

LISS PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 15th January 2017.

Members

* Mr R Hargreaves (Chairman), *Mr K Budden, *Mr D Dodds, *Mrs S Halstead, *Mr D Jerrard, *Mr H Linsley, *Mr F MacNamara, *Mrs L McDonald, *Mr B Mayo, *Ms K O'Malley, *Mr A Smith & *Ms A Wright.

* Present

Clerk: S. Smith

In attendance: County Councillor Mr R Oppenheimer, District Councillor Mrs L Pienaar and one member of the press.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

01/18 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Councillor Mr M Kendall.

02/18 Declarations of interests

Cllr Smith declared an interest as regards budgetary issues given his relationship with the Clerk.

03/18 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Sarah Smith was now sole Clerk to the Council;
- Dick Bowery was no longer Joint Clerk to the Council but would remain as Responsible Financial Officer until his retirement later in the year;
- The new accessible toilet project was complete.

04/18 Adjournment for public participation

There were no members of the public present.

05/18 Report from County Councillor

A written report had been submitted by County Councillor Mr Oppenheimer (attached).

He highlighted three areas:

- 1) That the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement issued on 19 December 2017 provided for a maximum council tax increase of 5.99% without a referendum which was an extra 1% . He thought it likely that HCC would go for the full increase in order to maintain the level of services. Police and Crime Commissioners could also levy an increased rate of £12 (7.25% for Hampshire and IOW).
- 2) That a consultation was underway on forming a schools federation between Liss Infant and Liss Junior schools. HCC would continue to work with the schools and provide governor support. Cllr Oppenheimer encouraged LPC to feed in any views by the deadline of 26 February 2018.
- 3) That the 25-Year Environment Plan "A Green Future" launched this month included a commitment to a major review of National Parks. This would provide an opportunity to address important issues such as sustainability.

06/18 Reports from District Councillors

District Councillor Laetitia Pienaar announced that Roy Caudrey, Trustee and Secretary of the Liss Community Association, had regrettably passed away. Funeral arrangements would be provided upon request. Cllr Pienaar advised that the district councillor grant for Liss In Bloom had been processed to cover the costs of additional baskets. A successful visit to Rother House had taken place to consider grant funding for additional activities. District councillor grants for the financial year had now all been allocated. Lastly Cllr Pienaar advised

that the crime report from the CCTG showed a downward trend in Liss in recent months with incidents involving theft from vehicles and criminal damage.

District Councillor Keith Budden reported concerns from Liss Forest residents about people riding motorbikes on the Longmoor side of the Riverside Walk; he encouraged anyone who heard anything to let him know.

07/18 Minutes of the meeting of 18th December 2017

Subject to a couple of small amendments, the minutes of the Council meeting of 18th December 2017, proposed by Cllr Linsley and seconded by Cllr Smith, were agreed unanimously.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 18th December 2017 be accepted as a correct record subject to the amendments proposed.

08/18 Matters Arising

- i) Minute 160/17: Lych Gate – Cllr Budden advised that there had been no progress but that he would continue to pursue the matter.
- ii) Minute 176/17: EHDC Collection Timetables- Cllr Budden reported that he was due to meet the portfolio holder on 18th January.
- iii) Minute 182/17: Drainage on Hill Brow Road – Cllr Oppenheimer reported that HCC had removed some obstructions through water jetting which should improve the situation. Cllr O’Malley would continue to monitor and flag any issues as necessary.
- iv) Minute 181/17: CIL Motion – Cllr Halstead noted the need to submit the agreed revision to the CIL priority list to the SDNPA.
- v) Minute 174/17: CALA Consultations – Cllr Dodds raised the need for an agreed position on the acquisition of green spaces.

Resolved: That a meeting be convened between the Chairman and the Chairs of Grounds and Planning Committees to prepare some general principles on the acquisition of green space.

09/18 Responsible Finance Officer’s Report (attached) The Responsible Finance Officer’s report was discussed and the Clerk responded to questions raised.

Resolved: That the payments and receipts recorded in Responsible Finance Officer’s Report, proposed by Cllr Mayo and seconded by Cllr O’Malley, be approved.

10/18 Correspondence

10/18(i) HALC consultation on update to Code of Practice on FOI Act – Review Committee would agree a response via e-mail to submit by the 2nd February deadline.

10/18(ii) Invitation to South East Employers' Training Sessions at EHDC – This had been circulated for cllrs to express an interest. The Chairman encouraged new cllrs to consider.

10/18(iii) West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan: proposed Modifications – The Planning Committee would consider and respond as necessary by the 9th March deadline.

11/18 Reports of Committees

Liss Pavilion Development Committee

Resolved: The draft minutes of the Liss Pavilion Development Committee of 10th January 2018 be noted. The Chairman gave a review of the minutes and highlighted that planning permission had been granted with some conditions attached.

Finance Committee

Resolved: The draft minutes of the Finance Committee of 8th January 2018 be noted. The Chairman highlighted that the main focus was on agreeing the budget for 2018/19 which would be considered under the following agenda item. Finance Committee had also agreed the schedule of charges for 2018/19. The Chairman noted the financial control issues arising from the new pavilion.

12/18 Consideration of precept for 2018/19

Cllr Wright advised that the proposed 9.59% increase in the budget was in part due to the loss of the council tax support grant which accounted for 4.62% of the rise, and also due to a prudent increase to allow the pavilion project to proceed, should the community support the project.

The Chairman proposed the motion: ‘That Liss Parish Council agrees to adopt a precept budget of £202,690 for the financial year 2018/19’. This was seconded by Cllr Budden and unanimously approved.

13/18 Matters of Concern

Cllr Halstead advised that the Historical Society had expressed an interest in assisting with the Village of the Year event in September 2018.

Resolved: That a sub-group be set up to commence preparations, comprising Cllrs Halstead, Budden, McDonald and the Clerk.

Cllr Wright also noted that 2018 would see the anniversary of the Great War and whether LPC should contribute. Suggestions included cleaning of the war memorial(s) and tree planting. However it was unclear as to whether the war memorial at Rake Village Hall had been moved from West Sussex or Hampshire (Clerk’s note: The memorial was moved from West Sussex but now fell within Liss).

Resolved: That the Clerk enquire about plans of the British Legion.

Cllr Linsley expressed disappointment that the Community Forum scheduled for 16th January had been cancelled noting that cancellation of these important public meetings happened fairly regularly.

Cllr Linsley questioned the reasoning behind the change to official LPC e-mail addresses. The Clerk advised that a full explanation had been circulated in January 2017. Cllr Mayo also expressed concerns about the way in which this had been handled. The Clerk pointed out that full guidance on how to make the change had been circulated a year ago when the change had been introduced.

Resolved: That the Clerk re-circulate the material required.

14/18 Reports on Outside Bodies

Cllr Jerrard expressed some concern about a rise in crime figures reported at the CCTG, in particular relating to domestic burglaries. He also noted that Speed Watch volunteers were not feeling fully supported by the police. The Chairman noted that speeding was a concern in Liss Forest but traffic problems also reflected a number of other factors.

15/17 Exclusion of the press and public

Resolved: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the remaining business.

185/17 Exempt item: Appointment of the Responsible Finance Officer

The Chairman advised that the position would be advertised shortly to provide a period of handover with the current RFO, Dick Bowery, who was due to retire at the end of March 2018.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.53 hrs

Next meeting: Monday 19th February 2018 19.30hrs