



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 15th February 2021 via Zoom.

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

16/21 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from cllrs Jerrard and Knibbs.

17/21 Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

18/21 Chair's announcements

The Chair welcomed Cllr Bennett to her first full Council meeting and noted the following:

- a) That the Annual Parish Meeting would take place at 8pm on Wednesday 17th March via Zoom with details regarding public participation to be detailed on the agenda in due course;
- b) That a further grant of £8,000 (£4,000 for each building) had been received in Government support via EHDC to mitigate against loss of income during this latest lockdown, in which the facilities are only allowed to open for certain limited activities;
- c) The importance of adhering to Government guidance. This was particularly relevant regarding to safe use of playgrounds at this time as there have been reports of lack of social distancing and parents socialising in the play areas. He stressed that the Government guidance clarifies that playgrounds are primarily open for use by children who do not have access to private outdoor space, like their own garden, and that although parents, guardians or carers can take children to a playground for exercise, they must not socialise with other people while there.

19/21 Minutes of the meeting of 18th January 2021

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council Meeting of 18th January 2021 be accepted as a correct record, subject to a few small amendments (proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Linsley with all in favour).

20/21 Matters arising

07/21: In response to a question from Cllr Baldwin about the timeframe for the transfer of the homeless who had been housed in B&B accommodation to social housing, Cllr Budden advised that all efforts would be made to provide social housing as quickly as possible. However, this would be dependant on various issues including personal circumstances, but that there was a fair amount of social housing available with an approximate waiting time of 4 months in most areas.

In response to a question from Cllr McDonald, Cllr Budden confirmed that the homeless people housed in temporary B&B accommodation did not have to vacate the premises during the day. Cllr Linsley clarified that it was not only letters being sent from doctors' surgeries regarding the Covid vaccination, but now also by phone.

11/21: In response to a question from Cllr Wilson, the Clerk confirmed that the License between LPC and the NCPFT had been signed by both parties to formalise use of the Groundsman's Hut. Cllr Wilson noted there was some uncertainty as to when the Men's Shed would commence work on dual occupation but with the agreement complete the way was now open.

The Chair noted that the Facilities Committee, with the support of former councillor David Dodds, would liaise with the Men's Shed regarding practicalities.

21/21 Update from the County Councillor

County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer, had submitted a written report (at **Annex A**). He highlighted the following:

- a) That he was working with local schools to ensure a split of the £27m fund for decarbonisation of schools would be allocated locally;
- b) The importance engagement on the first stage of the Local Transport Plan consultation, seeking LPC and individual feedback to be submitted;
- c) The importance of lobbying the SDNPA on Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs), seeking LPC support on the issue.

Cllr Smith undertook to pursue the issue of BOATs in the Highways Committee and liaise with Cllr Oppenheimer accordingly.

Cllr Smith was tasked to prepare a response to the Local Transport Plan consultation to register the LPC interest on behalf of the Highways Committee, given that the deadline for the consultation deadline fell before the next Highways Committee.

Cllr Linsley raised the issue of consultation on the Local Transport Plan which he felt people weren't aware of, seeking greater publicity via poster distribution and a possible extension of the consultation deadline (28th February).

Cllr Wilson suggested making use of LPC social media (Cllr Bennett added that she had found a link to the HCC post for sharing on social media).

22/21 Update from the District Councillors

Cllr Budden updated on the following issues:

- a) That whilst Covid numbers had fallen across the district in line with the national picture, Liss had the second highest rolling rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 in East Hampshire.

Cllr Budden reinforced the need for people to stay home in line with Government guidance – Cllr McDonald asked whether this information could be placed

prominently on the LPC homepage and Cllr Smith responded that the dedicated Covid webpage had links to all the latest information;

- b) That the EHDC budget would take place on 18th February.

Cllr Oppenheimer highlighted the following issues:

- a) That his key role at the district council was in climate change as assistant portfolio holder of climate change to portfolio holder Julie Butler. Cllr Oppenheimer advised that a £250,000 was held in budget reserves to implement the climate change strategy for which good applications were needed in order to be able to allocate the funds. He expressed an interest in linking with contacts, including young people, in Liss.

The Chair noted that former councillor Ian James had prepared a paper on climate change and asked if there was a new volunteer who would be prepared to champion the issue. Cllr Bennett took on the role and would liaise with Cllr Oppenheimer accordingly.

Cllr Smith enquired as to the types of projects which could be funded, e.g. solar power for the Village Hall.

Cllr Oppenheimer advised that options included measures to improve EPC ratings such as insulation, double glazing and solar power in council, school and community buildings, but highlighted that the funds needed to be spread across the whole of East Hampshire.

23/21 Responsible Finance Officer's Report

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

24/21 Reports of the Project Review Group of 25th January 2021

The Chair noted that the main item discussed at the meeting was the Village Centre Redesign Brief which would be considered under the next item. He also highlighted that the group were starting to look at socially related projects in addition to facilities and infrastructure.

