

LISS PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 18th September 2017.

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 and *Ms A Wright.
* Present

Clerk: S. Smith.

In attendance: County Councillor Mr R. Oppenheimer, District Councillor Mr M. Kendall & one member of the press.

114/17 Apologies

None received.

115/17 Declarations of interests

Cllr O'Malley declared an interest in item 18, the EHDC consultation on disposal of land at the Roundsbouts/Woodbourne Close, as her parents live there. Cllr Budden also declared an interest in the same item arising from his position as EHDC councillor.

116 /17 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman advised that Cllr Terry Wiles had resigned due to work commitments; the vacancy for a councillor would be advertised shortly.

The Chairman also advised that James Ellis had taken up the position of caretaker following Tim Pay's departure.

117/17 Adjournment for public participation

There were no matters from the public.

The meeting was reconvened.

118/17 Report from County Councillor

County Councillor Mr Oppenheimer highlighted key points from his report:

- Hampshire A level results continued to outperform the national average according to provision data, including a 3% increase to 26% of pupils gaining an A/A* with the overall pass rate for A-E remaining at 99%;
- HCC are working directly with Amazon to become the first authority to use new Amazon technology to help older people live independently in their homes for longer;
- Responses to the Serving Hampshire consultation on identifying 140m of savings from HCC's budget were being analysed with a summary to be published around early October;
- HCC is looking for new members for the HCC Countryside Access Forum. The closing date is 25 September and more information can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/hcaf;
- Cllr Oppenheimer noted his support for the Parish Lengthsmen scheme, advising that additional funding recently confirmed would allow more parishes to benefit, including potentially Liss.

Cllr Budden regretted any savings to the HCC budget which would be brought about by cuts to community transport and Cllrs McDonald and Jerrard had concerns about any cuts to adult social care. Cllr Oppenheimer reassured Cllrs McDonald and Jerrard that the overall budget would be going up for adult social care due to the growing need. Cllr Linsley expressed concern that exam grades were being manipulated by exclusion of pupils who would not attain the desired grades. Cllr Oppenheimer responded that this was unlikely in Hampshire where good standards are maintained and exclusions avoided.

119/17 Reports from District Councillors

District Councillor Mr Kendall welcomed the inclusion of a project on flood prevention in the CIL Infrastructure Delivery Plan which would be discussed later in the meeting. This could potentially benefit 104 houses at risk of flooding in Liss. He hoped that any partnership funding for the Environment Agency would encourage them to bring this forward to the current funding cycle.

Cllr Kendall noted that his allocation for community grants was now almost completely committed and stressed the importance of applying for funds before commencing a project, as funds could not be allocated to a project which had already commenced.

Cllr Kendall advised that, following the meeting on traffic issues at Liss Infant and Junior Schools, the Traffic Team would continue to monitor and have requested that the school reconsider the number of disabled parking bays with a view to freeing up more parking spaces for parents. He also noted the potential extension of the 30m speed limit further up Hill Brow Road which would hopefully reduce speeds approaching the school. Lastly Cllr Kendall noted that proposals to regenerate the Coryton Arms Houses would be put to trustees later in the year.

District Cllr Mr Budden advised that negotiations between the potential purchaser of the Temple Inn and the brewery were ongoing with a decision expected imminently.

Cllr Budden also advised that the Call & Go bus services to and from Liss were to be extended and would be advertised accordingly.

Cllr Wright enquired about possible changes to car park charges on Hill Brow Road and Cllr Budden responded that this was still subject to consultation and decision.

120/17 Appointments to Committees

Cllr O'Malley was appointed to the Grounds Committee, proposed by Cllr Dodds and seconded by Cllr Linsley. Cllr McDonald was appointed to the Review Committee, proposed by Cllr Linsley and seconded by Cllr Wright.

Cllr Smith was appointed to the Buildings and Grounds Committees, proposed by Cllr MacNamara and seconded by Cllr McDonald.

121/17 Appointment of representatives to outside bodies

No vacancies had arisen.

122 Minutes of the meetings of 17th July 2017

Cllr Linsley noted that the meeting referred to under item 106/17 needed to reflect the attendance of Liss Infant School as well as the Junior School and it was highlighted that some renumbering of minutes was required.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting and Council meeting of 17th July, proposed by Cllr Mayo and seconded by Cllr Budden, be agreed unanimously subject to the minor amendments as noted.

