

LISS PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 17th September 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) Laetitia Pienaar and one member of the press

Clerk: S. Smith

121/18 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Cllr Jerrard. Members noted that District Councillor Mr M. Kendall had also sent apologies.

122/18 Declarations of interests

None declared.

123/18 Chairman's announcements

Members noted with sadness the passing of John Meader and expressed their gratitude for his contribution to the parish over many years.

The Chairman noted that Liss would host the Village of the Year award ceremony on Tuesday 25th September at the Triangle. Parish Councillor attendance would be welcome subject to confirmation of numbers. The Chairman invited those interested in attending to inform the Clerk, as well as those wishing to offer assistance in setting up.

The Chairman confirmed the staff changes which had been agreed at Staff Committee in July; Frances Cook was now Assistant Clerk, Paul Knibbs was Groundsman rather than Assistant Groundsman and Dick Bowery continued to offer some handover assistance to Jan Allen, the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO), particularly in relation to preparation of the budget.

124/18 Adjournment for public participation

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

125/18 Report from County Councillor

County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer presented his report (see attached). Cllr Oppenheimer also noted that he continued to chase the 30mph speed limit signs and it was hoped that these would be forthcoming shortly. In addition, Cllr Oppenheimer advised that a party political communication had been issued to residents within the central area of Liss to seek feedback on traffic calming measures to tackle speeding in the village centre. Feedback from LPC would also be welcome. Cllr Linsley undertook to liaise with Cllr Oppenheimer as Chairman of Highways.

126/18 Reports from District Councillors

Cllr Budden advised that EHDC were considering plans for wider economic development within East Hants; that work was underway on how best to allocate funding to charities; that the next

Community Forum had been postponed pending identification of content and that the Planning Committee had undertaken a site visit to The Temple.

Cllr Pienaar continued to maintain contact with HCC about the maintenance regime for the verges, that the first Community Partnership meeting in its revised format was due to take place on 19th September - feedback on issues such as fly tipping was welcome. Cllr Pienaar also expressed congratulations to LPC for the excellent progress on the new Liss Pavilion.

127/18 Minutes of the meeting of 16th July 2018

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 16th July 2018 be accepted as a correct record (proposed by Cllr McDonald and seconded by Cllr Linsley with all in favour).

128/18 Matters Arising

Minute 13/18: The Clerk advised that the Chairman of the NCPFT was receptive to the idea of planting of a tree within the central bed of the Memorial Gardens, with an appropriate plaque, to mark the 1st World War Centenary celebrations. The Clerk would continue to liaise with the NCPFT on the issue.

Minute 101/18: The Clerk advised that the shuddering of the railway crossing gate issue had been resolved. A slight shudder had also been identified at the Andlers Ash Road gates. The Assistant Clerk continued to liaise with Network Rail to resolve this.

Minute 115/18: Cllr Wright advised that a meeting between Highways Committee, local residents and CC R. Oppenheimer, to discuss continued concerns regarding the dual use pavement at Liss Forest, was still to be arranged.

129/18 Responsible Finance Officer's Report

The Clerk responded to queries raised. Members noted that a fee had been required for the road closure for the Christmas Village Fair. Some concern was expressed regarding the responsibilities which came with this application, namely marshalling and putting out road closure signs. Members agreed that the practicalities as well as the allocation of cost should be discussed further prior to the event next year.

Members expressed positive feedback to the RFO for the increased level of detail on the report which made identification of payments easier.

Resolved: That the payments and receipts recorded in Responsible Finance Officer's Report be approved (proposed by Cllr McDonald & seconded by Cllr Linsley with all in favour).

The Chairman noted that a separate report on Pavilion Budget Monitoring had been provided by the Clerk and noted a total overspend of £2,536.92 to date. He was hopeful that underspending elsewhere would offset this, including the fact that the contingency figure was still in tact.

130/18 Correspondence

Items for response:

- i) EHDC invitation for nominations for the Volunteer Awards – For individual response or feedback to the Clerk for a possible LPC response;
- ii) EHDC notification of Community Partnership Meeting on 19th September – Cllr Linsley would attend;
- iii) Longmoor Policing Team invitation to complete survey to inform policing priorities – For individual response;
- iv) HCC Highways public satisfaction survey – For individual response;
- v) HALC notification of Government consultation on proposals for local government finance settlement – The Clerk would respond noting support for maintaining the deferment of any requirement for Town and Parish councils to hold a referendum if they increase Council Tax by a substantial percentage.

131/18 Reports of Committees

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

- i) Planning Committees of 23rd July, 15th August & 29th August 2018;
- ii) Finance Committee of 6th August 2018;
- iii) Review Committee of 13th August 2018;
- iv) Buildings Committee of 10th September 2018;
- v) Grounds Committee of 10th September 2018;
- vi) Pavilion Committees of 30th July & 3rd September 2018.

CC R. Oppenheimer left the meeting at this point.

132/18 Pavilion Update

The Chairman advised that construction of the Pavilion began in July and all had gone well to date. Completion of building works was anticipated in February 2019 and subject to fitting out and equipping the building it would be ready later in Spring 2019. The Chairman noted a positive working relationship continued with the architect/project manager and Tildan Construction. As regards finance, costs and payments would continue to be considered by the Pavilion Committee and scrutinised by Finance Committee, with a monthly budget monitoring report to be produced by the Clerk. Work was underway on running costs as well as proposal for charges which will be considered by Council in due course.

The preparation of legal agreements with the Scouts was nearing completion and these would be considered at the October meeting of Council.

Lastly the Chairman advised that consideration of a marketing strategy was underway to encourage future use of the Pavilion.

