

LISS PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 21st May 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 Laetitia Pienaar and one member of the press.

68/18 Election of Chairman

Resolved: Cllr Hargreaves, proposed by Cllr Halstead & seconded by Cllr Linsley, was unanimously elected as Chairman for the ensuing Council year.

Cllr Hargreaves signed the acceptance of office form.

69/19 Election of Vice Chairman

Resolved: Cllr Budden, proposed by Cllr Jerrard & seconded by Cllr McDonald, was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman for the ensuing council year.

70/18 Apologies

Members noted that County Councillor Mr R. Oppenheimer and District Councillor Mr M. Kendall had sent apologies.

71/18 Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

72/18 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman noted that the Senior Groundsman, Luke Mannerings, had given notice to terminate his employment with Liss Parish Council. His last day of service would be 14th June 2018.

Members expressed a vote of thanks to the Mr Mannerings for his services to Liss Parish Council. Cllr Dodds noted that an interim situation had been established to ensure the continuation of grounds services, to include the services of the Part-Time Groundsman and three contractors. This was noted by Members.

The Chairman also noted that Cllr Budden had been appointed Vice Chairman of EHDC. Members expressed their congratulations to Mr Budden.

73/18 Adjournment for public participation

The meeting was adjourned for any public participation.

There were no matters raised.

The meeting was then reconvened.

74/18 Report from County Councillor

County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer had submitted a written report (attached).

75/18 Reports from District Councillors

District Councillor Mr Kendall had submitted a written report (attached).

District Councillor Mrs Pienaar opened by expressing her congratulations to Cllr Budden on his appointment as Vice Chairman to EHDC. Mrs Pienaar advised the following:

- That she had attended a very good Community Forum on Local Services for Older People on 2nd May;
- That the Charity Walk for Peace organised by EHDC and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Elders, held on 12th May was very well attended and raised funds for nine local charities. It was hoped that the walk would become an annual event and that going forward a selection process would be established for the beneficiary charities and community organisations;
- That the local village agent had worked with EHDC to deliver a positive outcome for a local individual, highlighting the added value that the role brings.

Mrs Pienaar expressed concerns about perceived speeding issues within the village centre, specifically between the roundabout and the level crossing. The Chairman advised that any specific issues and concerns should be directed to the Highways Committee who were looking at the issue. Mrs Pienaar also enquired about the consultation on the future of the Community Forum meetings.

District Councillor Mr Budden advised that he was in discussion with the portfolio holder, Julie Butler, on the future of Community Forum meetings to establish what works best. It was hoped that the Community Forum meetings would take place more frequently. Mrs Pienaar noted the need for the meetings to be held in the villages they serve, as well as at Penns Place, and for the themes to reflect issues affecting the villages concerned.

Mr Budden noted in relation to his appointment as Vice Chairman to EHDC that some changes were being made to the Cabinet structure, so that senior appointees would report to one Cabinet Member only.

Mr Budden also highlighted the success of the Charity Walk for Peace and noted that EHDC was offering gratis advice to charities. Cllr Smith made a plea for parish councils to be considered for such advice. Mr Budden noted that there was a potential role for EHDC to improve the collective bargaining power of parish councils.

Finally, Mr Budden advised that redevelopment of The Temple Inn was progressing well, that the integrated housing development was at the planning stage and that it was hoped that the pub would reopen shortly.

76/18 Appointments to Committees

Resolved: The following appointments to Committees, proposed by Cllr Budden & seconded by Cllr Linsley, were agreed unanimously:

Planning Committee: Cllr Hargreaves (ex-officio), Cllr Budden (ex-officio), Cllrs Halstead, Jerrard, Linsley, Mayo, McDonald & Wright.

Grounds Committee: Cllr Hargreaves (ex-officio), Cllr Budden (ex-officio), Cllrs Dodds, Halstead, Linsley, MacNamara, O'Malley & Smith. The Chairman of Buildings would also sit on the Grounds Committee.

Buildings Committee: Cllr Hargreaves (ex-officio), Cllr Budden (ex-officio), Cllrs Dodds, Linsley, O'Malley & Smith. The Chairman of Grounds would also sit on the Buildings Committee.

Finance Committee: Cllr Hargreaves (ex-officio), Cllr Budden (ex-officio) Cllrs Dodds, Linsley, Mayo, McDonald, Smith & Wright. The Chairmen of Grounds, Buildings & Highways would also sit on the Finance Committee.

