection Team's point of view the relevant proposal is to introduce an air quality target for fine particulate known as PM2.5 and to reduce the population's exposure to PM2.5 by 35% by 2040. It is not yet clear how these targets will impact on the council's duties under Local Air Quality Management. The council will be party to a joint response to the consultation from the pan-Sussex local authority air quality group called Sussex-air.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-environment-policy/consultation-on-environmental-targets/>

**Surgery Dates**

My next round of District Councillor Surgery dates are as follows:

**Sat 9th April (12-2pm) The Foresters, Kirdford**

**Sat 23rd April (12-2pm) The Half Moon, Northchapel**

**Sat 9th May (11-1pm) Plaistow Stores, Plaistow**

**Sat 21st May (12-2pm) The Stag Inn, Balls Cross**

**Sat 11th June (11-1pm) Old Mill Cafe, Wisborough Green**

**Sat 18th June (12-2pm) The Onslow Arms, Loxwood**

Should these dates not be suitable I am always happy to visit residents in person or arrange a call/zoom conversation. I can be contacted by phone 07958918056 or by email [gbevans@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:gbevans@chichester.gov.uk)

*Ata*

**67. Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from a resident regarding damage being caused to their driveway and the bund at Butts Common by industrial waste and brewery vehicles driving over them. The resident has been making repairs using his own time and money.

Councillor Gareth Evans said he would be happy to speak to the resident and the Clerk should make an introduction.

**68. Chairperson's Announcements**

The Chair had nothing to report.

**69. COVID-19 Update**

It was noted that numbers had decreased, but deaths had increased nationally.

**70. Finance**

- a. Bank reconciliation (Appendix A) – this was approved.
- b. Monthly financial report - (Appendix B) – this was approved.
- c. Payments for approval (Appendix C) – these were approved
- d. Payments for approval – these were approved.

The Interim Audit undertaken was noted.

The Asset Register was reviewed and it was agreed that no amendments were necessary.

**71. Planning:**

**KD/22/00758/DOM** - Case Officer: Sascha Haigh

Lizzie Felstead High Barn Farm Plaistow Road Kirdford West Sussex Replacement extension on North Elevation, two storey side extension and minor internal alterations to a listed building. O.S. Grid Ref. 501432/127984 To view the application use the following link;

<https://publicaccess.chichester.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=R95F17ERMJ400>

**KD/22/00829/LBC** - Case Officer: Sascha Haigh

Lizzie Felstead High Barn Farm Plaistow Road Kirdford Billingshurst Replacement extension on North Elevation, two storey side extension and minor internal alterations to a listed building. O.S. Grid Ref. 501432/127984 To view the application use the following link;

<https://publicaccess.chichester.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=R9I1K1ER0PD00>

After review, it was noted that there was no mention on the application that the additional bedroom and new master bathroom increases the total water fixtures of the house, and therefore the increased water consumption capacity of High Barn. In line with the requirements of the Natural England position statement regarding water neutrality, there is no water offset statement to ensure compliance.

There is a marked disparity between the architect provided drawings of the proposed first floor and ground floor, versus the architect provided drawings contained in the bat scoping report pages 2 and 3.

**Enforcement Notices**

None received.

**Decisions - None received.**

**72. Townfield Meadows**

No update has been received from the Planning Officer.

**73. Planning Enforcement / TPOs - None received.**

**74. Recreation Ground and Pavilion Upkeep**

It was agreed that Multisport Tennis Courts Ltd would undertake remedial works to the tennis court in the sum of £ 13,555.00 plus VAT.

It was agreed that a condition survey should be arranged for the pavilion.

**75. Village Hall Refurbishment**

As the Parish Council had not received the results of the condition survey this item would be deferred to the May meeting.

**76. Butts Common Driveway**

After consideration, it was agreed that J C Allfrey should be asked to repair the driveway at Butts Common.

**77. Jubilee Celebrations**

A poster for social media was approved. A meeting had been arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm to discuss final arrangements for the Jubilee celebrations.

**78. Resilience Training**

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

**79. First Aid Training**

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

**80. Loxwood and Kirdford FC**

It was agreed that LKFC should be invited to attend a future Parish Council meeting.

**81. Health & Safety**

Nothing to report.

AG