

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Kirdford Village Hall on Tuesday 22nd April 2025 at 7.30pm**

Present:

Cllr Mrs A Gillett
Cllr Mr T Brooks
Cllr Mr P Flint
Cllr Mrs N Goddard
Cllr Mr A Persson
Cllr Mr T Piedade

In attendance: Cllr Mr C Todhunter, Cllr Mrs J Duncton

295. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Mr A Campbell (prior commitment), Cllr Mr A Vernon (prior commitment)

296. Disclosures of Interest:

Cllr Mr T Brooks as a neighbouring property of Land West Of Cornwood Townfield.

297. Public Participation:

There was one member of the public in attendance.

298. Approval of Meeting Minutes

To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th March 2025 be signed as a correct record.

299. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Janet Duncton

It's going to be difficult over the coming months not to give you overload on the subject of devolution because as you can imagine it is taking quite a lot of work and discussion. We have had a short amount of time to sort things out and of course it's not all sorted yet. Except of course we know the Government has accepted a pan Sussex Mayoral strategic authority so all the discussion at the moment is regarding what sort of Unitary local Government there will be and I know many meetings are taking place to sort this out and to confirm both County District and Borough Councils disappear at the end of April 2028.

Regarding elections it's also an unknown except of course for by elections.

So far as you all know this May's County elections are cancelled so we await to see what Government will do in 2026 when the Mayoral elections will take place and then of course the Unitary elections in 2027 when County/Borough/Districts will not be the shadow authority's but for the final year up to May 2028 we become the shadow authority's. What all this will mean I will let you know in later months when we have a clearer idea.

Back to County work which of course carries on as normal with all our responsibilities being taken care of.

Now back to what's happening.

First of all I am happy to announce that the County is still supporting funding for the funding of Community food hubs in West Sussex. For those of you who don't know about them UK Harvest collects from such sources as Supermarkets that produce that they waste and for £5 anyone can attend their sessions and have their pick of the food on offer which consists of good fresh quality products.

Your nearest hub is the Sylvia Beaufoy Centre on the Midhurst Road in Petworth. You will need to check what date they are there and as I said anyone can use this service just turn up and for £5 get your choice from what's on offer. I recommend using them.

The adult learning team have had success helping people with their numeracy skills which must be an advantage.

A recent contract has been signed with the Service that enables residents to live independently for long in their own homes.. This helps the elderly and includes those with learning disabilities or mental health needs as well as older people.

Finally in the past I have assured you all that our Childrens Services have improved out of all recognition in the last few years including the improvements to our Childrens homes. Our initiative 'Childrens Homes Collaborative Partnerships' ca the MJ Achievements Awards 2025 has been shortlisted as a finalist.

Janet Duncton
County Councillor Petworth division
West Sussex County Council

Cllr Gareth Evans / Cllr Charles Todhunter

Local Updates

Parking issues (Loxwood School) – A resident has contacted Charles and I asking for something to be done about the parking and dangerous driving around Loxwood School. I have agreed on Saturday 5th April to meet but raised the limitations of our powers at District Council level to get this resolved.

Townfield – Due to come to planning committee in April but was withdrawn due to new surface water flooding maps being released by the EA. Likely to come back to committee in June.

Annex Council Tax Premium – Charles has been supporting a resident in Ifold to resolve an issue with their council tax premium which was applied to their annex.

Loxwood Joust – Charles and I attended a site visit with the owners of the Loxwood Joust to hear about plans this summer. It was great to see the site and hear about how they plan to run things this summer. Wonderful to have this community event returning for another year.

CDC Wide Updates

Planning and infrastructure bill – On 11th March the Government published the Planning and infrastructure bill. The headlines from the Government's statement that accompanied the bill are as follows:

- Home and infrastructure to be built faster
- Energy security to be bolstered, with Britain becoming a clean energy superpower
- the Bill is key to building 1.5 million homes and driving up living standards
- the bill will speed up decision making and remove unnecessary blocks to delivery

Local plan - The local plan examination is continuing. Following receipt of the post-hearing letter from the inspectors, which outlined the key changes necessary to make the Plan sound, the Planning Policy Team are taking the Main modifications to the Local Plan 2021-2039 to cabinet on the 1st April and to full council on 8th April for approval to go out to consultation.

Surgeries

Cllr. Gareth Evans runs regular surgeries across Loxwood Ward which are available for all residents to attend. If the suggested dates do not work then home visits and telephone/video calls are also available:

Saturday 10th May 12-2pm Ifold Stores, Ifold
Saturday 24th May 12 – 2pm The Onslow, Loxwood
Saturday 7th June 12-2pm Kirdford Stores, Kirdford

Cllr Gareth Evans
Cllr Charles Todhunter

300. Correspondence

None

301. Chairperson's Announcements

The Chair said that there would be a celebration to mark the renovation of the pavilion on 30th May, 6-8pm and all Councillors were invited.

