

LISS PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 19th March 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 & *Ms A Wright.

* Present

Clerk: S. Smith

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

There were four members of the public in attendance: Catherine Kirkham, Hampshire Community Housing Partnership, and three representatives from Homes for Living.

36/18 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from cllrs Dodds and Smith.

37/18 Declarations of interests

None declared.

38/18 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman advised that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place at 8pm on Wednesday 21st March in the Village Hall.

39/18 Adjournment for public participation

Members agreed a period of adjournment to receive comments from the public. This commenced at 19.35hrs. Catherine Kirkham (Hampshire Community Housing Partnership) gave a presentation on helping communities to deliver their own housing solutions through community led housing schemes. David Harvey (Homes for Living) presented plans to deliver affordable homes for local people through a Community Land Trust, seeking support from LPC. The Chairman requested that Mr Harvey write to the LPC accordingly.

The meeting was then reconvened at 20.05hrs.

40/18 Report from County Councillor

County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer presented his report (attached).

41/18 Reports from District Councillors

District Councillor Mr Kendall highlighted three points:

- That the devolution and local government reorganisation debate had resurfaced and that EHDC would become involved should this be necessary;
- That the Coryton Alms houses vacancy was being advertised;
- Flood Action Group - Consultants had been identified to look at the scale, feasibility and locality of works proposed within Liss.

District Councillor Mrs Pienaar noted the following:

- That the boundary review consultation had closed on 6th March and was likely to be published early April;
- That district councillor grant allocations for the year commencing 1st April 2018 would be the same as the previous year and that the three district councillors would undertake a unified approach with regards to allocation. LPC should consider potential projects and advise early in the year;

- That the planning application for Saddlers had been withdrawn.

District Councillor Mr Budden advised that:

- There was some delay in bin collections due to the snow but that bins should be left out for collection on a later day;
- EHDC Planning Committee had approved plans for the new sports centre in Alton;
- Due to a grant falling through funds had been reallocated for a yoga course at the Crossover, to the EHDC Rail Partnership for murals at the station and to the Liss Forest Residents Association for a replacement PA system.

42/18 Minutes of the meeting of 19th February 2018

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 19th February 2018, subject to correction of a typo, be accepted as a correct record (proposed by Cllr Mayo and seconded by Cllr Linsley).

43/18 Matters Arising

- i) Minute 174/17: Position on acquisition of green spaces - The Chairman advised that CALA had provided some information on the provision of the green space within the development and noted the importance of securing public access to this space.
- ii) Minute 13/18: First World War Commemorations – The Clerk advised that she had yet to receive a response from the British Legion regarding their plans for the event.
- iii) Minute 13/18: Preparations on Village of the Year event – Cllr Halstead advised that the event would be hosted by LPC at the Triangle on 25th September. The Liss Area Historical Society were undertaking preparations for a bus tour of Liss.

44/18 Responsible Finance Officer's Report

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 Linsley and seconded by Cllr Mayo, be approved.

45/18 Correspondence

The Chairman noted that there was no correspondence for discussion/decision.

46/18 Reports of Committees

Planning Committees

The Chairman gave a review of the minutes. Members noted an amendment at 22.8 (deletion after "extension") which would be formally approved at the next meeting of the Planning Committee. The Chairman noted the impact of property extensions which added to residential parking issues and referred to the HALC motion calling for government consideration of changes to planning law to make adequacy of on-site parking a Material Planning Consideration. This had been viewed sympathetically by the NALC Policy Committee on 7 March 2018.

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the Planning Committees of 26th February 2018 be noted.

Buildings Committee

The Chairman gave a review of the minutes.

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the Buildings Committee of 5th March 2018 be noted.

Grounds Committee

The Chairman gave a review of the minutes.

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the Review Committee of 5th March 2018 be noted.

Pavilion Committee

The Chairman gave a review of the minutes.

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the Review Committee of 12th March 2018 be noted.

47/18 Buildings Committee Terms of Reference

The Chairman of the Buildings Committee proposed the motion:

“That Liss Parish Council approves revised Terms of Reference for Buildings Committee that reduce the requirement to meet from ‘a minimum of four times a year’ to ‘a minimum of two times a year’ ”.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Hargreaves and agreed unanimously.

The Chairman noted that all committees should consider their Terms of Reference as a matter of course.

48/18 Motion proposed by the Chairman of Planning Committee

The Chairman of the Planning Committee proposed the motion:

“That Liss Parish Council approves the consultation response on Planning Application 18/00606/FUL – 1 Hawkley House, Farnham Road, as circulated.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr Linsley and agreed unanimously.