133/18 Matters of concern

Cllr McDonald noted that works to replace the pavements on St. Mary's Road had been completed after significant delays, and that work to replace the road surface was due to commence on 26th September with an estimated timeframe of 3 days. This meant that residents would again be required to find alternative parking which would put pressure on neighbouring roads.

Cllr Halstead expressed her thanks to those who had assisted with the watering of the hanging baskets and proposed a meeting in due course to consider arrangements for next year. She also noted that The Heart Trust were keen to meet with LPC to discuss issues such as signage and training. Cllrs Budden and Dodds agreed to meet with The Heart Trust.

Cllr Mayo noted the significant road closures associated with the Vélo South cycle event on Sunday 23rd September.

Cllr MacNamara enquired about the deadline for submission of material for the next edition of the Village Voice; Cllr Budden advised that any material would need to be received by 1st October.

Cllr Wilson proposed that Council consider the merits for communication with residents by using Liss Next Door.

134/18 Reports on Outside Bodies

Cllr Linsley had attended a meeting of the NCPFT on 11th September; user interviews would take place shortly prior to offering licences for us in 2019. The issue of dog fouling had also been raised. Cllr Wright had attended a meeting of the LFRA on 11th September which reported a successful Fun Day. Concerns continued regarding cars mounting the dual use pavements and work was underway on achieving designation of three paths as Rights of Way.

Cllr Halstead had attended a meeting at the Triangle and reported that the Triangle still had no Chairman or Secretary and is actively looking for replacements. The transfer of the freehold was

progressing and the transfer of the charitable educational trust to the Federation of Liss Infant and Junior Schools would hopefully take place later in the year. Various events were forthcoming. Cllr MacNamara had attended a meeting of the Coryton Alms Trust on 3rd July and reported that he had been appointed as Chairman. No formal representative from Hawkley was currently appointed despite an invitation being made.

Cllr Budden had also attended the meeting of the Coryton Alms Trust.

135/18 Exclusion of the public and press

Resolved: That any members of the press and public be excluded, proposed by Cllr Hargreaves & seconded by Cllr Budden with all in favour.

DC L.Pienaar and the member of the press left the meeting at this point.

136/18 Exempt Item: Options for grounds maintenance 2019

Cllr Dodds advised that the resignation of the full-time Groundsman, coupled with the failure of the ride-on mower, had provided an opportunity for Grounds Committee to explore the options for grounds maintenance going forward.

Members agreed that the option of a part-time groundsman with the use of contractors for grass cutting provided significant savings as well as quality of service and flexibility in delivery. Members agreed that a review should take place at the end of the growing season 2019.

Resolved: That Council notes the proposals relating to arrangements for the delivery of grounds maintenance, as set out in the paper circulated, to be presented to the Finance Committee for inclusion in the 2019/20 budget.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.30 hrs

Next meeting: Monday 15th October 2018, 19.30hrs

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO LISS PARISH COUNCIL

17 SEPTEMBER 2018

1. Hampshire pupils perform above average in exams

Once again Hampshire's pupils have performed comfortably above national averages in A Levels, Advanced Technical Levels and GCSE's.

The provisional average grade per A-level entry in Hampshire has increased from C+ to B-. The 2017 national average was grade C (two notches lower). Students following advanced Tech-level qualifications in Hampshire, which support progressing to occupationally specific careers, also improved their average grade to 'Distinction', an increase above the 2017 national average of 'Distinction minus'.

The new scoring system for GCSEs had its first results this Summer, with pupils scored on a scale from 1-9 with 9 being the highest grade. We are still awaiting results from a number of schools but it is already clear that Hampshire has performed well above the national average. We can be very proud of all our schools and colleges.

2. County Council plans better targeted NHS health checks

As part of a new £9million contract with health providers starting in April 2019, Hampshire County Council is aiming to increase the uptake of checks by Hampshire residents, particularly those most at risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

Local Petersfield surgery the Swan Medical Group has been chosen to pilot the new scheme.

The County Council is responsible for ensuring Hampshire residents aged 40-75 are invited for regular health reviews by their GP surgeries. Currently just under half of those invited take up the offer of a check. This is something we want to see improve, so through a new contract with GPs and other health providers, we are aiming to increase this, particularly among patients considered most at risk of cardiovascular disease.

HCC will be working with the Swan Medical Group in Petersfield to test a wide range of ways to increase participation. Learning from this trial will be shared with other health providers to help increase the numbers attending, particularly from high risk groups.

Health checks are normally undertaken by practice nursing teams. Once the health assessment is complete, those receiving a check are given appropriate advice to help them manage and reduce their risk of becoming unwell. This advice will be tailored to suit the person's individual needs. If necessary people will be directed to either County Council commissioned public health support services such as weight management support, or referred for a clinical follow up with their GP.

3. LGA launches its own Green Paper on Social Care

Parish Councillors will be well aware that local government finances in Hampshire are already being heavily impacted by the cost of caring for our ageing population – a situation which is increasingly becoming unsustainable. We are therefore more reliant than most Counties on the Government developing realistic and workable plans for the long-term funding of adult social care. The Government has twice delayed its Green Paper on this issue, which is now due in “the Autumn”.

Frustrated at the delay, the Local Government Association launched its own Green Paper this Summer and the consultation runs until 26 September. The proposals can be read at www.futureofadultsocialcare.co.uk. Interestingly the LGA has raised the prospect of extending National Insurance to people working beyond State Pension age as well as means-testing certain universal benefits for older people such as the Winter Fuel Payment and Free TV Licenses.

The County Council plans its financial position on a two-year basis. Through careful planning we are on track to deliver the £140m of savings needed by 2019/20. However, the challenges are far from over - there is currently a gap of £80m in the planning for the next two-year period to 2021/22. This is caused by demand pressures, cost inflation and further reductions in Government support grant. We therefore await the Government's Green Paper with considerable interest!

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER

County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers