

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Kirdford Village Hall on Monday 20th February 2023 at 7.30pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

- Cllr Janet Duncton
- Cllr Gareth Evans

22. Apologies for Absence: Cllr D Gerrard due to work commitments, Cllr M Osborne was in attendance for part of the meeting due to family commitments.

23. Public Participation:

Five members of the public were in attendance.

24. Disclosures of Interest:

Cllr Gillett and Cllr Piedade declare an interest in the planning applications for the Foresters Arms as neighbouring properties. Cllr Goddard declared an interest in the planning application for Scrubb House Farm regarding her employment.

25. Approval of Meeting Minutes

To resolve that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2023 be signed as a correct record. Approved.

26. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Janet Duncton

At last the time has come to make our budget decisions. By the time I attend you meetings in the next week or so the decisions will have been made and although I cannot be definite about the decision it looks likely that the County increase will be 4.99% all to be discussed this Friday at Council at County Hall. I will let you know if there is a different outcome. What I can say though is that if the budget goes through as is it is a positive budget that delivers positive outcomes for our residents and businesses whilst protecting valuable services. Maybe more to say at the meetings.

You can imagine that having got the dreaded potholes under some control with the 25000 done within 9 months we then had the winter weather which although not too prolonged was quite bad and the hard frosts and the continued wet weather earlier has given us many more potholes and other issues that have to be dealt with. I can assure you all though that I do report all that I personally see and those that residents and Parish Councils let me know about.

✓ AG.

As Hallelujah Corner affects many not just Fittleworth I have to say how awful it is there. I reported it and some 3 weeks ago the contractor was booked to do the work. It didn't get done for some reason I am not privy to and the Highways officer didn't know he was going to be let down either. I am hoping that by the time we get to next weeks meetings it will have been taken care of. It is a nightmare there.

Every month I report on our Childrens Services and I have nothing new to add at the moment except we are still going in the right direction and are expecting a full OFSTED inspection in the next few weeks.

Those travelling in the Horsham direction will have noticed the new Fire and Rescue facility is nearly built.

The news on the A29 at Pulborough is not good. It is also not simple. The banks that collapsed are in private ownership and as you all know that adds complications.

The new special needs School at East Grinstead is coming on a pace and there is a topping out ceremony planned very soon. A wonderful new facility for special needs children.

Chichester District Council

I realise that Fittleworth Alan Sutton will provide a CDC update for you so for other Parish's just to say that District will also finalise it's budget in March so not a lot I can say on that front.

For those not in the South Downs National Park you will know that the Reg19 for the Chichester Local Plan is out for consultation. Reg 19 is just the regulation we have to pass so that it can go to consultation. I know some Parish's have concerns about housing numbers which I have to say CDC planning had many discussions with the Planning Inspectorate etc and managed to set the numbers at a more reasonable level. That said I know that residents have concerned but please be aware that this Plan is from 2021 to 2039 so applications in your Parish's that have been approved since 2021 will count against the minimum numbers that you have to find.

This Plan has been worked on long and hard by Councillors and the Officers at Chichester District Council and none of the decisions in it have been taken with being scrutinised fully. If it affects your Parish the comments will be gratefully received by Chichester District Council.

Supporting you has been very successful in helping residents who are having problems especially with the cost of living. You can contact this service on line or by phone and they have been successful in helping and direction to other organisations that can help.

Cllr Gareth Evans

Local Updates

Loxwood Shop Development – I received an update saying the developer needed to submit new water neutrality mitigation plans as they had discovered there was a technical issue with the delivery of one of the rainwater harvesting tanks. Therefore, the applicants are adjusting the mitigation provision so they can remain water neutral. I hope to report next month that CDC have made the necessary adjustments to the S106 and the Loxwood community can finally have their shop.

Loxwood Claypit – It is my understanding that the applicant has submitted an appeal. I met with the Stop the Claypit group and we will now resume weekly meetings. We await further guidance as to the nature of the appeal and will need to wait for this prior to further actions. We are though ready and waiting.

✓ Au

22/01726/FUL – Little Farm, Loxwood Application – Last week I wrote to the planning officer to ask why there had been no updates since December. I was told that the TPO had meant that the applicant is not revising their scheme which will be reduced to 25 houses. Issues remain with water neutrality and drainage so this one is set to run on a while yet.

Foxbridge and Crouchlands Proposed Developments. – I continue to follow both of these carefully. I have written an objection to Foxbridge and will do the same for Crouchlands.

Townfield – Latest update is this will go to March Planning Committee.

Local Plan – I was very unhappy with the scale of proposed development outlined on the Local plan and spoke at the Full Council meeting to voice this on behalf of the community. The questions I asked were sent to parish Clerks last week. I am in the process of transcribing the answers I received but the full debate and questions asked can be heard here

<https://chichester.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=1686&Ver=4>

CDC Wide Updates

Local Plan

The next round of consultation on the Local Plan, which will begin on 3 February and will last until 17 March, is open.

This consultation is a very specific one, which invites people to comment on three specific questions or tests. Respondents will be asked if the plan has met the legal requirements; if it has been positively prepared and is justified, effective and consistent with national policy; and if the council has engaged and worked effectively with neighbouring authorities and statutory bodies. Once the consultation is completed, all comments will be packaged alongside the plan for the Planning Inspector to consider as part of the independent examination on behalf of the Government.

Those who wish to comment to go to www.chichester.gov.uk/localplanconsultation This link will take residents directly to the consultation platform and from this page there will be links to our updated Local Plan area on CDCs website, which can also be found at www.chichester.gov.uk/localplan

Changes to the voting process – CDC have started the marketing campaign to raise awareness about the changes to the voting process which come into effect for the May 23 elections. In essence members of the public need to take the accepted form of photo ID otherwise they will not be permitted to vote.

Further information can be see in the link below:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id>

Key dates to remember are:

- Register to vote – no later than midnight on 17 April
- Last day to apply for a post vote – 5pm on 18 April
- Last day to apply for a proxy vote – 5pm on 25 April
- Last day to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate – 5pm on 25 April

Environment Act 2021

Following consultation, the National Statutory targets have been announced by government. They are: “The thirteen targets that will be laid through statutory instruments are as follows:

Biodiversity on land

- To halt the decline in species abundance by 2030.
- To ensure that species abundance in 2042 is greater than in 2022, and at least 10% greater than 2030.
- Improve the Red List Index for England for species extinction risk by 2042, compared to 2022 levels.

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- To restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042, compared to 2022 levels.

Biodiversity in the sea

- 70% of the designated features in the MPA [Marine Protected Areas] network to be in favourable condition by 2042, with the remainder in recovering condition.

Water quality and availability

- Abandoned metal mines target: Halve the length of rivers polluted by harmful metals from abandoned mines by 2038, against a baseline of around 1,500 km.
- Agriculture target: Reduce nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and sediment pollution from agriculture into the water environment by at least 40% by 2038, compared to a 2018 baseline.
- Wastewater target: Reduce phosphorus loadings from treated wastewater by 80% by 2038 against a 2020 baseline.
- Water Demand Target: Reduce the use of public water supply in England per head of population by

Woodland cover

- Increase total tree and woodland cover from 14.5% of land area now to 16.5% by 2050.

Resource efficiency and waste reduction

- Reduce residual waste (excluding major mineral wastes) kg per capita by 50% by 2042 from 2019 levels.

Air quality

- An Annual Mean Concentration Target for PM2.5 levels in England to be 10 µg m⁻³ or below by 2040.
- A Population Exposure Reduction Target for a reduction in PM2.5 population exposure of 35% compared to 2018 to be achieved by 2040."

District Councillor Surgeries

Sat 4 Feb: Onslow Arms, Loxwood

Sat 18 Feb: The Foresters, Kirdford

Sat 4Mar: Old Mill Café, Wisborough Green

I am also available for home visits or one to one meetings at alternative dates/venues upon request.

Notes from Loxwood PC Meeting

Thakeham -Sewage holding tank. Emptying daily and horrible smell.

CDC approved installation on temporary basis. But had not right to approve cess Pool. CDC has acted irresponsibly or illegally in approving it. Residents should get together and make a complaint. Environmental Health at CDC being pursued but Southern Water should be pursued. They must have suggested this as course of action.

Simon getting pictures of tank being emptied twice a day

Main public sewer runs down Guildford road. Sewage is meant to link to this at the site but is not connected (not allowed by Southern Water), Developer put in temporary tank

Southern Water get a tank over every time it is full to empty it. One tank will not empty the tank.

Currently Thakeham site only 60% occupied so it will get worse. Also, with hotter weather smell will get worse.

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Southern Waters responsibility. Would have to fix it if they got taken to court.

Resident described this system as pre-war days

What solutions for future developments – Upgrade the system

Steve Tilbury does not think the plan will go through. Thinks it is very weak.

27. Correspondence

The Clerk had received correspondence from a resident who was having problems with damp in their Hyde accommodation. The problems had still not been resolved. CDC were investigating the issues with Hastoe and an update was still awaited.

28. Chairperson's Announcements

The Chair asked for volunteers to join a resilience working group. Cllr T Brooks volunteered.

A deposit for the fireworks on 4th November had been paid.

The Chair would contact the National Trust about the traffic mirror installed in Village Road and Birchlands House gates.

The Clerk would obtain quotes for the reinstallation of the postbox on Plaistow Road.

The Chair reminded Councillors of the upcoming elections and asked that the packs were studied carefully.

29. Finance

- a) Year-end Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
- b) Monthly financial report – this was approved
- c) Payments for approval – these were approved
- d) The draft Investment Strategy was approved for implementation
- e) Grants – A maintenance grant in the sum of £1,470 for Kirdford Village Hall Management Committee was approved.

30. Planning

Local Plan Update

Work was ongoing on KPC's response to the local plan consultation.

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 this application was now likely to be considered at CDC's March Planning Committee meeting.

No water neutrality calculations had been provided.