The Chair reported that there was a councillor vacancy and this had been advertised.

It was agreed that the Spring Clean would be deferred until later in the year due to the disturbance at Great Common.

302. Finance

- a) Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
- b) Summary of receipts and payments – this was approved
- c) Payments for approval – these were approved
- d) Grant Application – Kirdford PCC – this was agreed in the sum of £1500 for the upkeep of the Churchyard
- e) Grant Application – Kirdford Cricket Club – this was agreed in the sum of £369.42 for replacement nets
- f) KSS Air Ambulance. A donation was agreed in the sum of £400
- g) 4Sight Vision. A donation was agreed in the sum of £325.

Cllr Brooks stated that next years Allocated Funds budget had to be reduced, due to the end of year balance 24/25 - the Great Common Pavilion budget was reduced to £135,834.97 - it is hoped to top it back up again from any CIL payments and other non-precept income – this was agreed by the Councillors.

303. Planning

CDC Local Plan Update – no update.

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

SDNP/25/01007/FUL | Proposed lean-to storage unit. | The Old Coach House Hawkhurst Court Kirdford West Sussex RH14 0HS - Expiry 18 April – comment submitted under KPC Scheme of Delegation 11.04.25.

25/00717/PA3Q | Prior Notification application for change use of agricultural building with associated operational development at Slifehurst Wood Farm from agricultural use to residential use (C3) to provide 1 no. dwelling. | Slifehurst Wood Farm Scratching Lane Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0JN.

The Parish Council objected to this application. There are no Water Neutrality calculations / mitigations provided.

There appears to be no evidence to support the agricultural claims in this application
There appears to be no evidence that support any agricultural activity on the farm since 2009
Publicly available information clearly evidences industrial level activities at the farm.

The application is incomplete with no WN report or HRA.

KD/25/00800/FUL - Minor Dev – Dwellings. Replacement dwellinghouse (alternative scheme to class Q notice 19/00484/PA3Q and extant planning permission 20/00389/FUL). Construction of basement (Variation of condition 2 from planning permission KD/23/01717/FUL - Alterations to the screens/shutters to the permitted fenestration. Chandlers Barn, Skiff Lane, Wisborough Green, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 0AA

This application had been withdrawn.

SDNP/25/01184/APNB Agricultural Prior Notification Building. Proposed Barn. 16 April 2025 (notified planning permission required).

It was noted that this would require planning permission and an application would need to be submitted.

SDNP/25/01430/LIS | Single-storey extension to existing garden room with roof lights. | Stroods A272 Croucham Lane To Linfold Road Strood Green Kirdford West Sussex RH14 0HL

No objection in principle. No bat surveys have been undertaken at the site.

SDNP/25/00804/HOUS | Proposed first floor side extension, integral garage conversion, replacement of existing conservatory with single storey extension and timber summerhouse in rear garden. | Bartholomew Hurst Glasshouse Lane Kirdford West Sussex RH14 0LN – expiry 12 May 2025

No objection in principle. Water savings should be monitored

Decisions The following decisions were noted:

KD/24/00073/FUL - Sports Field Plaistow Road Kirdford West Sussex RH14 0JR
Proposed sports pavilion. PERMIT

KD/25/00194/DOM - High Barn Farm Plaistow Road Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0JS
Construction of single-storey extension (north elevation) as an alternative to approved under KD/22/00758/DOM. PERMIT

Enforcement Notice – none received.

304. Great Common Pavilion Update

It was agreed to obtain drawings and specifications for the new pavilion. It was intended to split the construction into three phases.

Groundworks – including harvesting tank

Structure

Fit out

305. Village Hall Refurbishment

No update.

306. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies

No update.

307. Footpaths

No update.

308. Speed Limits Plaistow Road

No update.

309. CAGNE – Gatwick Update

CAGNE had asked that a donation be made towards the costs of fighting development of Gatwick runways. It was agreed to contribute £1,000 towards this.

310. VE Day Celebrations

The afternoon tea planned for 10th May had been advertised cake donations requested.

311. Health & Safety

Great Common had been unusable since 5th April as travellers had made an illegal encampment on the football pitches. A heavy duty padlock and chain had been removed and newly installed bollards cut to gain access to the common.

KPC were liaising with Leconfield and the Police.

312. Public Participation

No participation.

313. Date of next meeting: 19 May 2025 at 7.30pm

314. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

None raised.

315. Confidential Matters

Great Common health and safety issues.

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Chairman

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Date