

## LISS PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

### 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, Mr N Wilson & \*Ms A Wright.

\* Present, in addition to County Cllr (CC) Russell Oppenheimer, District Cllr (DC) Mike Kendall and one member of the press

Clerk: S. Smith

### 137/18 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Cllrs Mayo and Wilson. Members noted that District Councillor Mrs Laetitia Pienaar had also sent apologies.

### 138/18 Declarations of interests

None declared at this point.

### 139/18 Chairman's announcements

There were no announcements to be made aside from a matter of housekeeping.

### 140/18 Adjournment for public participation

With no members of the public present, it was agreed that no period of adjournment was required.

### 141/18 Report from County Councillor

County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer presented his report (see Annex A).

Cllr Oppenheimer agreed to forward further details of the new Parish and Town Council Investment Fund of £500,000 in due course, including details of a relevant website due to go live, to enable LPC to consider whether it could make use of the fund.

Cllr Oppenheimer encouraged any Members to feedback any particular matters of public concern, given Cllr Oppenheimer's capability to set up working groups on matters of concern to the public as Chair of the HCC Economy, Transport and Environmental Committee. Members welcomed in particular the Working Group on Plastic Recycling which would aim to reduce plastic waste, increase recycling opportunities and information for residents.

### 142/18 Reports from District Councillors

Cllr Kendall presented his report which focused on progress of the Flood Action Group (see Annex B).

With the approaching winter weather, Cllr Kendall encouraged the reporting of tree trunks in the River Rother to the Environment Agency emergency hotline on 0800 807060 to help prevent flooding of the River Rother.

Cllr Wright enquired about the clearance of ditches and culverts and Cllr Kendall responded that the Highways Authority assess the need for clearance of main culverts and ditches and that the Flood Action Group work to identify any issues with tributaries into these.

Cllr Kendall left the meeting at this point.

Cllr Budden advised that he had attended EHDC training on responding to a civil emergency as well as on the revised National Policy Framework. Cllr Budden noted that examination of the SDNPA Local Plan was forthcoming and that discussions on housing targets had included the possibility of further increasing targets by 20%, should an authority fail to meet 85% of their initial target. He felt this may put pressure on housing targets within the SDNPA. Cllr Budden had applied to speak at the SDNPA Local Plan examination on the issue of traveller sites.

Cllr Pienaar had submitted a written report in her absence (see Annex C). In response, Cllr Wright enquired as to the EHDC position on parking on pavements and Cllr Budden advised that there was no law outside of London which made parking on the pavement illegal. Cllr Budden agreed to pursue the issue at EHDC level.

Cllr Oppenheimer left the meeting at this point.

### **143/18 Minutes of the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be accepted as a correct record (proposed by Cllr Halstead and seconded by Cllr Smith, with all in favour).

### **144/18 Matters Arising**

**Minute 13/18:** The Clerk advised that the Chairman of the NCPFT had organised a ceremony to mark the centenary of the end of the 1st World War. This would take place at 3.40pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November in the Centenary/Memorial Gardens and would include the planting of a tree and unveiling of a plaque with appropriate wording to be agreed. The tree had kindly been donated by Hilliers. The schools and some community groups would also be involved. A tea would follow at the Newman Collard Pavilion. Members of the Parish Council were all invited, as well as the District and County Councillors for Liss. The Clerk would confirm details via e-mail.

### **145/18 Responsible Finance Officer's Report**

The Clerk noted an error in the figures relating to payments from the Pavilion account which would be rectified and recirculated. The Clerk responded to queries raised.

**Resolved:** That the payments and receipts recorded in Responsible Finance Officer's Report be approved, subject to amendment of figures relating to the Pavilion (proposed by Cllr Smith & seconded by Cllr MacNamara, with all in favour).

### **146/18 Correspondence**

Items for response:

- i) Radian e-mail about using a piece of Radian owned land off Vinson Road for a community garden – Members agreed that, although supportive of the land being put to good use, this was not appropriate for an LPC lead. The Clerk would respond accordingly;
- ii) HALC invitation to AGM in Winchester, 10<sup>th</sup> November – Cllrs Halstead and Linsley would attend;
- iii) East Hampshire Polling District Review 2018 – Members were content with the existing polling station arrangements. The Clerk would respond accordingly;
- iv) HCC invitation to attend Customer Contact Review focus group on 11<sup>th</sup> October – Members noted that this had been received at very short notice and the Clerk gave the explanation from HCC for this. The relevant team had agreed to conduct a telephone conversation with Cllr Linsley instead as he had been interesting in attending;
- v) Alton TC invitation to unveiling of plaque in honour of Peter & Iona Opie on 17<sup>th</sup> November – The Chairman hoped that he would be able to attend along with Cllr Halstead. The Clerk would respond once this had been confirmed;

- vi) SDNPA survey on dog walking behaviour in the heathlands of the SDNPA – Members agreed this was an issue for individual response;
- vii) SDNPA invitation to Parish Workshops – Members noted that the Hampshire workshop fell on the same day as the next Council meeting and so it was proposed that LPC representatives attend the West Sussex workshop in Midhurst on 29<sup>th</sup> November instead. Cllr Hargreaves and Cllr Linsley would attend on behalf of LPC. A request for a third place would be made so that Cllr Halstead could also attend.
- viii) EHDC invitation to East Hants Passenger Transport Forum on 6<sup>th</sup> November – Cllrs Budden and Linsley would attend.

All other items of correspondence were for information only and would remain in the office for viewing until the date of the next council meeting.

### **147/18 Reports of Committees**

**Resolved:** That the draft minutes of the following committee meetings be noted:

- i) Planning Committee of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018;
- ii) Highways Committee of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018;
- iii) Review Committee of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

With regards to the Highways Committee, Cllr MacNamara noted the high numbers with regards to incidents of speeding recorded by the TSR. The Chairman advised that he had records of recordings for all major roads which were compiled for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman would pass these to the Highways Committee to allow for meaningful comparison and assessment of particular problem areas.

Cllr Linsley advised that he had been approached about the issue of pollution arising from cars waiting at the main level crossing in Liss. Members agreed that signs to request that drivers turn off their engines whilst waiting at the crossing gates would be appropriate.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk draft a letter to HCC to request the consideration of signs to encourage drivers to turn off their engines whilst waiting at the station level crossing.

### **148/18 Terms of Reference for the Finance and Review Committees**

Cllr McDonald, the Chairman of the Review Committee tabled the following motion:

That Council:

- a) notes the six revised policies on Complaints Handling, Environmental, Filming of Meetings, Health & Safety, Remuneration and Training, which have been adopted by the Review Committee;
- b) approves the revised Terms of Reference for the Review and Finance Committees, as circulated.

Cllr McDonald explained that the revised Terms of Reference contained no substantive changes, but rather provided a more accurate reflection of the work of the committees. Cllr McDonald also advised that it was the intention of the Review Committee to notify all councillors at the outset of a policy review so that comments could be submitted to the committee for consideration, or a councillor could attend the committee should they have a particular interest in a policy to be reviewed.

Cllr Jerrard raised an issue with regards to the Filming Policy, namely that it did not set out that a member of the public who wished to record or film a meeting should advise those present that they intended to film or record. Members agreed that it would be courteous to make Members aware that a meeting was to be recorded or filmed, even though it did not remove the right to do so. Members agreed to remit this point to the Review Committee for consideration.

**Resolved:** The motion was seconded by Cllr Jerrard with all in favour.

### **149/18 Play equipment in Rake**

The Chairman advised that support from Liss Parish Council had been requested for a play equipment project in the grounds of the Rake Village Hall. The Chairman referred to a paper prepared by a member of the Rake Village Hall Committee who were leading the project for further detail.

Cllr Linsley declared an interest in this item arising from his position as LPC appointee to Rake Village Hall. Cllr Halstead also noted her position on the board of the Hampshire Playing Fields Association, which had made a provisional financial donation subject to the development of the project.

Members noted that planning consent had yet to be applied for (Liss Parish Council would need to comment on this at the appropriate time) and that a lot of detail on the project was not yet known and so this would need to be considered further as the project progressed. Members agreed that Liss Parish Council should support the project in principle at this stage due to the lack of play provision within Rake.

**Resolved:** That the Chairman respond accordingly.

### **150/18 Pavilion Update**

The Chairman advised the following:

- The build was going well with the roof supports and trusses underway. Progress on construction was close to that set out in the construction timetable;
- The financial position had been reported in the monitoring report and was also close to meeting costs, although funds still needed to be acquired in due course for internal fit out;
- Discussion was underway on internal details such as the colour scheme and kitchen design;
- Estimated running costs had been established for the 2019/20 budget, this would also need to include an estimate of the projected level of income;
- The next pavilion Committee would also consider promoting use of the new Pavilion, including writing to potential users. An article to promote use would appear in the forthcoming edition of the Village Voice and a press release was due to be issued to the Petersfield Post;
- It was hoped that the draft legal agreements with the Scouts would be circulated to Council prior to the next meeting so that approval could be given at the meeting for the Chairman and Clerk to sign agreements accordingly.

### **151/18 Matters of concern**

There were no matters of concern to report.

Cllr Halstead noted that the hanging baskets had now been taken down and expressed a vote of thanks to all the volunteers who took part in the significant watering efforts required this year, as well as those involved in planting as part of the Liss in Bloom project. Members agreed that a strong vote of thanks be given to all volunteers involved which had contributed to much positive feedback this year.

### **152/18 Reports on Outside Bodies**

Cllrs Halstead and Linsley had attended a meeting of the EHAPTC at which there had been presentations by the EHDC Community Development Team and EHDC's tree protection officer. The next meeting would take place on 5<sup>th</sup> December and would focus on s106 funds (the meeting was likely to be held at Penns Place).

Cllr Linsley had also attended a meeting of the Longmoor Rural Community Partnership Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September and noted that crime figures would no longer be supplied at the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.30 hrs

Next meeting: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 19.30hrs

Signed:.....Dated:.....

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT  
TO  
LISS PARISH COUNCIL**

**15 OCTOBER 2018**

1. New Parish and Town Council Investment Fund of £500,000

The new fund is being set up in partnership with the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC). The County Council will be inviting local Parish and Town Councils as well as community groups to apply for a share of a new £500,000 pot to kick start improvements in their local area.

There will be three areas in which Parish and Town Councils can apply for funding, all of which look to support new, innovative and sustainable options, these include:

- enhancing existing or provide new infrastructure which supports their communities, such as community centres;
- supporting local communities to be more resilient, for example, tackling social isolation and in the management of their green open spaces; and
- funding training to support local community members to deliver services in the area, such as maintaining rights of way.

It is worth reading the attached Decision Report which sets out more of the detail around the application criteria. Applicants will be able to apply to the fund from November.

2. OFSTED inspection of Liss Junior School

As Parish Councillors may know, Liss Junior School was last inspected in December 2016 at which time it was given a rating of “Requires Improvement”. This was just after Ofsted removed the category of “Satisfactory” from their scoring method.

Following a two-day inspection on 25-26 September 2018, Liss Junior has now been given a “Good” Rating. Huge credit for this rapid improvement goes to the Head Jilly Myers and all the teaching staff. The School Improvement Team and the Governor Services Team at HCC have played a small but important part too!

The OFSTED Report makes a number of pleasing comments. Of particular note are these three positive comments:

- “Since the previous inspection the Headteacher has successfully driven improvements to raise standards of achievement. She has relentlessly improved teaching and learning.”
- “Pupils are rarely absent from school. They behave well and show respect for others. They enjoy playing together in the school’s well-resourced outside spaces.”

- “Differences in the achievement of disadvantaged pupils are narrowing as a result of leaders’ focused efforts. Current disadvantaged pupils achieve as successfully as other pupils with the same starting points.”

The recent Federation of the two schools is also cited as a positive step which has the potential to drive the school forward and enable it to deliver the highest standards of education.

### 3. Bus services and street lighting consultation

The HCC Consultation on supported passenger transport services and street lighting closed on 5 August 2018. Over 4,500 responses were received which was a good result.

The Passenger Transport team are currently analysing the responses. Their report will be published around 19 October at which point we will see what is being proposed. It is inevitable that some reductions to the frequency of services will be proposed.

The final decisions will be made by the Executive Member for Transport and Environment Cllr Rob Humby at his Decision Day on Monday 29 October.

### 4. Working Group on Plastic Recycling

As Chair of the Economy, Transport and Environment Committee at Hampshire County Council, I have the capability to set up working groups on matters of concern to the public. I have decided to set up a working group to look at reducing plastic waste and increasing recycling opportunities and information for residents. I believe this is an issue of great concern to many people and I hope we can put Hampshire at the forefront of action to reduce plastic waste and the resulting damage to our planet. If anyone knows an expert on this subject, please put them in touch with me! I look forward to reporting on our findings in due course.

### 5. Crowdfunder campaign to mend the South Downs Way

The South Downs National Park has launched a crowdfunder campaign to raise £15,000 for urgent repairs to the South Downs Way. We would be really grateful for help publicising this campaign! Some great rewards are on offer and every contribution will make a big difference. Please visit the appeal page at:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/mend-the-south-downs-way>

Our existing funding allows us to make most repairs but there are a number of significant projects which, because they are on more remote sections of the path, are too expensive to tackle using existing funds. Hence the need to raise additional funds to keep the tracks in good shape.

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**  
**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TO LISS PARISH COUNCIL  
MIKE KENDALL**

I will only report on the Flood Action Group tonight, as follows:

Members will remember that the Environment Agency expected to receive by the end of March a report from their consultants on the viability of NFM ( Natural Flood Management) measures for Liss. An interim report was eventually received in July which highlighted some anomalies in the EA hydraulic model which needed to be tested before the EA could determine whether water storage facilities for the Rother were viable. An update today says the EA has not yet identified funds to test the model.

On another front the Arun and River Rother Trust has submitted a bid for funds from the EA to design Natural Flood Management facilities for rivers including the Rother. This bid was submitted with support from both Liss PC ( Cllr Hargreaves) and the Liss FAG (me). They have succeeded in getting through the first round of the process but have been asked for more evidence to justify funding.

This all seems a disappointing long process but I appreciate that the EA has to make careful assessments before allocating scarce resources.

Can I remind councillors and the Clerk that if they or constituents see or receive reports of tree trunks or large branches in the river itself that look as if they might cause difficulty if debris builds up behind them, responsibility for removing them is the EA itself through its national emergency hotline number 0800 807060. I reported earlier today the cut tree trunks in the river below the Station Road bridge on the south (Shah Manzil) side. I had to explain which River Rother I was talking about since the EA call Centre is in Sheffield, not a million miles from Rotherham!

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TO LISS PARISH COUNCIL  
LAETITIA PIENAAR**

1. A new Local Plan is being consulted on, which will involve increased requirement for new houses. HOWEVER, it does not affect Liss because we are in the SDNP.

2. I have been copied on correspondence relating to the speeding in Liss and parking on pavements. In an email dated the 27th September 2018, Mr Barry Voysey wrote the following:-

"As regards cars parking on the pavement, this is a continuing problem in the village and not just the centre. On many occasions contractors and other vehicles have been parked on the pavement in a position to force pedestrians, me included, into the busy road. I was therefore disappointed to read the comments on the front page of this weeks Petersfield Post where a representative of EHDC suggests parking on the pavement is OK. This has clearly sent out the wrong message, I don't know who should take this up with EHDC? "

I raised this with the Leader and Deputy-Leader and they denied that these comments represented EHDC policy/views - might this have been 'fake news'?

I would comment that I do not very often see cars parked on the pavement on any of Liss's main roads. I admit that residents who live in narrow streets (on their own initiative) might park half-on, half-off the pavement, in order to allow for easier through traffic - Western Road comes to mind. I would also comment that in Liss Forest the pavement has been completely dropped on one side and that residents do park on it. However, I am not the ward member, and perhaps Cllr Budden can shed some light on the rationale adopted as for this decision.

Road-users who mount the pavement whilst driving (as opposed to parking) along any part of Station road is clearly endangering pedestrians and such behaviour has to be criticised and discouraged, where possible.