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22/02346/OUT – Case Officer: Jane Thatcher Outline application for a wellbeing and leisure development comprising up to 121 holiday units; the construction of a spa with accommodation of up to 50 bedrooms; the conversion of the former clubhouse into a restaurant and farm shop; the formation of a new vehicular access from Foxbridge Lane, new internal roads, footpaths, cycle routes and car parking areas; the construction of a concierge building and new hard and soft landscaping, including the formation of new ponds. All matters reserved except for means of access. | Foxbridge Golf Club Foxbridge Lane Plaistow West Sussex RH14 0LB

Due to the volume of new documentation it was agreed to ask CDC for an extension of time to consider this application.

22/02154/FUL | Rear extension with associated internal reconfiguration and works to external front and rear trade areas including new fence and double gate. | Foresters Arms Village Road Kirdford West Sussex RH14 0ND

It was noted that no water neutrality calculations had been provided for this application.

KD/23/00297/ELD - Other Dev - Certs of Lawful Development

Map Ref: (E) 499916 / (N) 128046

Existing Lawful Development for the use of land and building for light industrial purposes (B1 c) and associated parking of vehicles and equipment

Slifehurst Wood Farm , Scratching Lane, Kirdford, West Sussex, RH14 0JN

Kirdford Parish Council had no objection to this application.

KD/23/00229/TCA - Case Officer: Miruna Turland

Mr Paul Eaton

Bridgefoot Cottage Glasshouse Lane Kirdford Billingshurst

Notification of intention to crown reduce by 1.5m and crown thin by 10% on 1 no. Bramley Apple tree (T1), reduce height by up to 1m on 1 no. Greengage tree (T2) and height reduce by approx. 7m and reduce all sectors by 3m on 1 no. Willow tree (T3).

Kirdford Parish Council had no objection to this application.

KD/19/03111/FUL - Minor Dev - Dwellings

Map Ref: (E) 501684 / (N) 126430

Demolition of five garage/storage buildings and erection of 4 no. dwellings and 1 no. commercial unit with associated parking.

Eldridge's Yard, The Old Creamery, Glasshouse Lane, Kirdford, Billingshurst, West Sussex,

This application had no updated documentation on the planning portal. It was agreed to ask CDC if there was to be any updated documents.

SDNP/20/01550/HOUS Scrubb House Farm Crimbourne Lane Kirdford West Sussex RH14 0HX

Proposal: Non material amendment to planning permission. Alterations to window and door fenestration.

It was noted that this application had been refused by CDC.

KD/22/03159/FUL - Minor Dev - Dwellings Barkers Farm, Glasshouse Lane, Kirdford, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 0LW

Map Ref: (E) 501536 / (N) 125611

Proposal: Erection of 4 no. log cabins to create self-contained holiday let lodges with associated

✓ AA

parking.

Kirdford Parish Council considered this application to be inappropriate development close to the Mens. No water neutrality calculations had been provided. There was concern as to the environmental impacts of such a development.

KD/23/00265/FUL - Case Officer: Sascha Haigh
Mr & Mrs Alderton
Barkfold, Crofts Cottage Village Road Kirdford West Sussex
General purpose agricultural building with hard standing and access area.

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

Decisions

It was noted that the application relating to Scrubb House Farm had been refused.

Enforcement Notices: None received.

31. Planning Enforcement / TPOs

Cllr Nicholls would help to obtain the services of an arborist to assist with TPOs on the land to the rear of the Vistry site in Plaistow Road.

32. Neighbourhood Plan – Update

The Neighbourhood Plan was being reviewed by Troy Hayes Planning.

33. Recreation Ground and Pavilion Upkeep – Update

Cllr Goddard was awaiting contact from the surveyor. This was expected by the end of the week of 24th February.

34. Great Common Pavilion Update

Cllr Brooks was seeking application advice from Chichester District Council. It was agreed to pay their fee of £395.

35. Village Hall Refurbishment

The Chair of the Village Hall Committee spoke to the Parish Council and outlined a phased project plan for improvements. The Parish Council approved this plan in principle. Each stage of works to be brought to the Parish Council for review.

36. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies

Cllr Persson had reported floods at Rickmans Lane/Foxbridge Lane junction to West Sussex County Council. Although WSCC had advised on two occasions that the matter was resolved, the flooding still remained. Clerk to contact WSCC for an update.

37. King Charles III Coronation

It was noted that an initial meeting would be held on 6th March at 7pm in the Village Hall. Volunteers were sought to assist with organising any events.

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38. CAGNE

Cllr Persson would be attending the CAGNE AGM.

39. Allotments

It was noted that Cllr Brooks had asked the Leconfield Estates if they had a parcel of land they were willing to lease to the Parish Council for the use of allotments. A response was awaited. The Clerk had also contacted CDC to request any advice or assistance they could provide and a response was awaited.

40. Health & Safety

It was noted that a tree outside the Old Post Office was decaying. This would need to be removed and possibly replaced with an alternative. T Brooks to notify the residents of the Old Post Office

41. Date of next meeting: 16 January 2023 at 7.30pm - to be held at the Village Hall

20 March
17 April
15 May
19 June
17 July
18 September
16 October
20 November

42. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

None.

Amanda Gillett

Chairman

20.3.23

Date