

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

Present:
Cllr Mrs A Gillett
Cllr Mr T Brooks
Cllr N Goddard
Cllr Mr A Persson
Cllr A Vernon

In attendance:
Cllr C Todhunter

44. Apologies for Absence: Cllr J Nicholls, Cllr M Osborne, Cllr A Campbell, Cllr T Piedade

45. Public Participation:

One member of the public was in attendance.

46. Disclosures of Interest:

Cllr A Persson declared an interest in planning application 24/00192/DOM as a relative of the applicant.

47. Approval of Meeting Minutes

To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th February 2024 be signed as a correct record.

48. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Janet Duncton

Well, the wettest February and not sure that March is much better so let's hope for better weather before long. I mention this because talking with Highways it has made life so very difficult with many more highways problems than is normal and we won't mention Potholes but we have had slipping Banks and trees falling across highways because in some cases their roots have nothing firm left to cling on to. I am sorry to say that along with Staff shortages this has made everything take longer and where I normally say that we hope from 21 days of me reporting a problem it will be dealt with I cannot at this moment in time be at all sure that this will happen. I know they are working hard to try and keep up to speed but I fear we may be waiting longer to get jobs done. Here's hoping I'm wrong but don't think I am.

We recently had a Fire and Rescue scrutiny committee and this is where we can see what is happening and scrutinise to see if things are going in the right direction or not. Well on a happier note I can tell you that in this Service they are going very well. Just one or two issues that are not yet resolved but still doing well. One of these issues is the time to get to incidents which is in the main pretty good but sometimes and it is sometimes there are not enough Officers to send a Tender out and this is usually in the retained Stations not because they are not well trained but because say someone could not get to the Station or Officers are on holiday, it can be a myriad of reasons but I'm glad to say quite rare. There has to be at least 4 on the Fire Tender. In one part of the Service we are exceeding expectations and that is going out to people's homes and talking about safety issues.

While on this subject as ever we are always looking for people that would like to become Firemen/women and if there is an interest this is a good way to start by becoming a retained

✓ AG.

Fireman/woman. Some of our full time Fire Officers also remain in the retained Service in their area which is very helpful.

Many of you are in or close to the South Downs National Park so a word about that.

I think I said we are looking for a new Chief Executive and that process is now underway. Could be wrong of course but it is expected that there will be a huge number of applicants for this position and it could well be that a new Chief Executive will not be in place before say August. In the meantime we have a very good interim Chief Executive officer and an excellent interim Chief Planning Officer so everything is going along with very competent Officers.

While still on the SDNP we have had our first workshop on the next South Downs local Plan which you will know is the Planning document. Government is setting some new rules for how these are produced in the future and so far all I can see is a lot of hard work, but we had an award winning Local Plan last time and I see no reason why it won't be the same in the future.

One of my passions for the South Downs is to make it accessible for all and this includes making paths etc suitable for say mobility Scooter, buggies etc or anything that could make it usable for the disabled to get into the Downs. I am also very keen that we try and involve the younger generation in the South Downs and countryside generally. You hear people complain about gates left open and rubbish left about and as awful as this is I do think some knowledge and education generally about how people are expected to behave in the countryside can't start too early in life and getting out in the fresh air is good for so many of the issues that seem to trouble so many with mental health issues. I'm sure it could be beneficial.

Budgets are set and at County our budget balances without any cuts to Services but it's not been easy. However it's done for now and we've already started looking at 2025/6.

Here's to a good late Spring and Summer for us all. Keep well.
Janet Duncton, County Councillor Petworth division

Cllr Gareth Evans / Cllr Charles Todhunter

Local Updates

Lagoon 3 – The applicant has appealed the court decision back in January. This led to the cancellation of the meeting between CDC, EA, Parish Councillors and District Councillors in February. We are awaiting an update as to next steps from the legal team at CDC.

We can report though that there was a multi-agency meeting in February between CDC and EA.

We also wrote to the EA to raise concerns regarding finding out about information regarding leaks at the lagoon second hand.

EA responded to us and said:

- There was a leak, and they are grateful to the member of the public that reported it.
- Minimal impact on environment
- Elevated levels of ammonia in nearby water course. Said to be low risk to water environment and they continue to monitor.
- Lagoon owner present when EA visited at their request. He commenced works to stop the leak adopting similar method to that done in 2022
- They admit whilst the lagoon is in situ it poses a risk to the environment which is why they want the lagoon removed.

✓ AG

- They will continue to work in coordination with CDC continually reviewing the multi-agency emergency plan.
- The emergency number if members of public notice leak or anything of concern is 0800 807060
- Remind members of the public to stay on open public rights of way in the vicinity of the lagoon

Flood in Loxwood – With the heavy downpour several residents have contacted me regarding the flood on the Guildford road in Loxwood. Therefore just flagging this again. We have contacted WSCC and Gillian Keegan. It has now been prioritised for a CCTV survey to inspect the drainage system and ascertain why it has failed.

Hollyview Close – A couple of residents visited me from Pond Copse Lane in my recent surgery to complain about the lack of tree coverage which was promised. We will be writing to enforcement to follow up on this. We have also been asked about ownership of the ditch on Pond Copse Lane so will be seeking to establish this as well.

Crouchlands Farm Planning Application – All Crouchland applications to be reconsulted on. We are awaiting the return of the planning officer who is on sick leave for clarification.

CDC Wide Updates

Budget Meeting Held on Tuesday 27th February:

Community Focused funding – investing in community centre projects including the Selsey Sea Wall, Think Family Worker in the Bournes and Supporting You Services

£586,000 invested into Council Reserves for future community projects

Boosting events strategy including Markets, Cultural Events and Night Time experiences across Chichester District

Protecting the environment – Supporting the Chichester Harbour and Adaption Strategy and focusing on sustainable growth and bio-diversity

Meeting your District Councillors:

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

Saturday 2nd March Loxwood (Onslow)

Saturday 16th March Northchapel (Mens Club)

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.

49. Correspondence

None received.

50. Chairperson's Announcements

It was noted that Kirdford Open Gardens would be taking place on 8th and 9th June.

✓ AG

51. Finance

- a) Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
- b) Monthly summary report – this was approved
- c) Payments for approval – these were approved
- d) The Asset Register was reviewed, and it was agreed the following changes be made to the asset register:
 - i. Removal of the Village Hall – after review of the Trust Covenant document, the property and buildings are owned by the trust, therefore should not be on the Parish Council Asset Register – the Trust must ensure that the building is sufficiently insured, the Parish Council can then remove it from their insurance.
 - ii. Removal of the Recreation Ground, Pavilion and other structures – after review of the covenant the land and structures are owned by the Recreation Ground Trust, therefore these should be removed from the Parish Council Asset Register and the Recreation Ground Trust must ensure that there is sufficient insurance to cover these structures.
- e) A small grant in the sum of £220 was agreed to 4Sight Vision who support members of the Parish.

52. Planning

CDC Local Plan Update

There was no update.

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 there may be a further extension of time to June 2024 as the HRA and ecology reports were out of date as they were over 3 years old.

KD/24/00235/TCA - Case Officer: Henry Whitby

Lisa Trownson - 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).

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

KD/24/00347/TCA - Case Officer: Henry Whitby

Lisa Trownson - 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).

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

KD/24/00348/TCA - Case Officer: Henry Whitby

Lisa Trownson - 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).

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

KD/24/00349/TCA - Case Officer: Henry Whitby

Lisa Trownson - Butts Common Village Road Kirdford West Sussex

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Notification of intention to pollard down to 4m (above ground level) on 1 no. Poplar tree (T11).

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

24/00192/DOM | Replace existing conservatory with orangery. | Hollands Heath Farm Plaistow Road Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0JU

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

Kirdford

KD/24/00356/DOM Yew Tree Cottage Glasshouse Lane Kirdford Billingshurst
Replace existing conservatory glass roof with slate roof.

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

KD/24/00403/FUL - Land North Of 1 Thornhouse Cottages Scratching Lane Kirdford Billingshurst.
Erection of agricultural shed.

The Parish Council objected to this application and as there does not appear to be a justification for erecting this building and no need or purpose been established. The Parish Council was concerned that this could be an initial step towards an eventual Class Q application.

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

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

Decisions

KD/23/02716/ELD Great Slifehurst Farm Scratching Lane Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0JN.
Use of land as part of the domestic garden land to the dwelling at Great Slifehurst Farm. **REFUSE**

KD/23/02905/PA14J - Chair Village Hall Management Com. Kirdford Village Hall Village Road Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0ND
Installation of array of 30 no. solar photovoltaic panels on south facing roof slope.
PRIOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED & HEREBY REFUSED

Enforcement Notices: None received

53. Village Hall Refurbishment

It was reported that an Independent Energy Assessment grant application made by the Village Hall Committee had been unsuccessful. There was a further grant application in progress with Chichester District Council for infrastructure support towards the solar panels.

Further quotes were being obtained for the new roof tiles.

The fire alarm system installation was awaited.

54. Great Common Pavilion Update

The planning application had been submitted to Chichester District Council and validated.

55. Recreation Ground and Pavilion Upkeep – Update

Renovations to the Recreation Ground Pavilion had commenced on 11th March.

✓ AG

56. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies

Cllr Persson had reported the large pothole at Foxbridge Lane on 5 occasions. WS Highways said they had prioritised this work, but to date it had not been fixed.

Cllr Todhunter reported that Cllr Duncton had also reported this to WS Highways and it was classed as an emergency repair.

57. Footpaths/PRoWs

To date no application had been notified to the Parish Council regarding the re-siting of the footpath at Boxall Stud.

A representative of Henry Adams advised that it was necessary for all parties to agree (PC, Ramblers) before an application could be submitted to WS Highways. KPC questioned this process as a Parish Council was not considered to be a decision maker in any planning matters. The Parish Council still objected to this footpath being relocated.

It was noted that the Twitten linking Village Road to Townfield had become very uneven and there were many trip hazards along the footpath. Hyde would be contacted for remedial action.

Cllr Vernon reported that the volunteers approached to assist with the footpath clearing did not have any machinery available to use. It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider hiring a flail to assist with the path clearing.

58. Resilience working Group update

There was no update. A further meeting was to be arranged for the Summer.

59. D-Day 80th Anniversary.

It was agreed that due to the fact that this was on a weekday, no celebrations would be organised. A D-Day celebration flag had been purchased for the Village Hall flagpole.

60. Spring Clean/Litterpick

It was agreed that the village Spring clean would be arranged for Saturday 18th May.

61. Health & Safety

It was noted that the electricity poles servicing the Orchard Park development were not finished properly at ground level and the footpath had not been repaired.

62. Public Participation

One member of the public were in attendance.

63. Date of next meeting: 15 January 2024 at 7.30pm - to be held at the Chapel

15 April
20 May
17 June

15 July
16 September
21 October
18 November

64. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

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None.

65. Confidential Matters

None

Amanda Gilbert 15.4.24.
Chairman Date