

LISS PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 20th March 2017.

Members

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

* Present

Clerk: D. Bowery.

In attendance: County Councillor Mr V Clarke, District Councillor Mr M Kendall, 4 members of the public & one member of the press.

The Chairman made the necessary health and safety announcements.

31/17 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Councillors Jerrard & Smith & District Councillor Mrs L Pienaar.

32/17 Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interests.

33/17 Adjournment to receive a presentation from The Chairman of Liss Cricket Club.

The Chairman proposed an adjournment of the meeting to receive a presentation from the Chairman of Liss Cricket Club & Members agreed.

Mr L Baker made a presentation giving the history of Liss Cricket Club & outlining their current activities. He said that their current membership together with the added usage by LFC Juniors had meant that an extension to the pavilion was now required. This project was estimated to cost £250k & they had £10k towards this; they were, therefore, appealing for help to reach their goal.

Cllr McDonald asked how many female players the club had & Mr Baker replied that there were some forty members of the colts section including some girls but not many. The club had an open door policy.

Cllr Hargreaves said that LPC would be interested in hearing in greater detail of the proposals at a later stage. He explained that the SDNP was compiling a list of projects for their infrastructure delivery plan for the use of CIL contributions. He said that they were particularly interested in all amenities & asked if there was any chance of a bowling green being included.

Mr Baker replied this had been discussed but space was a constriction.

Cllr McDonald asked if it was intended to provide support for those with disabilities.

Mr Baker replied that there was not currently an intention to provide playing facilities for the disabled, but they did have a disabled ex-cricketer on their steering group and they would incorporate these facilities in the project if possible.

The Chairman thanked Mr Baker for his presentation

The meeting was then reconvened.

34/17 Chairman's announcements

- The Chairman said that the Annual Parish Meeting on 15th March had been well attended.
- There was an open day to be held by the developers of Liss House on 21st March.
- Liss Model Railway Club would be holding an open day on 8th April.
- There had been a continued spate of burglaries in the area from garages & outbuildings.

35/17 Adjournment for Public Participation.

The Chairman proposed an adjournment of the meeting to receive comments from the public & Members agreed.

Mr Pay suggested that with so many village organisations having duplicate large projects in the offing perhaps there was a need for some co-ordination. The Chairman replied that this was an interesting suggestion.

The meeting was then reconvened.

36/17 Report from County Councillor

County Councillor Mr V Clarke reported that the Liss unemployment figure for January was 0.3%.

The contract for repair & maintenance of Hampshire's highways had been awarded to Skanska & will run from 1st August until 2024. The value is £30m per year.

HCC's council tax rise for 17/18 was 4.99% of which 3% was earmarked for extra adult social care. The 1.99% covered the drop in central government funding. Several new schools & adult care homes will be built.

Extra investment in charging points for electric cars of which there were only 14 at the moment.

From May some 900 buses will be fitted with contactless payment facilities.

Cllr Clarke reported that there were over 3000 miles of Rights of Way in Hampshire.

It was calculated that the number of those aged 85 or over in Hampshire would rise by 36% by 2021.

37/17 Reports from District Councillors

District Councillor Mr M Kendall reported that the EHDC council tax for 17/18 was 2.6% lower than the previous year. Cllr Cowper had announced that he would stand down as Leader of EHDC at the end of the current council year. It was intended that Cllr Millard would take over as Leader with Cllr Cowper as Vice Leader.

The new Statement of Partnership (Parish Charter) had been approved by EHDC Cabinet on 16th March & if LPC had further comments they should let Cllr Kendall know.

With regard to the Liss Flood Action Group, the strategic survey had been completed & submitted in draft form; it was intended to collect comments from the FAG as well as the Environment Agency before submitting the final version to LPC.

Cllr Halstead commented that the Parish Charter proposed that planning training be done in clusters with councils in similar planning situations handled together.

38/17 Minutes of the meeting of 20th February 2017

The minutes of the Council meeting of 20th February, proposed by Cllr Mayo and seconded by Cllr Dodds, were agreed unanimously as a correct record.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 20th February be accepted as a correct record.

39/17 Matters Arising

- Min 170/16 – The Lych gate at Old School Road: The Clerk reported that Taylor Wimpey had still not responded despite several reminders. It was agreed to defer this item to the April meeting of the council.
- Min 07/17 Proposed amended parking arrangements in EHDC car parks – Cllr Wright, with Cllrs Budden & Halstead had attended a meeting with EHDC's parking officers to discuss the implications to Liss of the proposed changes. The officers had listened to LPC concerns but were driven by the need to raise revenues; they recognised the problems & said they would keep the effects under review. They would be putting their recommendations, unchanged, to EHDC Cabinet. Cllr Wright hoped that Liss District Councillors would speak at EHDC Cabinet.

Cllr Halstead said that if Liss lost the facility of the privately owned car park behind Tesco there would be serious effects.

