

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Kirdford Village Hall on Monday 15th April 2024 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 T Piedade
Cllr Mr A Vernon

In attendance:
Cllr C Todhunter

66. Apologies for Absence: Cllr J Duncton, Cllr G Evans (absent Cllr J Nicholls, Cllr M Osborne)

67. Public Participation:

Four members of the public were in attendance.

68. Disclosures of Interest:

None received.

69. Approval of Meeting Minutes

To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th March 2024 be signed as a correct record.

70. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Janet Duncton

As I write this we are getting an awful lot of flooding along the West Sussex Coast. Last night at Earnley 180 people were evacuated, Littlehampton 15 evacuated and Bracklesham 20. Only one resident ended up in Hospital with suspected hypothermia.

Could it get much wetter. I think one of the main problems now is that the ground is soaked so even if the rainfall isn't that heavy it has very little space to drain down. I know on our Farm it is impossible at the moment to do any Tractor work. We can only hope that we soon get some respite from this dreadful weather.

I am reporting all Highways issues as I know about them either from members of the Public, Parish/Town Councils or ones that I see myself. The normal time scale for getting these works done has completely gone I'm afraid and at the moment I don't see timescales for the jobs on Highways improving.

As a County Councillor I have asked that they look seriously and getting the current Highways in good condition before committing to new projects and I include in that Cycle ways. Not sure anyone is listening but I keep trying. Probably not the most popular Councillor there at the moment but that's not what's important to me.

On the same theme I have noticed that some work has taken place on verge cutting. I can't get to the bottom of this as to whether it's part of County contract or a resident just doing so work which actually

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is not allowed. That said what I have seen is some pretty poor verges that begin to look like ploughed fields because they were just so wet and soft when they were cut.

On a brighter note recent OFSTED inspections on our Childrens homes have been great with 2 judged outstanding which is very hard to come by and the other 4 is good. We still have work to do in our Childrens Services but gradually getting there.

You will have noticed on your Council Tax bill notes that Childrens Services and Adult Services take the bulk of our finance and it has to be admitted that they are the 2 most important issues for the County but where does it leave us with the other important issues. They all have to be delivered and I am pleased to say that this year we have balanced the budget without cutting our Services and despite the state of the roads more and more millions are going in to that part of the budget.

You probably all saw that we have a new Chief Executive who can of course join us for another couple of months yet as he has to work out his notice as deputy Chief Executive Surrey County Council.

His name is Leigh Whitehouse and until he can join us Becky Shaw will stay with us and then return full time to East Sussex County Council.

Cllr Gareth Evans / Cllr Charles Todhunter

Local Updates

Local Plan – Charles will be attending a meeting of the Development, Planning & Infrastructure Panel at CDC on 10th April for an update on submission of the Local Plan, which as of the last update, is expected shortly.

Hyde Housing – David Betts, CDC Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities, is in regular contact with Gareth and Charles regarding issues with Hyde and unacceptable living conditions that some of our residents endure. He is in dialogue with senior members of staff at CDC and Hyde to hold them to account for resolving these issues.

Hollyview Close – Gareth is awaiting a response from CDC Enforcement regarding the lack of tree coverage / landscaping at this recent development in Loxwood. If residents have any other issues regarding Planning Enforcement then please get in touch.

CDC Wide Updates

Full Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 19th March:

At the most recent Full Council meeting, Councillors passed resolutions to:

- Begin the process to introduce a household food waste collection service across the District. This is in response to a Government mandate that all councils must provide this by 2026.
- Introduce a 100% Council Tax Premium on second homes in the District
- Write to our MPs and the Department of Health urging them to ensure that the funding to the Sussex Dementia Assessment service remains in place and that the future of the service is guaranteed. The service was recently suspended for new patients and local charity, Sage House, has had to step in to fill the gap. As something that is very close to many of our Councillors' hearts, we felt compelled to act and highlight this issue that will have an impact on so many of our residents.

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Fly-Tipping

On 18th March a multi-agency joint operation took place at multiple locations on the county border. Officers from Sussex Police, Environment Agency, Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency, Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council came together to stop vehicles that may be carrying waste; checking compliance; and interviewing drivers. This is one of a number of similar operations that have taken place across West Sussex, with the aim of disrupting and deterring fly-tipping.

Meeting your District Councillors:

Gareth has the following surgery dates scheduled from 12pm-2pm:

Saturday 6th April Ifold (Shop)

Saturday 20th April Ebernoe (The Stag Inn)

Saturday 4th May Kirdford (Shop)

Saturday 18th May Wisborough Green (Old Mill Café)

Should the dates suggested not be suitable for you or there are any other reasons preventing you from seeing us we are also happy to do home visits, telephone calls or zoom calls.

Cllr Todhunter also reported that the Local Plan should be submitted to the examiners next month.

71. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from Boyer Planning regarding the proposed development at Townfield Meadows requesting councillors to outline whether there was a specific need for any particular items of play equipment, sporting facilities or community facilities.

The Parish Council's position remains that it will continue to object to this application and is not supportive of the development of this site, it would be inappropriate to respond to this request.

72. Chairperson's Announcements

It was agreed that turf should be obtained for Butts Common as it had been too wet to seed.

A new flower tub/half barrel would be installed outside the Village Hall.

As the picnic bench in School Court had to be removed due to decay, it was suggested that a replacement bench was purchased. This was agreed.

Kirdford Players would be holding their 50th birthday celebrations on 27th April at the Village Hall and would be open to all parishioners. A donation of £200 towards refreshments was agreed.

It was noted that damage had been caused to the bund and surrounding area by the contractors at the Foresters Arms. It was agreed to write to the brewery and ask for any damage to be repaired.

It was noted that Ann Woods was retiring from Tustin Chapel after many years of service.

73. Finance

- a) Year End Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
- b) Monthly summary report – this was approved
- c) Payments for approval – these were approved
- d) The Risk Assessment was reviewed and it was agreed that no changes were necessary at this time.
- e) A small grant in the sum of £350 was agreed to KSS Air Ambulance Charity (Kent Surrey Sussex).
- f) A grant in the sum of £1250 to Kirdford PCC for the upkeep of St John the Baptist Church grounds was agreed.

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74. Planning

CDC Local Plan Update

Cllr Todhunter reported that it was hoped the Local Plan would be submitted to the examiners next month.

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

Correspondence was received from Boyer Planning regarding the proposed development at Townfield Meadows requesting councillors to outline whether there was a specific need for any particular items of play equipment, sporting facilities or community facilities.

The Parish Council would maintain its objection to this planning application and could not therefore answer this request for information.

KD/24/00549/ELD - Other Dev - Certs of Lawful Development

Existing lawful development certificate for the continued use of parcel of land/garden at High Barn Farm as residential curtilage. High Barn Farm, Plaistow Road, Kirdford, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 0JS

Chichester District Council should make the appropriate judgment on this application.

KD/24/00575/FUL - Case Officer: Freya Divey

c/o Chair Management Committee E Phipps

Kirdford Village Hall Village Road Kirdford Billingshurst

Single storey side extension to provide improved toilet facilities and accessible facilities for disabled people.

The Parish Council were in full support of this application.

24/00497/LAPRE1 - 1st Variation of Premises Licence | Open for Consultation | Foresters Arms Village Road Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0ND

Kirdford Parish Council felt that the proposed revised opening times were excessive for a rural village public house.

Decisions

KD/24/00235/TCA Land West Of Vergers Village Road Kirdford West Sussex

Notification of intention to re-pollard down to 2-2.5m (above ground level) on 1 no. Lime tree (T1).
NOT TO PREPARE A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

KD/24/00347/TCA Land Fronting Chestnut House And Church House Glasshouse Lane Kirdford West Sussex
Notification of intention to crown raise over verge by up to 2.5m (above ground level) on 4 no. Lime trees (T2-T5), 1 no. Horse Chestnut tree (T6) and 1 no. Sweet Chestnut tree (T7).

NOT TO PREPARE A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

KD/24/00348/TCA Land East Of The Old Post Office Village Road Kirdford West Sussex

Notification of intention to fell 2 no. Hawthorn trees (T8 and T9) and crown raise by up to 2.5m (above ground level) on 1 no. Hawthorn tree (T10).

NOT TO PREPARE A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

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KD/24/00349/TCA Butts Common Village Road Kirdford West Sussex
Notification of intention to pollard down to 4m (above ground level) on 1 no. Poplar tree (T11).
NOT TO PREPARE A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

24/00005/DOM | Demolition of existing rear conservatory and construction of a replacement single storey extension. | 22 Townfield Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0LZ
PERMIT

23/01717/FUL | Replacement dwellinghouse (alternative scheme to class Q notice 19/00484/PA3Q and extant planning permission 20/00389/FUL). Construction of basement. | Lower Barn Skiff Lane Wisborough Green Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0AA
PERMIT

Enforcement Notices: None received

75. Village Hall Refurbishment

It was reported that grant application in progress with Chichester District Council for £12,000 infrastructure support towards the solar panels was successful.

Further quotes were being obtained for the new solar panels.

76. Great Common Pavilion Update

Chichester District Council had requested that a bat survey be undertaken. A quote had been received for £2,845 + VAT. It was agreed to approve this amount to progress the planning application.

77. Recreation Ground and Pavilion Upkeep – Update

Renovations to the Recreation Ground Pavilion had commenced on 11th March. It was hoped that the works would be completed in early June.

78. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies

There had been further correspondence with Highways regarding the flooding, but no update at present.

79. Footpaths/PRoWs

Councillor Vernon and Councillor Persson would undertake some footpath clearing in May.

80. Resilience working Group update

An initial meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 25th June at 7pm.

81. Junior Football

Representatives of Loxwood and Kirdford junior football were in attendance.

The Chair advised that all users of the grounds and pavilion were invited to attend meetings of the Recreation Ground Committee, but to date no representative from the junior football had attended.

They assured the Parish Council that they would attend future meetings.

82. Spring Clean/Litterpick

It was noted that litter collection equipment had been ordered from CDC for the village Spring clean arranged for Saturday 18th May.

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83. Health & Safety

It was noted that the Clerk had contacted Hyde regarding the twitten between Village Road and Townfield, but had not received a response to date.

84. Public Participation

Four members of the public were in attendance.

85. Date of next meeting: 20 May 2024 at 7.30pm

20 May
17 June
15 July

16 September
21 October
18 November

86. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

None.

87. Confidential Matters

None

Amanda Gillett 20.05.24
Chairman Date