

LISS PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 21st January 2019.

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 District Cllrs (DC) Laetitia Pienaar and Mike Kendall and four members of the public.

Clerk: S. Smith

01/19 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Cllrs Jerrard and Smith. Members noted that County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer had also sent apologies.

02/19 Declarations of interests

None declared at this point.

03/19 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman noted the resurfacing of the Village Hall floor which had been welcomed by users. The Chairman also advised that some expressions of interest had been received for the RFO post and it was hoped that candidates would be interviewed shortly.

04/19 Adjournment for public participation

Members agreed of period of adjournment for public participation.

Four members of the public were present to represent the Liss Model Railway Group. The group were apprehensive about the imminent increase in charges for 2019/20. The Clerk provided details of the proposed charges which were to be discussed under agenda item 13. The representative of the group advised that the proposed increase was lower than anticipated, but highlighted that the group was social rather than commercial and that the group's continued existence was at risk due to dwindling numbers.

The Chairman noted that there was a grants policy in place for financial support for those who met the criteria and that the Clerk could provide further information on this.

The meeting was then reconvened.

05/19 Report from County Councillor

County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer had submitted a written report (**Annex A**).

Members noted in particular Cllr Oppenheimer's position on the Ham Barn roundabout. Members agreed that the Clerk should request that Cllr Oppenheimer provide detail of the evidence held by the Highways Agency to support the options.

06/19 Reports from District Councillors

Cllr Kendall advised that the Flood Action Group's work with the Environment Agency had led to the possibility of a £5m spend on natural flood measures for Liss in the 2012-2017 spending cycle. However, one year on the work was still on hold pending further investigation into the water flow of the Rother to ensure the desired outcomes. Cllr Kendall noted that the works would require a local contribution of £300k. The Chairman said that the SDNPA advised that it would be appropriate for HCC and the EA to apply for CIL funding for this purpose. Cllr Kendall noted the need for an increased level of engagement from HCC to achieve this, noting that HCC was the lead

local flooding authority and, with 122 homes in Liss at moderate or high risk of flooding, HCC had a statutory basis for involvement.

Cllr Pienaar thanked LPC for the invitation to view the Pavilion on 9th January and congratulated Members on the project (the sentiment was echoed by Cllr Kendall). Cllr Pienaar advised that she would consider allocating DC funds to the fit out as it was anticipated that some funds would be freed up from another project which would not be completed during the funding term.

Cllr Pienaar also highlighted two consultations on interest: the Boundary Review of polling stations – there was no recommendation to change the locations within Liss; secondly the draft EHDC Local Plan would be subject to a six week consultation period from 5th February – 19th March 2019.

Cllr Budden advised that:

- The frontage to the Fish & Chip Shop had been reinstated;
- The Examiner for the SDNPA Local Plan had stated that the examination pre-Christmas was likely to lead to only minor amendments;
- The EHDC Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports facility Strategy 2018-2018 had been published and was expected to be adopted before April 2019;
- The information on the transition from Biffa to Norse for waste collection services (plus clearing litter from road sides) would be forthcoming;
- The new town centre in Bordon and Whitehill would be split into two phases, commencing with the leisure site which would include a seven-storey building to accommodate flats above the new health hub for reasons of financial viability.

Cllr Wilson added that the high rise building sat well within the plans and would not be as visible as might be expected due to the shape of the landscape.

Cllrs Wilson and Budden noted an interest at this point, arising from their positions as local NHS non-executive roles.

Cllr Linsley expressed continued concern about the signage of the Fish and Chip Shop. Cllr Halstead advised that the LPC position on this had been clearly set out by the Planning Committee.

07/19 Minutes of the meeting of 17th December 2018

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 17th November 2018 be accepted as a correct record (proposed by Cllr Halstead and seconded by Cllr Dodds, with all in favour).

08/19 Matters Arising

181/18: The Clerk advised that the EHDC Community Officer had responded that she was not in a position to take on the local authority role in an application for Pocket Park funding for reinstating play equipment on the EHDC land at the Roundabouts.

190/18: As regards insurance cover for voluntary activities, the Clerk confirmed that an e-mail had been circulated on 19th December. This confirmed that personal accident insurance cover was in place for employees, councillors and volunteers for official duties in connection with LPC's business.

155/18: Cllr Dodds advised that a small working group had been looking at projects for CIL bids following Council's endorsement for this approach at the November Council. It was essential that the project bids were high quality, deliverable and that they related closely to the SDNPA criteria. Cllr Dodds advised that this had influenced the choice of bids that were being worked on by the group from the wider list previously submitted which was unsuccessful. Approval would be sought for the bids at the February Council.

09/19 Responsible Finance Officer's Report

The Clerk responded to queries raised.