49/18 Review of 2017/18 Action Plan and Motion by the Chairman to approve the Action Plan for 2018/19

The Chairman proposed the following motion:

“That the priorities for the 2018/19 council year, set out in the Action Plan, are adopted in order to give guidance to the work of the Council.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr Budden with agreed unanimously, subject to one amendment and one addition and the caveat that the plan would be revisited if necessary following discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting.

50/18 Presentation by Cllr Budden on the GDPR

Cllr Budden gave a presentation on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in his capacity as a registered provider of GDPR training. This focused on raising awareness of the requirements and implications for Liss Parish Council. Cllr Budden and the Clerk would work on preparations for the new Regulation (to apply from 25th May 2018) and would keep the Council informed.

51/18 Matters of Concern

No issues were raised.

52/18 Reports on Outside Bodies

There were no reports.

53/18 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.

54/18 Exempt item: Approval of the exempt minutes of the Council meeting of 19th February 2018

Resolved: That the exempt minutes of the Council meeting of 19th February 2018 be accepted as a correct record (proposed by Cllr Hargreaves and seconded by Cllr Mayo).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.56 hrs

Next meeting: Monday 24th March 2018, 19.30hrs

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO LISS PARISH COUNCIL 19 MARCH 2018

1. Council Tax decision confirmed

At Full Council on 22 February 2018 it was formally decided that Council Tax will rise by 5.99% from April 2018. The increase will ensure we can maintain important services such as school crossing patrols, tips and community transport whilst continuing to look after the most vulnerable people in society.

Hampshire still has one of the lowest precepts of any County Council and our finances are in good health despite the financial pressures. Council Tax was frozen for five years from 2010-2015 and the level of Council Tax in Hampshire is still lower in real terms than it was 8 years ago (i.e. when you adjust for inflation).

We are balancing the books whilst investing in the future. We have reserves of over £500m which enables us to make capital investments in improving the County. We have all seen in the news what has happened recently with Northamptonshire County Council, which has depleted its reserves and is now having to make emergency cuts to frontline services. Given the pressure on local government finances I think Hampshire County Council has performed admirably over the last 10 years.

2. Federation of Liss Primary and Junior Schools confirmed

Following consultation with their stakeholders, the governing bodies of Liss Infant and Liss Junior schools took the decision on 5 March to form a schools federation. The federation will be formed on 1 September 2018. The Governor Services team at Hampshire County Council will continue to provide support to the new unified governing body.

3. Liss Triangle Centre update

Hampshire County Council has awarded £30,000 to the Community Association from the Community Buildings Fund. The award enables the Association to carry out renovation of the existing roof, repairs to the guttering and essential damp proofing. This will commence in the Summer. A further award is being considered for the grant round commencing in June 2018.

There has unfortunately been a bit of a hold-up with the transfer of ownership from HCC to the Liss Community Association.

The original school at the Triangle Centre site was set up as a charitable trust under the Elementary Schools Act 1870. When the school closed in the 1990s the charitable trust should have been transferred to part of the site comprising the 'new' Liss Infant and Junior Schools at Hill Brow Rd. We now know that although the process of transferring the charitable trust commenced, it was not completed and was left in abeyance. Back in 2002 a new draft charitable scheme was published by the Charity Commission. The intention was that the new charity scheme would be advertised and notices posted up on sites in the village and at the school. But for some reason the formalities were never concluded and no notices were displayed. It is important to resurrect the transfer to allow HCC to hold the original school site as part of its corporate property.

Hampshire County Council now needs to commission an independent valuation to assure the Charity Commission that the value of the new land at the Infant School is on a par with the value of the Triangle Centre site. Notices of the new charitable scheme need to be advertised in the village and at the school and this is being co-ordinated by Children's Services. Then, assuming no substantive objections to these new arrangements are received, a legal transfer needs to take place.

I have been advised that we should allow say 3 - 6 months for the whole legal process of transfer to complete.

4. Good news on School places

Of the parents applying for a September 2018, Year 7 place at a Hampshire secondary school, 98 per cent have been offered a school of their choice - with more children (over 92 per cent) being allocated a place at their preferred first choice school.

Considering the size of Hampshire and number of students to accommodate, this is a substantial achievement. HCC has a strong track record in planning for the future to ensure we keep pace with the rising number of pupils. Through our sustained investment in school expansions and new schools we are ensuring that we can provide a school place for every child in Hampshire.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers