

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Kirdford Village Hall on Monday 21st March 2022 at 7.30pm**

Present:

- Cllr Mrs A Gillett
- Cllr Mrs N Goddard
- Cllr Mr T Brooks
- Cllr Mr D Irwin
- Cllr Mr J Nicholls
- Cllr Mr M Osborne
- Cllr Mr A Persson
- Cllr Mr T Piedade

In attendance:
Parish Clerk

42. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Mr D Gerrard due to travel disruption.

43. Disclosures of Interest:

Cllr A Gillett, item 10 KD/22/00324/PNO - relative
Cllr T Brooks declared an interest in item 11.

44. Public Participation:

A representative of the Kirdford Recreation Ground committee was present. KPC were asked to consider providing funding for the refurbishment works to the tennis court. This item would be considered in more detail at the April 2022 meeting once quotations were received. (See Minute 55)

45. Report from PCSO Billingham

Kirdford Parish Council Update for February 2022.

Introduction

As we head into spring, can I ask that all dog owners be aware of any lambing going on in their area? At this time of year, heavily pregnant ewes react very badly to loose dogs. They can injure themselves trying to get away or even abort their lambs. Please ensure dogs are kept on leads in the countryside, especially if there are sheep in nearby fields.

Incidents of Note

It appears that several of our local dialling codes are being heavily targeted by scammers at the moment. The most common is one claiming to be from a bank's fraud department, with a request to either withdraw and post cash or transfer money into a designated account for "safe keeping". A similar one involves someone claiming to be from a neighbouring Police force.

Neither the banks, nor the Police will ever ask anyone to transfer money, so please do not take action on this other than to hang up and report it.

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If there any local groups that meet on a regular basis (or about to return to them following Covid), my colleague PCSO Moorey is happy to attend a give a full scam talk around this. Please let me know and I will pass details on.

Calls this month in the areas mainly related to trees down and alarms going off in the storms. We also had a report of containers and a barn entered in a rural area, with chainsaws and other items stolen.

PCSO Activity over the next month

As the weather improves, we will be looking to increase patrols and relaunch Operation Downsway, targeting anti-social motorbike riding across the area.

46. Approval of Meeting Minutes

To resolve that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st February 2022 be signed as a correct record. Approved.

47. Reports from District and County Councillors

Janet Duncton

It's been a busy time at West Sussex County Council, mainly because we have been dealing with a budget and it's extremely complex which I couldn't begin to explain. I have attended all the Workshops we have to make our budget and it gives me the opportunity to put forward my priorities.

Well at last it's done at both County level and at District Council so by the time you read this we all know our fate for the coming year.

County first. The rise in West Sussex will be 2.99%. One percent of this is a specific for Adult Social Care which is Counties biggest budget. We have also added an extra 21million plus to the Highways budget for over the next 5 years. I don't have to explain to residents that there is constant need for expenditure on the roads.

At Chichester District Council the rise is £5 and this has also been arrived at by a fairly long process so that we continue to provide the Service that residents expect of us.

Both County and District budgets balance the books which they legally have to do.

The West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways has set up a Task & Finish Group to look at several subjects including Speed limits, Quiet lanes, road and signage markings and the one that is of a lot of interest to Parish Councils, Traffic Regulation Orders or TRO's as they are referred to. My hope is that this group will look to make the getting of a TRO easier for Parish's. Of course they will still have to be vetted by Officers because there are endless rules and regulations associated with our highways but all my Parish's I know would appreciate a quicker method of obtaining TRO's. These control items like for instance getting Speed Limits changes and many other highways issues.

With Spring and Summer not too far away some residents are concerned about some traffic going through their Parish's either at speed or very noisy and sometimes both.

I know it always sounds like passing the buck but all though County does it's best to keep the roads safe with the infrastructure it is actually only the Police who have any powers to fine or indeed arrest when people break the rules of the road.

That does not mean that we don't work closely with them and Villages like Wisborough Green have Speed watch in place which is very dependent on volunteers. They obviously don't have the

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powers to stop and fine road users but what they can and do do is take number plates and report to the Police. A road user who's number plate appears on several occasions on the Police files will in all probability find a Police Officer on their doorstep. Lets hope they get better and adhering to the rules of the road and don't roar through the villages but I suspect there will still be work for Speed Watch for some time to come.

As you know it is the Platinum Jubilee of our Queen's accession to the Throne. Everyone is making arrangements to celebrate this wonderful event and I hope to be able to at least to pop in to some of my Parish events. I do have 11 Parish's so it's not possible to get to all. If I don't make it I am sure they will be memorable events and all will enjoy in the community.

One more word on Chichester District Council work. I may have told you before what a good job CDC have done housing street sleepers over this long Covid period. Work doesn't stop and in March another 17 units of accommodation have been built in Chichester for families who lose the homes. These are fairly state of the art, small units that are very high standard insulation etc. Such a sad thing to lose your home but at least in some small way this will help people to hopefully get back on their feet to look into the future and a permanent home.

Keep safe and hope to see some of you soon.

Janet Duncton
County Councillor Petworth division
Chichester District Councillor Loxwood ward.

Cllr Duncton was asked whether planning application time scales were extended during the COVID 19 lockdowns.

Cllr Duncton said that extensions had to be applied for.

Gareth Evans
District Councillor Report – March 2022

Local updates

Loxwood Claypit – The latest update that has been issued from WSCC Planning is that they are working towards this going to committee by 26th April 2022. Updates will be provided once it is known

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

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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 look into the growing issues not just in this Ward but across the district.

Townfield – I am still 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. To date I have received no further updates.

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

Chichester District Council Updates

Full Council Meeting (Budget)- At the council meeting on 8th March the Lib Dem group were successful in getting to 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

Levelling up – CDC has been awarded over £34,000 to provide extra support for victims of domestic abuse and their children. The funding, from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, will be used to deliver safe accommodation spaces and provide victims with vital support services.

£150 energy bills rebate 2022 - The Chancellor announced on 3 February 2022 that council taxpayers 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. CDC are still awaiting the guidelines from central Government as to how to administer this and CDC will process these rebates as quickly as they possibly can once they have received the detailed guidance. It should be noted that for residents who currently pay their Council Tax by direct debit it will be quicker for CDC to process their £150 rebate.

Financial help for residents – I have been asked to promote the following webpage to anyone who may benefit from financial support and/or checking that they are receiving everything due. This includes financial help, debt management advice along with a range of other services. For further information please visit <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances>

Wellbeing – CDC's Weigh Better Life 12 week courses are restarting at the end of March in the north of the district. The course is free for anyone with a body mass index between 25 to 40. They will be providing virtual and face to face support including a weekly newsletter, video presentation and a printed handbook.

- o Tuesday 29 March 6.30 – 7.15pm Loxwood Microsoft Teams
- o Wednesday 30 March 11.30 – 12.30 The Grange, Midhurst
- o Thursday 31 March 10.15 – 11.15 Hampers Hall, Petworth



Surgeries

I will be at the Onslow Arms this Saturday 27th March between 12-2pm.

I am also in the process of drawing up my next round of surgery dates and these will be published in due course. However I am always happy to come and visit residents either in your home or in a local amenity. Please contact me by email gbevans@chichester.gov.uk or by phone 07958918056 if you wish to have a meeting with me.

Cllr Evans was asked to investigate why Hyde Martlet were selling vacated social housing when current tenancies were terminated. It was also questioned why some of the social housing was being privately rented to tenants.

48. Correspondence

None received.

49. Chairperson's Announcements

The Chair had received correspondence from Keep Kirdford and Wisborough Green (KKWG) regarding the proposed replacement of Boxall Bridge by WS County Council.

Cllr Nicholls agreed to liaise with KKWG.

Aurora offered their thanks to KPC for agreeing to change the date of the fireworks in 2022 to Friday 4th November due to their heavy workload.

Several emails and phone calls had been taken regarding the Martin Grant Homes site in Plaistow Road. Complaints had been received about the dangerous parking along the road.

It was noted that the height of the road into the site had been raised by 1 metre.

Cllr Persson was meeting with Richard Stibbs of Martin Grant Homes.

It was noted that the gate to Great Common had been left unlocked over the weekend. It was also noted that the access code to the gate had been changed and KPC had not been notified. The Clerk to contact Loxwood and Kirdford Football Club.

The purchase of bat boxes and installation was agreed in the sum of £2,000.

It was agreed that Cllr Nicholls would investigate courses to enable bat boxes to be inspected.

50. COVID-19 Update

It was noted that ward numbers had increased 65.7% over the last 7 days. There were 65 cases in the ward.

51. 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 – February meeting amendment – these were approved.

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52. Planning:

KD/22/00059/TPA - Case Officer: Henry Whitby
Mr C Thomas, Oak Cottage Village Road Kirdford RH14 0LX
Fell 1 no. Oak tree (quoted as T2, TPO'd as T1), subject to KD/00/00596/TPO.
O.S. Grid Ref. 501775/126679

It was noted that this application had been approved.

Kirdford KD/22/00300/TCA - Case Officer: Henry Whitby
Mrs Dorrie Willis, Ellington Village Road Kirdford Billingshurst
Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Hawthorn tree. Removal of 3 no. lower branches on southern sector on 2 no. Ash tree. O.S. Grid Ref. 501772/126696

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

Kirdford KD/22/00324/PNO - Case Officer: Sascha Haigh
Mr Adam Allfrey, Ganders Gate Farm Glasshouse Lane Kirdford Billingshurst
Agricultural building. O.S. Grid Ref. 501536/125611

It was noted that this application now required planning permission (previously stated as no prior approval required by CDC). It was agreed to review this application further.

Kirdford SDNP/22/00791/HOUS
New detached garage
Stable Cottage Hawkhurst Court Kirdford West Sussex RH14 0HS

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

Enforcement Notices
None received.

Decisions
None received.

53. Townfield Meadows

It was noted that this application was likely to be considered by the CDC Planning Committee in April 2022.

The Ecology Co-op had also submitted their objection and environmental report to CDC, but this had not been added to the planning portal.

No update has been received from the Planning Officer.

54. Planning Enforcement / TPOs

None received.

55. Recreation Ground and Pavilion Upkeep

It was agreed that a condition survey should be undertaken to identify necessary remedial works to the Recreation Ground Pavilion. It was agreed to use the same surveyor as for the Village Hall, The Goddard Partnership. Cllr Goddard would obtain a quotation.

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It was agreed to investigate costs and obtain quotations for the installation of play equipment at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Goddard would obtain quotes.

KPC were asked by a representative of the Kirdford Recreation Ground Committee to consider providing funding for the refurbishment works to the tennis court. This item would be considered in more detail at the April 2022 meeting once quotations were received (see public participation)

56. Village Hall Refurbishment

The Village Hall Committee had submitted to KPC an initial proposal from The Goddard Partnership which outlined initial costs to undertake a condition survey of the building. It was agreed at the February meeting that a condition survey should be undertaken in the sum of £1,800 + VAT.

57. Jubilee Celebrations

A meeting had been held to discuss plans for the Jubilee celebrations on 24th February at the Village Hall. A further meeting would take place on Thursday 24th March at 7.30pm.

58. Health & Safety

It was noted that no response had been received from the National Trust. KPC would obtain quotations for the repairs to the Butts Common driveway.

It was noted that a footpath signpost by Boxalland had rusted through and needed replacing. Cllr Irwin would advise the PROW officer.

59. Date of next meeting: 21 March 2022 at 7.30pm.

19 April (Tuesday) after Easter Bank Holiday
16 May
20 June
18 July
19 September
17 October
21 November

60. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

Resilience Training

First Aid course for Councillors

Loxwood and Kirdford FC

Replacement laptop and printer for Clerk

Amanda Gillett
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Chairman

19.4.22
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Date