Highways Committee: Cllr Hargreaves (ex-officio), Cllr Budden (ex-officio), Jerrard, Linsley, McDonald, Smith & Wright.

Review Group for Standing Orders, Procedures & Agreements with third parties: Cllr Hargreaves (ex-officio), Cllr Budden (ex-officio), Cllrs Linsley, McDonald, Smith & Wright

Staff Employment Matters Committee: The Chairman of the Council, the Vice Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of Finance & Cllrs Linsley & Wright.

Liss Pavilion Development Committee: Cllr Hargreaves (ex-officio), Cllr Budden, (ex-officio), Cllrs Dodds, McDonald, Mayo & Smith.

77/18 Appointment of representatives to Outside Bodies and External Appointees

Resolved: The following appointments, proposed by Cllr Halstead & seconded by Cllr McDonald, were agreed unanimously:

The Newman Collard Playing Field & Pavilion Trust: Cllrs Smith & Linsley & MacNamara.

Liss Community Association (The Triangle): Cllr Halstead.

East Hampshire Association of Parish & Town Councils: All Members are invited to attend meetings of the Association.

Coryton Almshouses: Cllrs Budden, MacNamara & Linsley,

Rake Village Hall Management Committee: Cllr Linsley.

Liss, Greatham & Hawkley Friendship Fund: Cllr Budden & Mrs Cartwright.

The Dorothea & Mary Cole Foundation: Cllr MacNamara.

Crossover Youth Centre – Cllr Smith.

Liss Village Design Group: Cllr Wright.

The George Street Trust: Mrs M Keel.

East Hants District Council Community Forum – All Members are invited to attend meetings of the Community Forum.

Community Tactical & Coordinating Group – Cllr Linsley.

Tree Warden – Mark Welby.

Resolved: That the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee be dissolved, proposed by Cllr Hargreaves & seconded by Cllr Mayo with all in favour.

Members expressed a vote of thanks to Mr Roger Mullenger for his services representing Liss Parish Council on the Newman Collard Playing Fields & Pavilion Trust.

Members noted the importance of feedback from external (non-councillor) representatives to outside bodies.

78/18 Minutes of the meetings of 16th April, 30th April & 4th May 2018

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

Resolved: That the approved minutes of the Council meeting of 30th April be noted.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 4th May 2018 be accepted as a correct record (proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr McDonald with all in favour).

79/18 Matters Arising

Minute 13/18: The Chairman noted that the British Legion had plans in place to celebrate the last day of the 1st World War centenary celebrations. Members considered what LPC might like to add as a lasting memorial and agreed to look into the planting of a tree in the Centenary Gardens with a memorial plaque.

Minute 50/18: The Chairman noted that the admin officer was liaising with HCC regarding concerns raised over the dual use pavement in Liss Forest and also in order to establish whether the road/pavement scheme was fully implemented as proposed.

80/18 Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Resolved: That, subject to clarification of queries raised, the payments and receipts recorded in Responsible Finance Officer's Report, proposed by Cllr Mayo and seconded by Cllr Linsley, be approved.

81/18 Correspondence

81/18(i) SDNPA invitation to National Park Authority Workshops – Cllrs Budden and Halstead would attend the event on 12th June and Cllr Linsley would attend the event on 6th June.

81/18(ii) NCPFT invitation to opening ceremony of new facilities at NC Pavilion on 9th June – Cllrs to advise the Clerk if they wish to attend.

81/18(iii) EHDC invitation to Planning & Compliance Training on 22nd May – Cllr Budden was already due to attend as District Councillor. Cllr Mayo would also attend.

82/18 Reports of Committees

- Pavilion Committee

The Chairman noted that the application to MHCLG for borrowing approval was in hand with a decision expected within a few weeks. Work was also underway in tandem to reach a formal agreement with the Scouts for usage. Both strands were required in order for Council to be in a position to approve the signing of the contract.

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the Pavilion Committees of 24th April 2018 be noted.

- Planning Committee

The Chairman highlighted that the Planning Performance Agreement on the CALA planning application was underway. Cllrs Halstead and Hargreaves had attended the first workshop under the framework which would work towards the preparation of a deliverable scheme for the Andlers Ash site.

The Chairman noted that Members had expressed serious concern regarding the alterations to the frontage of the Fish and Chip Shop which was in the Liss Conservation Area and for which there was no planning permission. Numerous public complaints had also been received. The Chairman advised that a strong of objection would be submitted and that Cllr Budden advised that EHDC Enforcement were also investigating.

It was also noted that the increase in size of the Rother Barn Christmas Tree farm was also under investigation. There had been no development on the Puddleducks occupation of their new location.

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the Planning Committee of 30th April 2018 be noted.

83/18 Year End Financial Close Arrangements

Resolved: That Liss Parish Council note the audit report received from Lightatouch for the 2017/18 financial year and approve the contents, proposed by the Chairman of Finance, seconded by Cllr Dodds with all in favour.

Resolved: That Liss Parish Council approve the Annual Governance Statement for the 2017/18 financial year and authorise the Chairman & Clerk to sign the document accordingly (page 4 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2017/18 refers), proposed by the Chairman of Finance & seconded by Cllr Smith with all in favour.

Resolved: That Liss Parish Council approve the Accounting Statements for the 2017/18 financial year and authorise the Chairman & Responsible Finance Officer to sign the document accordingly (page 5 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2017/18 refers), proposed by the Chairman of Finance & seconded by Cllr O'Malley with all in favour.

Resolved: That Liss Parish Council approve the audited annual Charities accounts for 2017/18 and authorise the Chairman & Responsible Finance Officer to sign the documents accordingly, proposed by the Chairman of Finance & seconded by Cllr MacNamara with all in favour.

84/18 Local Council Award Scheme

The Chairman advised that Liss Parish Council had been awarded the Foundation award level of the Local Council Award Scheme administered by the National Association of Local Councils. The award recognises that Liss Parish Council has met a set of standards which demonstrate sound governance, community engagement and a commitment to continued improvement through staff and councillor development.

Members extended a vote of thanks to the Clerk for the hard work that had gone into achieving the award.

85/18 Matters of Concern

Cllr MacNamara noted some concerns he had received regarding traffic and parking issues. This was to be pursued by the Highways Committee.

Cllr Budden noted concerns he had received regarding the height of the grass on the Ham Barn Roundabout. It was noted that the roundabout falls within the parish of Greatham.

86/18 Reports on Outside Bodies

Cllr Halstead was due to attend the Triangle AGM on 19th June, the art exhibition to be held at the Triangle on 1st-3rd June and the EHAPTC on 14th June in Hawkley, where Damian Hinds MP would be holding Q & A session.

Cllr MacNamara was to attend a meeting of the Coryton Alms Houses on 24th May.

Cllr Linsley was due to attend the NCFPF AGM on 24th May.

Cllrs Linsley, Budden and Jerrard noted the quality of the Community Forum held on 2nd May. The refocus on a specific topic – Local services for older people – was welcomed and the quality of the event was noted.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.10 hrs

Next meeting: Monday 18th June 2018, 19.30hrs

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO LISS PARISH COUNCIL

21 MAY 2018

1. Mental Health Awareness Week 2018



Last week Mental Health Awareness Week (between 14-20 May) was given a high priority by Hampshire County Council. The theme this year was “Stress: are we coping?”. Many employers and organisations have been encouraging workers to address stress-related issues and use toolkits to address them.

Hampshire County Council used the opportunity of Mental Health Awareness Week to communicate our Mental Health Strategy, focusing on young people. Soon all schools will have a mental health champion amongst their staff and schools nurses are also receiving extra training in mental health so that they are qualified to make referrals.

2. Hampshire County Council AGM

At the County Council AGM on Friday 18 May, Cllr Roy Perry was re-elected leader of the Council for another year. Cllr Elaine Still has become the first woman to serve as Chairman of the County Council for over a decade.

I was also appointed Chairman of the Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee. Time will tell whether this role affords me greater clout when it comes to getting potholes and other highways issues addressed in Petersfield Hangers Division... I am hoping that it will!

3. South Downs Local Plan commences examination

The first Local Plan to cover the entire South Downs National Park has now been submitted to the Government. The Local Plan has been submitted alongside all of the evidence used in its preparation and more than 2,500 comments received in the pre-submission consultation in 2017.

Inspector Brian Sims has been appointed to conduct the examination to determine whether the South Downs Local Plan is sound. The Inspector will set questions to be answered by the Authority and other interested parties on the plan. All outstanding queries will be dealt with at public hearings, expected to be held at the South Downs Centre in Midhurst. Dates for hearings will be confirmed by the Inspector in due course.

The overall allocation of homes and the ratio of affordable homes are likely to be key issues for the examination. The South Downs Local Plan will make overall provision for approximately 4,750 net additional homes over a 19 year period between 2014 and 2033. That works out at around 250 homes per year in the entire South Downs National Park. Most developments will have to include 50% affordable homes.

4. New Secretary of State prioritises housing

On 30 April James Brokenshire MP was appointed Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. It is clear from his early comments that housing is going to be his principal focus. The Government has already stated that it wishes to see 300,000 new homes built every year. (In 2016-17 the annual new homes figure stood at 216,750 which was a 15% improvement on the previous year.) The Government consultation on the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) ended last week and this is likely to be followed by the publication of the new NPPF in the Summer.

James Brokenshire has also given a clear steer on local government reorganisation in his first interview with the Local Government Chronicle since being appointed. On 2 May Mr Brokenshire said: “There is a clear space and scope for unitary authorities. Obviously it is seeing where there is a need for that and yes, there are proposals on the table that my predecessor had been considering and I will now be looking at.”

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER

County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

District Councillor Report – Mike Kendall

1 EHDC issues

I was pleased to be one of the nominees to the candidacy of Cllr Budden as Vice Chairman of the District Council, and was delighted at his appointment at the Annual Meeting of EHDC last Thursday. He will no doubt comment further.

I took a different view to Liss PC Planning Committee and to officers of EHDC to planning application SDNP/18/00551/HOUS, an application for a pitched roof to a front porch and a rear extension to No 6 Silver Birch Close. Having met the occupant of No 7 and her family at her house and measured the length of the proposed extension, I took the view that a 4-metre extension adjacent to her boundary would have been unacceptably intrusive. Officers' arguments that permitted development of 3 metres would have been just as intrusive were wrong, in my view (and the neighbour's at No 7). I also argued that a pitched roof extension to the front of No 6 would have looked decidedly out of keeping with the rest of the Close, where flat-roofed porches and garages abound. My representations to have the application referred to the Planning Committee of EHDC were unsuccessful however and officers have now granted permission under delegated powers.

2 Liss Flood Action Group

I am grateful to Liss PC for including an item in the recent Village Voice, which included a call for volunteers. 2 residents volunteered and have joined the group. One has extensive experience of residents' associations elsewhere, and the other is a consultant on emergency planning and community resilience. I'm sure they will be great assets to the group.

There have been a few developments on the strategic flood prevention front:

(i) The Arun and Rother Rivers Trust (ARRT) has applied for funding to the EA for a study of the Rother including Liss. The ARRT are proposing a range of work in and around the Rother from Hardham to Liss. Part of this will involve a feasibility study with riparian surveys which would help to build a picture of local pressures, habitats and opportunities along the river (including upstream of Liss). The bid has been supported by letters from Roger Hargreaves the Chairman of Liss Parish Council and from me on behalf of the Liss FAG.

(ii) Sandra Manning-Jones of the ARRT hopes to have a scoping study for Natural Flood Measures (NFM) for Liss by the end of May

(iii) the Environment Agency (EA) consultants' study on the feasibility and financial viability of works in Liss, is now expected at the end of May/early June, rather than April as previously reported.

(iv) the FAG has given initial thought to a review of funding sources for further consultancy work, in the event it is needed to supplement work by the EA or ARRT.

3 Coryton Trust

The Trust owns 4 almshouses on Farnham Road and attempts to let them to persons over 60 years' of age and previously associated with agriculture, either themselves or through their families. Vacancies are relatively rare

but there are now two. The Trust has identified one applicant and is considering two others. I am particularly grateful to trustees Cllr. Susan Jerrard and Cllr. Francis MacNamara, for attending a meeting last week at the houses with the Trust's agents and prospective tenants, The Trust will hopefully determine the outcome of this process at a further meeting on Thursday 24th.

I have also asked the Trustees to report to their prospective parish councils (Liss Greatham and Hawkley) on a replacement for me as the co-optative (co-opted) trustee. If a name is agreed next Thursday then he/she can be considered at that meeting or in the autumn as a possible replacement for me as Chairman. (The original Trust Deed of 1936 suggests that the additional co-optative trustee may but need not be a parish councillor but shall be chairman. The Scheme approved by the Charity Commission in 1976 says the co-optative trustee is responsible for administering and managing the Trust (i.e. acting as lead trustee) but that the Trustees may appoint any one of their number as Chairman. I have combined the role but this seems not to be essential, if that helps).