Cllr Dodds asked if the cost of enforcement against any additional revenue had been supplied & Cllr Wright said that it had not been supplied.

Cllr Linsley added that he felt there was a danger that the proposal could have serious economic damage to businesses in Liss

- Min 27/17 Maintenance of the Triangle Green – Cllr Dodds explained that the proposal from the Community Centre had been discussed at the Grounds Committee on 13th March where an in principle agreement had been reached but it would depend on a detailed formal written request being made by the Community Centre nearer the time that legal transfer was to be made.
- Min 24/17 Appointment to Committee – Cllr Halstead, proposed by Cllr Mayo & seconded by Cllr Linsley was appointed to the Liss Pavilion Development Committee.

40/17 Clerk's Report (attached)

The Clerk's report was discussed & the Clerk responded to questions raised.

The schedule of bank payments, proposed by Cllr Linsley & seconded by Cllr Hargreaves, was approved unanimously.

The schedule of bank receipts, proposed by Cllr Halstead & seconded by Cllr Wright, was approved unanimously.

The schedule of petty cash payments, proposed by Cllr MacNamara & seconded by Cllr Linsley, was approved unanimously.

Resolved:

- That all payments & receipts detailed in the Clerk's report be approved.

The Schedule of correspondence was discussed & it was agreed that:

LPC would write to Damian Hinds MP requesting him to support the amendment to the Local Government Finance Bill proposed by Scott Mann MP that the discretionary rate relief on public toilets be amended to 100% mandatory relief.

41/17 Reports of Committees

Planning Committee

Resolved: The draft minutes of the Planning Committee of 6th March be noted.

Cllr Halstead reviewed the minutes highlighting the application for Saddlers in Farnham Road; a request had been made to have this called in by the SDNP for decision. The same action had been requested for the application at Springs, Reeds Lane.

Buildings Committee

Resolved: The draft minutes of the Buildings Committee of 13th March be noted.

Grounds Committee

Resolved: The draft minutes of the Grounds Committee of 13th March be noted.

Cllr Dodds reviewed the minutes. He said that the Service Level Agreement with NCPF had been agreed by the committee for recommendation to Council.

He gave the meeting an update on proposals for a joint project with the NCPF to replace & expand play equipment facilities at Newman Collard Playing Fields.

The Chairman proposed that the scheme be discussed in exempt session due to the financial implications on both LPC & NCPF, & Members agreed.

42/17 Motion proposed by Cllr Dodds

That Liss Parish Council accepts the recommendation of the Grounds Committee to approve the revised Service Level Agreement for the management of Newman Collard Playing Fields.

The Motion was seconded by Cllr Mayo.

Cllr Linsley said that he had an interest arising from his position as a trustee of NCPF but felt it was not a pecuniary interest.

Cllr Linsley asked Cllr Dodds if the details of the public usage income of the Liss Tennis Club had been received. Cllr Dodds replied that the public usage would be a requirement in future NCPF/Tennis Club user licenses.

Cllr Linsley said that it was necessary that the SLA be reviewed annually & Cllr Dodds said it would be a diarised item.

Cllr Linsley said that he wanted to see what the Tennis Club spent the public usage income on. Cllr Dodds replied that it went on court materials such as replacement nets.

Cllr Hargreaves said that the map was not a good one & some of the wording needed clarification but he did not want to delay the signing of the agreement, so was happy to support the document as tabled.

Resolved: That the Service Level Agreement for the management of Newman Collard Playing Fields be accepted & signed.

43/17 Matters of Concern – There were no matters raised.

44/17 Reports from outside bodies

Cllr Mayo had attended the FAG meeting & had received a copy of the strategic risk assessment.

Cllr Halstead had attended the quarterly meeting of the EHAPTC, where the main speaker had been Simon Jenkins, Head of EHDC Planning, other items covered were the Parish Charter, Training & the Boundary Review.

She raised concerns over the closure of the stroke unit at the Royal Guildford Hospital.

Cllr Halstead informed the meeting that the 70th anniversary of HALC was to be celebrated this year.

The Chairman had attended the EHAPTC meeting.

45/17 Exclusion of the press & Public

The Chairman proposed that the press & public be excluded due to the financially sensitive nature of the remaining business & Members agreed.

46/17 Play Equipment Project

The project to replace & expand play equipment at Newman Collard Playing Field was discussed.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.15 hrs

Next meeting: Monday 18th April 2017 19.30hrs

EXEMPT ITEM

47/17 Play Equipment Project

A planned layout of the proposed scheme had been distributed to Members.

Clr Dodds explained the scheme cost was in the region of £112500 & the intended sources of funding that included contributions from both NCPF & LPC. It was intended that any remaining developer's contributions funds would be applied for. The greater part of the funding would be the subject of a grant application being made by NCPF to the Biffa Awards scheme. The application to Biffa had to be submitted by 20th April with a decision by mid July.

It was the intention that a full presentation be put to Council in July.