123/17 Matters Arising

- Min 108/16 – Lych Gate – Cllr Budden advised that he would follow up with Nick Leach for response. A report had also been provided by a surveyor as the condition of the Lych Gate advising that some future maintenance would be required.

124/17 Responsible Finance Officer's Report (attached)

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

Resolved: That the payments and receipts recorded in the RFO's Report, proposed by Cllr Linsley and seconded by Cllr O'Malley, be approved.

125/17 Schedule of correspondence

125/17(i) EHDC consultation on disposal of land at the Roundabouts/ Woodbourne Close - This had been circulated and the response date extended to 19th September. The Clerk and Cllr Halstead would prepare a response following discussion under item 18 of the agenda.

125/17(ii) Abbeyfield invitation to public consultation on 20th September, Liss Village Hall. This had been circulated and the Clerk would advise that cllrs would be attending the event.

125/17(iii) HALC invitation to 70th Anniversary Celebrations, 10th October in Winchester – The Clerk would re-circulate details in order to establish attendance.

126/17 Reports of committees

126/17(i) Planning Committees

Resolved: The draft minutes of the Planning Committee of 24th July and 21st August be noted.

126/17(ii) Finance Committee

Resolved: The draft minutes of the Finance Committee of 31st July be noted. It was noted that a minor amendment was required to the attendee list.

126/17(iii) Liss Pavilion Development Committees

Resolved: The draft minutes of the Liss Pavilion Development Committees of 15th August and 12th September be noted.

126/17 (iv) Buildings Committee

Resolved: The draft minutes of the Buildings Committees of 11th September be noted. The exempt item would be considered during the exempt session.

126/17 (v) Grounds Committee

Resolved: The draft minutes of the Grounds Committees of 11th September be noted. The exempt item would be considered during the exempt session.

127/17 Update on Liss Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman referred to the e-mail and update which had been circulated on 1st September. He highlighted that the examiner's recommendations were considered and accepted by the SDNPA on the 14th September and that the plan, following some redrafting to include the modifications, would be put to a public referendum. The Chairman advised that EHDC would run the election which would be advertised by the SDNPA by way of posters and that an article in the Village Voice would complement this. The Chairman highlighted the importance of people turning out to vote as the outcome would be based on the votes received. In response to a question, the Chairman advised that should the plan not be accepted, it could be redrafted or abandoned, meaning that the SDNPA would determine where housing in Liss would go.

128/17 Motion proposed by Cllr Smith

“That Liss Parish Council authorise the Chairman/Clerk to take the necessary steps to join the Lengthsman scheme administered by Steep Parish Council and obtain the relevant funding from Hampshire County Council.”

Cllr Smith introduced the motion and referred to the paper had been circulated. This highlighted the type of work the lengthsman could do, the benefits of additional capacity and costs, namely materials – the HCC grant would cover the labour (which would be subject to year on year availability) and the lengthsman should provide standard equipment. It was noted that the lengthsman would be covered by existing insurance policies. It was agreed that Highways would identify priorities, which would be circulated for Grounds and others to feed into, and that the work would be managed by Frances Cook as clerk of the Highways Committee. Cllr Budden advised that Greatham and Hawkley had both had positive experience of the scheme.

Resolved: That the motion as drafted, seconded by Cllr Linsley, be approved unanimously.

129/17 Motion proposed by the Chairman of the Planning Committee

“That Liss Parish Council approve the list of priorities for the Council’s initial Infrastructure Delivery Plan and to inform the SDNP CIL Infrastructure Delivery Plan.”

Cllr Halstead advised that parish councils will receive 15% of levies payable on implementation of certain planning applications, or 25% for those with a Neighbourhood Plan in place. The remaining 75% or 85% amount would be allocated to projects across the Park by the SDNPA. A draft Liss Infrastructure Delivery Plan had been drawn up to submit to the SDNPA for consideration in their Infrastructure Delivery Plan, whilst also providing a list of priorities for LPC to allocate funds arising from CIL proceeds. Cllr Smith noted that the Highways priorities had not been included and it was agreed that these would be fed into the priority list. It was agreed that remaining section 106 funds should be sought for Highways projects where possible prior to an application for CIL funds.

Cllr Halstead advised that the list would be a rolling priority list and could be updated at any time, although a response was required by the SDNPA by 28 September. The Chairman proposed that the Planning Committee take the lead with input from wider Council and highlighted that it was essential for proposed projects to be researched, evidenced and costed in order to be considered for the priority list.

Resolved: That the motion, as drafted, seconded by Cllr Smith, be approved unanimously, subject to inclusion of the Highways priorities in the list as identified.

County Councillor Mr Russell Oppenheimer left the meeting at this point.

130/17 Motion proposed by the Chairman

“1 - That Liss Parish Council agrees to sign the proposed contract with Michael Weakley as project manager for the replacement building project in line with minute 73/17;
2 - That Liss Parish Council approves the plans covering design and layout to be submitted for planning approval; &
3 - That Liss Parish Council agrees to the sum of £10,000 for anticipated expenditure for the planning application, advice from a surveyor to cost the Scouts requirements for usage, initial legal costs and other ad hoc expenditure as required to advance the project as agreed in the 2017/18 Action Plan.”

The Chairman gave an update on the Pavilion project and advised that the project had reached a stage where formal appointment of Michael Weakley as project manager was required in order to submit the planning application and to advance the project. Members approved the plans and expenditure of the funds required at this stage. Cllr McDonald noted her preference for a separate access to the quiet room and kitchen via a corridor to maximise usage. Cllr McDonald also raised the need for a locker in the disabled toilet if it were to double as a referee changing, should both male and female changing facilities be required at the same time.

Resolved: That the motion as drafted, seconded by Cllr Budden, be approved with one abstention (Cllr McDonald).

131/17 Extension of meeting

An extension to the meeting of no more than thirty minutes, proposed by Cllr Linsley and seconded by Cllr Halstead, was agreed.

132/17 Motion proposed by the Chairman

"That Liss Parish Council approves the proposed employment contract for new members of staff and staff sickness and staff and councillor expenses policies as agreed by the Staff Committee".

Cllr Smith declared an interest and left the meeting at this point.

The Chairman advised that an updated staff contract based on the NALC model had been agreed by the Staff Committee. The sickness and expenses policies were new policies as the revised contract made reference to these. The Chairman noted that copies of relevant policies should be circulated to all staff.

Resolved: That the motion, seconded by Cllr Budden, be approved unanimously

133/17 EHDC consultation on disposal of land at the Roundabouts/Woodbourne Close

Cllr Smith returned to the meeting at this point.

Members discussed EHDC proposals to dispose of the land at the Roundabouts/ Woodbourne Close for residential development. Members noted that the land in question is designated open space by EHDC and is important in providing recreational space to the residents of the adjoining housing, which only benefit from the one area of green space on that side of Mill Road. Maintaining open space was seen as particularly important as there is a recognised shortage of open space in Liss. Further importance has been attached to the land following designation of the land as Local Green Space in the Neighbourhood Plan which will go to referendum shortly.

Resolved: That the Clerk respond to the consultation noting strong opposition to the proposals on the above grounds.

134/17 Matters of Concern

No issues were raised.

135/17 Reports on Outside Bodies

Cllr Budden advised that stalls for the Christmas Fair on 6th December were being booked up quickly.

Cllr MacNamara noted that the Dorothea and Mary Cole Foundation was hoped to be reinstated with the Charity Commission.

The Chairman noted that Cllr Halstead had been organising input for the HALC Village of the Year Competition as well as attendance at the presentation which would take place on 28th September in Lyndhurst.

136/17 Extension of meeting

Cllr Budden proposed a suspension of Standing Orders to allow a further extension to the meeting. The motion was seconded by Cllr Wright and agreed unanimously.

137/17 Exclusion of the press and public for staff matters and delivery of services

Resolved: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the remaining business.

District Councillor Mike Kendall and the member of the press left the meeting at this point.

138/17 Exempt items

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.07 hrs

Next meeting: Monday 16th October 2017 @ 19.30hrs

Signed..... Dated.....