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

10/19 Correspondence

Items for response:

- a) CPRE invitation to debate on key issues for planning – Cllr Wright would attend;
- b) Vision ICT communication on Operation London Bridge services -The Clerk would seek guidance from EHDC as to the requirements;
- c) EHDC invitation to submit details for voluntary organisations requiring volunteers – The Clerk invited notifications of appropriate organisations to forward this to;
- d) EHDC Local Plan Consultation – The Chairman requested that, although this didn't directly affect Liss, Planning Committee would monitor;
- e) Invite to Hampshire Community Led Housing Scheme Hub Launch Event – For individual response.

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.

11/19 Planning Committee Reports

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the Planning Committees of 19th December 2018 and 14th January 2019 be noted.

12/19 Pavilion Committee Report

The Chairman noted that the work of the Committee had moved from a focus on construction to decisions on internal fixtures.

As regards the legal agreements with the Scouts, it was expected that these would come to Council for approval for signing in February.

The Chairman highlighted that the new Pavilion would be formally opened by Damian Hinds, MP, on Friday 17th May 2019.

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the Pavilion Committee of 16th January 2019 be noted.

13/P19 Pavilion Update

The Chairman had circulated a written update (**Annex B**).

14/19 Motion on schedule of charges, terms & conditions of hire for the new Pavilion, allocation of funds to Pavilion fit out and construction budget

Members noted that the proposed charges for the new Pavilion included a greater number of categories of user, including a favourable rate for regular users, as well as a menu of options as to which facilities were required. The Chairman proposed that LPC monitor the new Pavilion charging schedule, particularly within the first year of operation, with a view to reviewing the charges for the Village Hall as required. Members agreed.

Resolved: That Council approves the Schedule of Charges for 2019/20, including the charges for the new Liss Pavilion (proposed by Cllr Mayo, seconded by Cllr Linsley with all in favour).

Resolved: That Council approves the Terms & Conditions of Hire for the new Liss Pavilion (proposed by Cllr Budden, seconded by Cllr McDonald with all in favour).

Resolved: That Council authorise the allocation of known 2018/19 budget underspends of £4,250, arising from savings in insurance and election costs, to the Pavilion fit out costs (proposed by Cllr Mayo, seconded by Cllr Dodds with all in favour).

Resolved: That Council authorise the allocation of known 2018/19 budget underspends of up to £15,000, arising from savings in staff costs, to be held as a contingency against construction overspends and to be returned to reserves if not required (proposed by Cllr Dodds, seconded by Cllr Linsley with all in favour).

15/19 Options for extending community engagement

Cllr Wilson presented his paper on proposals for further extending LPC's community engagement in line with the Community Engagement Policy. Options included making better use of the new website for signposting to sources of information and advice, expanding on Cllr's formal links with external bodies and encouraging networking and volunteering.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Wilson's efforts in this area whilst bearing in mind office capacity. Cllr Wilson advised that he proposed to lead on the work with some office and Member input where possible. Members agreed that efforts to improve community engagement were welcome and should be supported.

DCs L. Pienaar and M. Kendall left the meeting at this point.

16/19 Matters of concern

Cllr Wright noted that several burglaries had taken place in Liss recently and proposed that LPC invite the CPSO to a future Council meeting to discuss.

Cllr Halstead advised that two forthcoming planning application decisions might require a special meeting. Further information would be circulated to establish whether this was necessary.

17/19 Meeting extension

Members agreed an extension to the meeting of no more than 30 minutes.

18/19 Matters of concern continued

Cllr Linsley noted that poles with cameras had appeared in the village centre pointing towards the railway crossings, as well as tracks across the road which appeared to count traffic flow over the crossings. Cllr Budden would seek further information from the East Hampshire Community Rail Partnership Officer.

Cllr O'Malley noted a report of graffiti in the station. Members noted this was an issue for Network Rail.

19/19 Reports on Outside Bodies

Cllrs Linsley and MacNamara had attended a meeting of the NCPFT at which user licenses were discussed.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.35 hrs

Next meeting: Monday 18th February 2019, 19.30hrs

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

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
LISS PARISH COUNCIL**

21 JANUARY 2019

1. Opening of new relief road in Whitehill & Bordon

I was pleased to attend the opening of the new relief road on 7 January in Whitehill & Bordon. Executive Member for Environment and Transport Cllr Rob Humby cut the ribbon together with Dave Axam, the Chairman of the M3 Local Enterprise Partnership who funded the construction of the road.

The new road is effectively a by-pass which allows motorists to avoid driving through Whitehill & Bordon. It is a pleasant and interesting drive surrounded by forests and construction sites for all the new housing.

The road will improve connectivity which will be good for the local economy. Residents will also benefit from faster journey times up the A325.

2. Ham Barn roundabout

I am aware that there are different views in Liss about the design of the Ham Barn roundabout and the case for replacing it. Greatham Parish Councillors are very concerned about the roundabout and in November they asked me to write to Highways England to ask them to replace the Ham Barn roundabout with a flyover or underpass. I argued in my letter that the roundabout was unsafe, polluting and bad for the local economy. I have received a non-committal reply which included some positive noises as follows:

“We are currently working with the Department for Transport to consider various investment options for the A3 for the next five-year investment period until 2025. One such aspect is the need for further studies at this location to develop potential solutions to reduce congestion. We expect the DfT to announce the specific projects for the 2020 to 2025 investment period in late 2019.

