



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 18th January 2021 via Zoom teleconferencing.

Members

*Mr R Hargreaves (Chair), *Mrs S. Baldwin, *Mr K Budden, *Mr R Finn *Mr D Jerrard,
*Mrs M. Knibbs, *Mr H Linsley, *Mrs G Lowe *Mrs L McDonald, *Mr A Smith,
*Mrs C. Williams and *Mr N Wilson

* Present

Clerk: S. Smith

01/21 Apologies

No apologies were received.

02/21 Declarations of interests

All Members confirmed that they had no pecuniary interests to declare. Cllrs Linsley, McDonald and Wilson noted their personal interest as LPC representatives to the NCPFT.

03/21 Chair's announcements

The Chair noted the following:

- a) That the Villager of the Year award for 2021 was now open for nominations with a deadline of 10th February 2021. Details had been posted widely and councillors were invited to spread the word;
- b) That the Village Hall and Pavilion were open for specific exemptions only and the only current user was the RVS Liss Luncheon Club who were cooking and distributing hot meals to elderly members;
- c) That the sum of £4,002 had been received in Covid related grants for the Pavilion and Village Hall to mitigate loss of income due to recent periods of closure.

04/21 Minutes of the meeting of 14th December 2020

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council Meeting of 14th December 2020 be accepted as a correct record, subject to a minor typo from 'of' to 'on' picked up by Cllr McDonald in minute 120/20 (proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr McDonald with all in favour).

05/21 Matters arising

The following matters were highlighted:

118/20 d): Cllr Linsley enquired as to whether LPC would be adopting the recently approved new EHDC councillor code of conduct; Cllr McDonald advised that this was considered and agreed at the last Review Committee in December which Cllr Linsley had attended, and that the policy had been partially reworked in line with this model with further revisions to be completed at the next meeting of committee;

101/20 c): Cllr Wilson noted that the Pétanque Terrain at Liss Forest Recreation had now been completed and initial use had highlighted the need for a path to reach it; the Clerk was looking into this and a proposal was likely to be forthcoming;

101/20 e): Cllr Wilson noted that the proposal for the West Liss Recreation Ground play and leisure project was currently being reworked for this year's round of SDNPA funding, and that the NCPFT would submit a bid for a MUGA in the next round in early 2022.

06/21 Update from the County Councillor

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

Cllr Lowe welcomed the information relating to ‘Hitting the Cold Spots’, an initiative to help people stay warm in their homes via help and advice from a support line. The Clerk confirmed this had been posted on social media and would also add it to the LPC website.

Cllr Baldwin asked about homelessness initiatives at this time. Cllr Budden advised he would respond as a district council issue.

07/21 Update from the District Councillor(s)

Cllr Budden updated on the following issues:

a) Homelessness in East Hampshire: Cllr Budden advised that there were currently no homeless people on the streets except those who had declined to take up the offer temporary accommodation (however welfare calls were made on those who had not taken up the offer of temporary or B&B accommodation). He noted that EHDC has gone further than the statutory requirements of offering temporary accommodation to the homeless facing up to four consecutive nights below 0 degrees. In response to a query from Cllr Linsley, Cllr Budden undertook to check whether those in B&B accommodation were required to vacate during the day.

Cllr McDonald enquired about the longer-term strategy for the homeless who had been housed during this period. Cllr Budden responded that it was intended that these people would transfer to social housing in due course.

b) Mill Road Community Garden: A shortened proposed Heads of Agreement had been drawn up by EHDC which would provide for a 2-year license to LPC. Assuming a successful project ensued EHDC would then consider a permanent transfer of the land in return for a nominal sum. This Heads of Agreement document would be circulated this week to those involved in the project. Cllr Wilson added that co-opted Facilities Committee member David Dodds had agreed to work on the project with the Assistant Clerk; that a delegated decision making process had been agreed for signing the agreement (consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair in consultation with the Chair of Facilities); that the Clerk had secured the necessary funding for the project and that a timetable for implementation would be considered by the March Facilities Committee with the plans to return to Council for agreement; it was hoped that implementation might be able to follow in the summer months.

Cllr Wilson enquired as to the security of such an initial arrangement given the investment required, what sum might be involved to secure the land on a longer-term basis and added that a dowry was to be sought by LPC to cover maintenance, mainly grass cutting, in the initial period.

Cllr Budden advised that the Heads of Agreement would provide some certainty over the future status of the land for LPC assuming plans were carried out as envisaged, but that it was more difficult to answer regarding the financial angle at this stage.

c) EHDC Governance Review: Cllr Budden advised a firm action plan was in place to bring about improvements.

d)EHDC Budget: The decision on the budget had been delayed to the February meeting of Council.

e) Covid pandemic: Cllr Budden advised that numbers of Covid cases had doubled in Liss last week and urged residents to be extra cautious, particularly as the neighbouring borough of Havant was the fifth worst hit area in the country. A meeting would take place in two weeks’ time with the Director of Public Health in Hampshire to consider the way forward.

Cllr Jerrard drew attention to the seriousness of the pandemic given the Havant and also Waverley hot spots very close to Liss and asked whether the vaccination locations would be advertised.

Cllr Budden advised that details of the appropriate vaccination centre would be contained within individual letters sent out and that, should residents have difficulty getting to the location, Community First were providing a transport service to assist.

Cllr Smith stressed the importance of not chasing the doctor’s surgeries given the pressure they were under and that details would be sent to residents when their vaccination was due.

08/21 Responsible Finance Officer’s Report

Resolved: That the payments and receipts recorded in Responsible Finance Officer’s Report be approved (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Linsley with all in favour).

09/21 Reports of committees

a) Highways Committee of 15th December 2020: Members noted the minutes.

Cllr Wilson enquired about possible short-term solutions to the parking issues opposite Tesco's where people were parking on double yellow lines. Cllr Smith advised that enforcement was key, but that he would explore possible solutions with HCC and would work with Cllrs Budden, Finn and Wilson to consider a tactical approach in the shorter-term.

Cllr Linsley advised that his work on investigating appropriate locations for the village gates had been halted due to Covid restrictions. Cllr Smith noted that HCC and SDNPA would also have clear views regarding safety and visibility which would need to be taken into account.

b) Planning Committee of 13th January 2021: Members had not had the opportunity to review the Planning Minutes as this had only been circulated that day. Cllr Budden advised that there had been no controversial issues and invited Members to submit any comments before the next meeting.

10/21 Revised LPC policies

Members noted the following revised policies:

a) Business Continuity Plan: Cllr McDonald advised that only very minor amendments had been made and, in response to a question from Cllr Smith, advised that there had not yet been any consideration of the learning points from Covid. Cllr McDonald felt that the policy related more to local circumstances rather than a national pandemic which benefited from central government guidance. The Chair concluded that the policy could be revisited at a later date to assess the success of LPC contingency procedures applied during the pandemic and any learning points.

b) Social Media Policy: Cllr Wilson expressed concern about clause 4.10.4 which set down that 'LPC councillors and employees should avoid publishing any information that they could only have accessed in their position as LPC councillor or employee' as making use of such information was inherent in using social media for LPC purposes. This was noted for the next revision of the policy.

11/21 LPC agreement with the NCPFT on use of the Groundsman's Hut

Resolved: That Liss Parish Council approves the draft agreement between LPC and the NCPFT on occupation of the Groundsman's Hut and authorises the signing of the agreement in line with Standing Orders, with any further minor textual changes to be agreed by the Chair Vice Chair and Chair of Facilities Committee (proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Williams and with all in favour).

In response to a question from Cllr McDonald, the Chair advised that the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the NCPFT was a separate issue and that negotiations on the SLA would follow.

