

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Kirdford Chapel on Monday 17th January 2022 at 7.30pm**

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

In attendance:
Members of public: 1
Cllr J Duncton
Cllr G Evans
PCSO Neil Billingham
Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Mr D Gerrard due to work commitments.

2. Disclosures of Interest:

Cllr A Gillett and Cllr T Piedade declared an interest in item 15.
Cllr T Brooks declared an interest in item 12.

3. Public Participation:

PCSO Neil Billingham gave an update:

I would like to start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. I hope you all had a good and safe Christmas!

With the festivities over, we move into the less frenetic time of year before spring returns. It is a time many find hard to cope with, so please do keep an eye out for each other and don't be afraid to ask if they are OK!

Incidents of Note.

We have had a report of a break in to a storage unit with agricultural tools stolen.
PCSO Activity over the next month.

Patrols of the area are back on track and I will be out and about as much as possible. If there are any community events that are planned in the next few months, please do let me know and I will attend any that I can. I will look to bring our bicycle security marking kit along.

PCSO Billingham also reported that there had been speeding follow-ups which were prompted by community speed watches.

Cllr Goddard said that a resident had reported a dog running loose which had been reported previously for attacking other pets. PCSO Billingham said such incidents should be reported to him.

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4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

To resolve that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th November 2021 be signed as a correct record. Approved.

5. **Reports from District and County Councillors**

Cllr Janet Duncton

Some of the bits in this will not be relevant to every Parish but I hope you all find the general comments useful.

Of course for us Councillors a lot of our work slows down over the Christmas period but the work has to continue from both headquarters so be assured that all the Statutory duties Council has continues.

For all of us in the Southern Water area that have an interest in any development you will know the problems from Southern Water at Hardham. At the time of writing this has not been resolved and everyone including the South Downs National Park Authority are doing all they can to get clarification on this issue. You will find that the Chichester District Council website is probably the best place to get information if this item is of interest to you and your Parish. Like most things it changes daily.

At Chichester DC they now have a 5 year land supply and are busy working to-wards getting the draft revised Local Plan. Councillors have a briefing session coming up later this month but things are moving forward. We do of course have a local Plan but we must get the revised Plan done at our earliest.

It is important that these Plans are up to date because it means that developers cannot go straight to the Planning Inspectorate for decisions claiming there isn't an up to date Plan in place. It is so much better for Chichester to make the decision on Planning and putting their own conditions on the application.

As of the 7th January more than 8 out of 10 people in West Sussex have had their booster. Vaccination numbers soared after more hours and days were opened for those wanting vaccination and 150,000 completed vaccinations a week were given.

A crystal ball would be needed to find a time for us to go back to what we knew as normal but lets hope we are heading in the right direction.

The West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service has launched a public consultation around our proposals for our Community Risk Management Plan 2022 – 2026. You will find this on the West Sussex County Council website if you would like to contribute. The closing date is 21st January so it needs comments now.

For those in the Plaistow, Kirdford, Loxwood area that have, for a long time now been concerned over the Lagoon 3 at Crouchlands all I can say at the moment is that we are having ongoing information sessions but the problem is not going away and probably wont for some considerable time. I wish I had better news but I think it's what's called between a rock and a hard place. The owner it is believed cannot financially do the job and at the moment there is no one else that can or will. I hesitate to put a price on the emptying of the Lagoon and in the past prices have ranged from £500,000 to several million so who knows what the true figure is. What I do know is that if the Lagoon failed it would be catastrophic and for that reason we will continue to find a solution.

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As County & District Councillor I do my best to attend as many Parish Councils as possible. With 11 Parish's it's sometimes not possible to attend them all but I do find them a good source of information on the Parish and what's happening.

Of course it isn't the only way, I hope I know many who live in those Parish's and they are free to contact me but I do enjoy other means of meeting people especially the village lunches so very happy to try and attend when I know there is one on.

Janet Duncton
County Councillor Petworth division
Chichester District Councillor Loxwood ward

Cllr Gareth Evans

Local Updates

Loxwood Claypit Update

The applicant has been given more time to provide more evidence and then those that objected or commented will be notified so they can provide additional comments. It is not anticipated to be presented to the Planning Committee prior to March.

The additional information was placed onto WSCC portal last week.

Lagoon 3 update

On Tuesday 11th January 2022 I attended a meeting to update on the situation regarding Lagoon 3. These are meetings that I requested to take place following the lapse of the enforcement notice last year. This was attended by members of the Parish Council for Plaistow and Ifold and Kirdford. As well as Chichester District Council officers, it was also attended by a member of the Environmental Agency.

This report reflects updates that were given by Emergency Planning, Environment Agency, and Planning.

Emergency Planning update from Alison Stevens, Divisional Manager for Environment

- There are two multi-agency visits each year. The last one took place on the 9th September 2021 and was attended by CDC, The Environment Agency and West Sussex County Council's Emergency Planning Team. The next site inspection will take place in March 2022
- The visit noted that there was no activity at the site, however prior to the visit landowner has taken a sample of the lagoon's content.
- The inspection noted that there was a small gas leak where they think the sample had been taken on the South-West side of the bund. This was tested during the site visit. The leak did not register on the gas alarm, with one bubble per minute or less recorded. It was concluded that this did not pose any risk.
- CDC have contacted WSCC Public Rights of Way team about reopening the footpaths around the lagoon and await a reply. If they are to reopen a multi-agency visit would be conducted

Environment Agency (EA) update from Michael Turner

- The EA consider that the Lagoon could contain potentially polluting material and the contents pose a risk. They have served a notice to the landowner to remove the contents.

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- The dam structure is inspected by an experienced engineer on a regular basis who believes the risk of spillage is low.
- The EA is working with CDC in relation to enforcement, but the EA is responsible for protecting the local environment and support/permit removal of the lagoon's contents.
- Disposal is the landowner's decision. It could be via land spreading, either locally or nationally. Other removal/disposal options include to a wastewater treatment works, or an anaerobic digestion plant.
- Spreading of the lagoon's contents on land is done via an environmental permit which the EA issues. This requires a Mobile Plant Permit who would have to demonstrate to the EA that the waste is suitable for spreading on land.
- Should there not be a suitable generic Mobile Plant Permit to manage the material, a separate application for a bespoke permit can be sought by the EA. The content of Lagoon 3 might not qualify for spreading under a generic permit and could require a bespoke permit. It is up to the applicant to decide which permit is needed; the EA then agrees or disagrees with the applicants' view.
- The EA could require a public consultation before permitting which they believe may be the case in regards to Lagoon 3.

Planning Issues update from Tony Whitty - Divisional Manager for Development Management

- CDC are putting pressure on the landowner via communication seeking regular updates; and are also pursuing legal action via the Courts for the lapsed enforcement notice with lagoon 3 still in situ
- CDC await evidence from the EA, which will then enable them to proceed with the prosecution.
- The Court evidence bundle has been prepared and subject to obtaining further evidence from the EA, the matter is with CDC's barristers.

The next meeting is expected to take place in April and I will update as soon as I have further information

Chichester District Council Updates

Climate Change

In January, CDC will be launching some new communications around energy efficiency measures people can take in their homes. CDC have developed a range of messages and visuals which councils across the county also intend to use. CDC will update you further in the New Year.

Test and Trace Support Scheme

The Test and Trace Support Scheme (which pays eligible residents up to £500 to self-isolate) has been extended up to 31 March 2022. For further information please visit <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances>

Household Support Fund (HSF)

Vulnerable households across the country will be able to access a new £500m support fund to help them with essentials over the coming months as the country continues its recovery from the pandemic.

The Household Support Fund will be distributed via WSCC in a similar format to how they distributed winter grant funding in response to the pandemic last year. WSCC received £4.8 million to support low income and financially vulnerable households across West Sussex over the winter

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period, specifically from 6 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. The expectation of the fund is to deliver support to households most in need with practical support in paying for food, energy and water bills. However, the fund is sufficiently flexible to allow it to be used in a variety of ways to support households facing financial hardship over the winter period.

WSCC decided to extend the free school meals provision for families across West Sussex. Every child entitled to a free school meal will receive a supermarket food voucher with a value of £20 for October and February half terms, with a £40 voucher being provided over the two-week Christmas holiday. These children will also get a £50 fuel voucher to support with the rising costs of utilities. These vouchers are distributed per child, therefore families with more than one school aged child entitled to free school meals will get additional support. These vouchers can be used at all major supermarkets and the fuel vouchers can be used with most energy suppliers; these will be distributed via schools.

After this distribution WSCC have around £1.9 million left to distribute to other household types across West Sussex. This support can be accessed via the HUB at WSCC. However, officers at CDC and the other WSCC Districts & Boroughs can make professional referrals to the service. These can be made where a customer that we are working with is identified as someone who requires some additional support with food and fuel. This will be through the Benefits, Housing and Communities Teams predominantly. CDC have also received a supply of food vouchers in denominations of £25 to be distributed to people who present with an immediate need for support with food.

For further information in the meantime please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-500m-support-forvulnerable-households-over-winter>

Chichester Local Plan Area – 5 Year Housing Land Supply 2021 – 2026

The updated position as at 1 April 2021 has now been published on the Council's website <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/24661/Housing-land-supply>.

This demonstrates a housing land supply of 5.3 years. Also published is a Critical Friend Review completed by Lambert Smith Hampton, who were commissioned by the council to review the draft position statement and to also prepare evidence to support the council's position

CDC Staffing changes

Starters

Dainah Websdale – Waste Services Officer (Maternity Cover) –
CCS Nicola Hussey – Recycling Projects Officer –
CCS Sarah Cook – Admin Assistant – Parking Services
Dale Gomez – Team Leader – Customer Services
Linda Kennedy – Customer Services Officer – Customer Services
Kerry Burton-Barker – Social Prescriber (Maternity Cover) - Wellbeing

Leavers

Sally Davis – Accountancy Assistant – Finance
Linda Grange – Divisional Manager – Housing
Stephanie Evans – Environmental Co-Ordinator – Environmental Strategy

Surgery Dates 2022

Saturday 22nd January 2022 – The Half Moon, Northchapel 12pm – 2pm
Saturday 5th February 2022 – Plaistow Stores, Plaistow 11am – 1pm
Saturday 19th February 2022 – Location TBC, Wisborough Green 11am – 1pm
Saturday 5th March 2022 – The Stag Inn, Balls Cross 12pm – 2pm

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Saturday 19th March 2022 – The Onslow Arms, Loxwood 12pm- 2pm

6. Correspondence

It was noted that correspondence had been received from a resident enquiring about fibre broadband. Cllr Books would make contact.

7. Chairperson's Announcements

The Chair and Councillors offered their thanks to the Chapel for allowing KPC to use the facilities over the last year. A sum of £100 in payment was agreed.

It was agreed to undertake an independent wildlife survey to assist in the future neighbourhood planning process.

8. COVID-19 Update

It was noted that ward numbers were receding.

9. 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. Precept budget 2022/23 – this was approved.

10. Planning:

It was noted that no new planning applications had been received.

Enforcement Notices

None received.

Decisions

None received.

11. SDNPA Call for Nature Sites

Four sites had been identified as call for nature sites and an application form had been submitted to South Downs National Park Authority.

12. Townfield Meadows

It was noted that this application was likely to be considered by the CDC Planning Committee on 2nd February 2022. KPC's representations had been submitted to CDC on 15th January 2022.

13. Planning Enforcement / TPOs

A number of requests had been submitted to CDC during the past year. No correspondence had been received from CDC regarding these requests and it was agreed that they would be contacted for an update.

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