While we await their decision, we will continue to monitor the junction and if evidence informs us of the urgent need for intervention, we shall look at possible improvements.”

I suspect nothing will happen for another few years but it is interesting to note that Highways England do seem to have this on their “to do list”.

3. Transfer of Triangle building

I met with David Reece from HCC Property Services last week to discuss the transfer of the Triangle building. The Charity Commission have now approved the transfer of the Liss Junior educational charitable trust to the new school location, which has removed that particular obstacle.

There are still some legal formalities to resolve. The Community Association have appointed a solicitor in Emsworth and she is now in touch with the Legal Services Team at HCC. So we are on track for completion in March. I will continue to monitor progress.

4. New “Recreation and Community Heritage Fund” launched

A new Recreation and Heritage Community Fund of over £500,000 is being set up by Hampshire County Council to simplify the grant application process and open it up to a wider range of organisations.

The Recreation and Heritage Community Fund will make awards of up to £100,000 and support projects which provide community benefit and/or help organisations become self-supporting, thus reducing reliance on public sector funding in the long term. In addition, small one-off grants from £1,000 to £3,000 will also be awarded to help pump prime community events and activities.

The Fund will replace four existing grant schemes so that local community organisations and projects will only need to apply to one funding scheme. An application form for the new fund will be made available on the County Council’s website shortly.

For information, the funds being replaced and amalgamated in this new fund are as follows:

- Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund
- Community Investment Fund
- Activity Grants
- Community Building – Capital Fund

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

Liss Parish Council Meeting 21 January 2019
Item 12 Pavilion Update

Progress

1. Work continues on schedule, with no major hitches. Members of the Council were able to visit the site on 9th January and see for themselves. I hope those who attended were suitably impressed. Main construction is coming to an end and moving on to internal finishing.
2. Stuart Payne who has headed the project for Tildan Construction is not well and although keeping in touch with the project he has brought in two people from Chilworth Construction Management to manage the project. We have met with them and they seem very satisfactory and we do not expect this to delay the project.
3. The weathervane and the hands on the clock were vandalised the weekend before last. It is thought that someone climbed up on a scaffolding board, in a particularly mindless and dangerous act. Tildan Construction and their insurance will put it right, and they are ensuring that no scaffolding boards or other material are left out in future.

Fitting out costs

4. The original budget for the project did not include any money towards the cost of fitting out (tables, chairs, kitchen equipment, etc) in the expectation that money would be available from CIL and from underspends in the Council's 2018/19 budget. The current estimate of costs is £10,181, although as prices are finalised the actual costs could be a few hundred pounds more or less. At its last meeting Council agreed to transfer £988 from CIL money and £6,819 from identified underspends, a total of £7,807. Thus, £2,374 still needs to be found to make up to £10,181. However, it is considered prudent to find a little more against any variation in actual costs. Therefore, Item 13 c proposes transferring underspends of £4,250 from insurance and election costs to cover all fitting out costs.

Construction costs.

5. The Project Budget Monitoring shows that the construction budget currently has a shortfall of £3,759. This mainly reflects expenditure which was not budgeted for at the beginning of the project. In addition, there may be a shortfall in the budgeted income from the Scouts who are required to pay their share of demolition costs up to £12,000. but actual demolition costs are likely to be a little less. Also, some savings have been made in construction costs, broadly balancing some items which have proved more expensive. Most are within the contract but a few reflect agreed amendments to the original specification. Apart from small changes in, for example, lights and electrical fittings, this includes some additional items requested by the Pavilion Committee, including:

- Hearing Loop
- Sound system
- Internal blinds
- Drinking taps in changing rooms
- Hot water dispenser
- Two electrically operated mechanisms for roof lights
- TV cabinet

Thus, currently it is estimated that overall up to £7,000 may need to be found over the budgeted income and expenditure, but this figure could change.

6. However, in addition to the underspend which it is proposed to use for fitting out further underspends in the Council's 2018/19 budget have been identified as £22,000 from savings in staff costs and £22,781 from money set aside for servicing the Public Works Loans in 2018/19 which has not been required as the loans have only covered part of the current year.

7. Thus, Item 13 d proposes that up to £15,000 of these underspends are set aside as a contingency to cover the likely overspend on construction costs. It is not anticipated that the whole of the £15,000 will be required, hence the item specifically refers to returning any money not required to reserves, but as we near the end of the construction contract it is essential to have money in hand to pay any outstanding costs as they arise. An overrun of up to £7,000 on an original budget of £738,632 is under 1% and is an excellent outcome given the difficulties of getting the specification right from the beginning and the inevitable need for amendments and additional essential items.

RAH