12/21 Application for s106 funding for highways works

Resolved: That Liss Parish Council authorises an application to the SDNPA for the sum of £83,136 for the following:

- i) To deliver village gateways to 7 sites in Liss (£35,900 approx.), with precise locations to be agreed;
- ii) To deliver the Hill Brow Road school zone community infrastructure (£25,950 approx.);
- iii) To deliver Phase 2 school zone works (£21,286 approx.).

The motion was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr McDonald and with all in favour.

In response to a question from Cllr Wilson, Cllr Smith advised that improvements to Forest Road was still a highways priority area, but that it would require a separate strand of work due to the more significant highways planning issues concerned.

13/21 Appointments to committees and external bodies

Resolved: That Cllr Finn be appointed to the Highways Committee, that Cllr Lowe be appointed to the Facilities Committee and Project Review Group and Cllr McDonald as LPC representative to the Crossover.

14/21 Exempt Session

The Clerk advised that the guidance stated that councillor co-options should be held in open

session. However, due to the personal nature of the matter, the Chair proposed that Council move to into exempt session.

Resolved: That the following agenda item be held in exempt session (proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Wilson and with all in favour).

15/21 Exempt session: Councillor co-option

Resolved: That Jenny Bennett be co-opted to fill the councillor vacancy for the Liss ward with a simple majority of the votes.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.52 hrs.

Next meeting: Monday 15th February 2021 at 19hrs via Zoom

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

4 JANUARY 2021

As we start 2021, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all Parish Councillors for your service to the community during this pandemic. It has not been an easy period for anyone yet despite the pressures you have all kept going impressively. The work you do on behalf of residents is greatly appreciated. We are not out of the woods yet but the end is in sight...we will beat this together!

1. Making sure people know how to get tested

To help contain infection rates locally, we need to ensure that people know how to get tested. I would ask Parish Councils to consider reinforcing this message through their communication channels. The simple message is that anyone with a high temperature or a cough should get themselves tested. Anyone with symptoms can order a test at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Of course, anyone with symptoms must also self-isolate too. I think that this is more widely understood than the requirement to get a test.

2. Concerns over return to school

With Hampshire currently in Tier 4, I would like to acknowledge the local concerns amongst parents and teachers about the return to school of primary school children today.

Hampshire's early years providers and county-wide family of schools are continuing to work hard to keep Hampshire's pupils, teachers and school staff safe by implementing appropriate measures to help prevent the spread of infections when they are in school. We are extremely grateful for all the work that is being undertaken, and I am aware that many staff have worked over the Christmas period to ensure that schools adhere to the latest national guidance. I hope that parents will be reassured by this phenomenal effort. We will face similar concerns when secondary school pupils are due to return. These are not easy decisions for the Government. I believe that the physical and mental wellbeing of children is best served by keeping schools open wherever possible. I have full confidence that parents and teachers will continue to work towards enabling pupils to return to the classroom as soon as possible.

3. Hitting the Cold Spots

It looks like the current cold snap is set to continue for at least the next fortnight. Now more than ever, it is important that everyone stays warm in their own homes so that they do not become more vulnerable to Covid. Hampshire County Council has an initiative to help people who are struggling to stay warm. The initiative is called “Hitting the Cold Spots”. Any resident in Hampshire can call for support and advice on this number:

0800 804 8601

Lines are open 9-5 on weekdays. Services include:

- home visits from our Advisors offering advice and practical support;
- support with temporary heating measures if you are without heating;
- assistance to switch your energy provider or tariff to help you save money on your fuel bills;
- eligibility check for the Warm Home Discount and local energy efficiency schemes;
- help to access to funding, where available, for boiler repairs and replacements. Delivered through trusted 'Buy With Confidence' contractors;
- signposting and referrals to other organisations, such as: benefits and debt advice and safe and well visits by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service;

I would be very grateful if Parish Councils could advise local charities and groups about this worthwhile initiative please. Stay safe and stay warm!

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers