

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Kirdford Village Hall on Monday 18th November 2024 at 7.30pm**

Present:
Cllr Mrs A Gillett
Cllr Mr T Brooks
Cllr Mr P Flint
Cllr N Goddard
Cllr Mr J Nicholls
Cllr Mr A Persson
Cllr T Piedade
Cllr Mr A Vernon

In attendance:

201. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Mr A Campbell (work commitment), Cllr Mrs J Duncton (holiday), Cllr C Todhunter (holiday), Cllr G Evans (personal commitment)

202. Disclosures of Interest:

None received

203. Public Participation:

There was one member of the public in attendance.

A member of the public informed the Parish Council they would be organising a Christmas tractor run to raise funds to go towards young people in the community and the Good News Club run by Tustin Chapel. The Parish Council agreed to provide refreshments to the participants and had hired the Village Hall for this.

204. Approval of Meeting Minutes

To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st October 2024 be signed as a correct record.

205. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Janet Duncton

I'm afraid that once again there are not a lot of local issues but all very general regarding County Council business.

Not least among these are the budget for 25/26.

We have had another workshop on the 25th October not so much to put our ideas forward but to listen and hopefully learn from the heads of departments and the Cabinet member for Finance and the Council Leader.

These are informative sessions for Councillors and on the whole very little that is for passing to the residents at the moment.

✓ AG

I've said it before and it's even more relevant at the moment it does not get any easier trying to make a balanced budget and keep the Services going many of which you know are Statutory and we have to produce in one way and another.

Well at the end of the session it does seem that the coming year we have or will have succeeded in balancing the books and not cutting Services but and it's a big but as yet we as back benchers don't know the cost of the new Employers NI contributions and what we do know is that it will cost us millions and we await to hear if Government money will come along to cover the extra expense. As ever we are all kept in suspense until, usually just before the Christmas break. We shall see.

On happier notes if I haven't said before I will now, our Children's Services go from strength to strength and when we have the final OFSTED I will let you know but it will probably be in the press before I write. It's looking good and as all Councillors are Corporate Parents it's very important to us that we succeed in looking after the young people of West Sussex as best we can.

I think I told you last month that our Fire Service had a very good HMI report where one of the only things we are behind on is recruiting our retained Fire & Rescue Staff.

If you know any young (ish) people who would be interested of any diverse range of people women as well as men please point them in the direction of the Fire & Rescue website.

Trading Standards have as ever been busy and in past reports I have told you how well they are doing with illicit products including illicit cigarettes and bringing the cases to Court also of course some who have been taking money for work that they should have done especially on peoples houses and not done the work or in some cases done it badly and taken large amounts of money. Trading Standards do catch up with them eventually.

I think most Parishes now have a winter Plan in place should we get adverse weather conditions which you never know so I am hoping that if bad weather including Snow and Ice occurs we are as prepared as we can be in our Parish's and the Highways generally. You just cannot predict what may come along but where as ready as can be.

SEND education has been a major issue in recent years and we are doing all we can including building new premises to cope with the numbers. There is another piece of fear that may or may not happen and that is if parents whose children were going into Private education and now with the VAT feel they can't do it and want places in State School we could, if this happens find ourselves with a shortage of places and this could especially affect SEND children. However that's jumping the gun somewhat as it hasn't happened as yet so it's watch this space.

At the other end of the age range West Sussex has one of the larger sections of self paying residents in care homes. Of course this concern is that when their money runs short they will then have to turn to County for their care.

In the meantime we are helping all we can to enable what the majority want and that is to stay in their own homes. You know from previous comments that the Fire & Rescue Service do a great many visits to peoples home giving advice on how to keep safe in their homes etc. There is more that can help to keep people in their own homes and it is best to contact the Adults Service department at County to see what help they can get.

Janet Dunton
County Councillor Petworth division
West Sussex County Council

✓ JAG

Clr Gareth Evans / Clr Charles Todhunter

Local Updates

Crouchlands Development – The appeal hearing has concluded. Thank you to all parish councillors and residents that spoke up for their community. We now await the planning inspectorate's decision and will update as soon as we have any indication as to when this is likely to be.

Lagoon 3 – We have written to the Director of Planning and Environment making note that it has been some time since we had an update on safety visits conducted at Lagoon 3. It was pointed out that this was managed by the Monitoring Officer and since they had left CDCs employment that responsibility had not been redistributed. We have been told that the Divisional Manager for Development and the Divisional Manager for Environment would be in touch shortly with an update.

Local Plan – The hearing will resume on the 13th November. Officers have commented that good progress has been made so far. After the hearings conclude, inspectors will write to the council in a post hearings letter. It will then be for council to consider any recommendations made by the inspectors at DPIP on 18th December.

It was noted by several parish councillors how impressed they had been with the interventions of members of Wisborough Green, Kirdford and Loxwood. Thank you from Charles and I for standing up for your communities.

CDC Wide Updates

Intermin Monitoring Officer – With Nick Bennett moving to another Local Authority CDC have appointed an interim monitoring officer called Mark Watkins whilst CDC recruit for this specialist role. Mark works Monday – Wednesday.

Full Council Meeting – The next full council meeting takes place on Tuesday 19th November from 6pm. This is live streamed and residents are also invited to attend in person.

National Lifelong Legend award – We are delighted that the current CDC Chair Clare Apel has been nominated for this award. Clare has spent early 40 years supporting her local communities as both a District and City Councillor. She is also a founder of the Chichester Holocaust Memorial day.

Surgeries

Clr. Gareth Evans is available to meet residents face to face via one of his regular surgeries. Gareth will be available at the advertised venues from 12pm-2pm:

Sat 2nd Nov - Northchapel club

Sat 16 Nov - The Onslow Arms Loxwood

Sat 18th Jan - Kirdford stores

Sat 1st Feb - Plaistow Stores

Sat 15th Feb - The Stag Inn, Balls across

Saturday 1st Mar - Old Mill Cafe, Wisborough Green

Should the suggested dates not be suitable for you or there are any other reasons preventing you from attending then it is possible to arrange home visits, telephone calls or zoom meetings.

Clr Gareth Evans

Clr Charles Todhunter

206. Correspondence

A resident outside of the parish had written to congratulate the Parish Council on the works undertaken on the fingerposts throughout the village.

✓ AG

A resident had written to mention the parking situation in Townfield and that on some occasions the pavements were blocked with vehicles.

207. Chairperson's Announcements

The Chair reported that John Nicholls had resigned. She thanked John for all his work over his term as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk would advertise the vacancy in due course.

The Chair thanked all councillors for their support during the year and particularly in some difficult times.

The Chair and Clerk attended an on-line course *Handling online abuse and intimidation for councillors* on Thursday 31 October.

The Chair asked that Cllr Brooks and Cllr Persson give some training to other councillors on undertaking playground inspections.

It was agreed to purchase dog waste signs for Great Common.

A Spring clean of the Village Hall loft area would be arranged for early in 2025.

208. Finance

- a) Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
- b) Summary of receipts and payments – this was approved
- c) Payments for approval – these were approved
- d) Review of Financial Regulations (new NALC model) – These were agreed

It was agreed to move £10k from the NatWest reserves account into the NatWest current account.

209. Planning

CDC Local Plan Update – there was no update at this time.

21/00466/OUT | Outline application (with all matter reserved except Access) for the development of up to 50 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 the number had reduced to 50 and a further extension of time was granted to 28th February 2025.

Decisions The following decisions were noted:

24/02103/PA6ABE | Proposed agricultural barn. | Land Adjacent To Kirdford Sewage Works Churchlands Farm Glasshouse Lane Kirdford West Sussex REFUSE

24/02046/DOM | Replacement of 2 no. detached ancillary barns with 1 no. ancillary annex. | Filliams Farm Plaistow Road Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 OJR PERMIT

210. Neighbourhood Plan – the outcome of the Local Plan was awaited.

211. South Downs National Park

A landscape study report had been commissioned from Terra Firma Consultancy.

✓ AG

212. Recreation Ground and Pavilion Upkeep – Update

Finishing touches were due to be complete in the next couple of weeks.

213. Great Common Pavillion Update

Natural England had submitted comments on the planning application and they had questioned the water neutrality report. These comments had been sent to the planner for review.

Quotations were being sought to install bollards in the entrance to the common.

214. Village Hall Refurbishment

A member of the Village Hall Committee reported that the battery for the solar panels was faulty and was awaiting a replacement.

215. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies

Leconfield had cleared a culvert belonging to them at the junction of Petworth Road and Plaistow Road.

216. Footpaths

It was noted that WS Highways had supported a resident in making improvements to footpaths adjoining their property for which they had responsibility.

217. Speed Limits Plaistow Road

Cllr Campbell was preparing a submission to Highways regarding the speed limits on Plaistow Road and Village Road. He had obtained supporting notes from local businesses and residents and was still awaiting input from others. Once the paperwork is completed it will be passed to Councillor Duncton in order to obtain her support.

218. First Aid Refresher Course

This course would be re-arranged for early Spring 2025.

219. CAGNE

It was agreed to provide £1k to CAGNE in support of the case against a new runway at Gatwick Airport.

220. Health & Safety

None to report.

221. Public Participation

No participation.

222. Date of next meeting: 20 January 2025 at 7.30pm

223. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

None raised.

✓ AG .

224. Confidential Matters

The Clerk left the meeting for this item. It was agreed that the Clerk would be awarded a 2.5% increase which will be backdated to 1st April 2024.

Amanda Gillett

Chairman

20.1.25

Date