Resolved: That Members note the report of the Project Review Group of 25th January 2021.

25/21 Approval of Village Centre Redesign Brief

Cllr Smith introduced the item and thanked Assistant Clerk Lizzy Keeling for all her work on the brief.

The Chair advised that it had been agreed at the last project Review Group that a small working group would be set up to take forward the project. The Chair had drafted Terms of Reference which would be circulated for agreement by Project Review Group Members. The group would oversee the day-to-day management of the project but would not be able to commit to any spending or amend the terms of the project; they would report back regularly to the Project Review Group

Resolved: That Liss Parish Council approves the brief for the Village Centre Redesign, following consideration and recommendation by the Project Review Group (proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Wilson with all in favour).

26/21 Action Plan 2021/22

Members considered a draft Action Plan for 2021/22 prepared by the Chair and Clerk and made a few amendments (at **Annex B**). Subject to any further comments, the revised version would

be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting. A period of public consultation would follow prior to approval of the Action Plan at the April meeting of Council.

27/21 Exempt Session

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

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.545 hrs.

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

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

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN
PETERSFIELD HANGERS**

1 FEBRUARY 2021

1. HCC awarded £27m for decarbonisation of schools

I am delighted to report that the Government has awarded £27m to HCC to carry out improvements to the energy efficiency of buildings. The award comes from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. This is a great vote of confidence in HCC. The funds will help us meet our carbon reduction targets whilst reducing energy bills. This will save taxpayers' money and give schools more cash to spend on classroom learning.

The funds will be spent as follows:

- A £6.7 million programme for the installation of solar panels (solar photo voltaics);
and
- A £20.2 million window replacement programme to improve insulation levels by replacing inefficient single glazed windows with modern, double glazed units.

Across the two programmes, in total around 370 Hampshire schools and several County Council corporate buildings are expected to benefit. For Parish Councillors with links to local schools, I would encourage you to ensure that the school has responded to the energy survey sent out in January by the HCC Energy Team. This response is needed for the school to get in the line for these measures.

2. Local Transport Plan consultation

It is a statutory requirement for County Councils as Transport Authorities to produce a Local Transport Plan in line with the Transport Act (2000) and the Local Transport Act (2008). The existing Local Transport Plan for Hampshire was developed in 2011 and was the third such plan. HCC is now consulting on a replacement for that plan which we are abbreviating to

“LTP4”.

LTP4 has a lot to consider. There are huge pressures on the highway network from new housing and population growth. Climate change means we must reduce emissions - we also want healthier places with more sustainable transport. Within both communities and businesses there are often different views on priorities, and that means we need as much feedback as possible.

We are keen to engage widely and would welcome your views. HCC has set up an LTP4 microsite with some really useful background information and an online survey. I would encourage you all to visit the microsite and have your say. Here is the link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/localtransportplan>

Later this year a draft plan will be produced, and there will then be a further public consultation on that draft. I will let you know when that happens.

3. Round-the-clock salting during freezing weather

This winter Hampshire Highways teams have been out 24/7 doing all they can to keep Hampshire's roads clear and safe. As well as the main roads, the teams are also treating roads leading to COVID vaccination and testing centres. We have additional gangs hand-salting the entrance and footway areas at these sites.

Each salt run takes approximately three to four hours. Once the first run is complete, teams return to their depots to re-load, ready for the next run. We have good stocks of salt, with more deliveries scheduled.

Forecast road surface and air temperatures, wind speed and direction, rainfall, and ice formation are all important factors in putting the winter fleet to work. Roads are treated with salt before temperatures drop to freezing to try to stop frost and ice forming. Temperatures and conditions can vary significantly within Hampshire, so winter teams look at a number of distinct weather bands to help decide when and where to put the winter fleet to work.

Hampshire Highways' dedicated fleet of 43 winter vehicles are fitted with the latest technology to ensure salting is accurate and efficient, including full GPS guidance and automatic salt delivery. The vehicles also have Euro VI efficient engines and dedicated snow ploughs.

4. Byways Open to All Traffic

As many of you know, the BOATs in East Hampshire are regularly damaged by dirt bikes and 4x4s. Our clay soil and chalk substrata can result in the damage being acute in winter. This issue of vehicles using the BOATs for sport therefore restricts access to the National Park, damages the natural environment and causes noise nuisance and air pollution for residents and visitors.

I and others have been campaigning for the last three years to get these BOATS reclassified as Restricted Byways. As a result of our initial efforts HCC and SDNPA undertook a pilot scheme on the Fiveways BOATS (in East Meon), focusing on signage and voluntary restraint. This pilot had only limited success and I now believe we need to look at more permanent measures.

I am hoping that this issue will come onto the Agenda for the SDNPA Full Authority Meeting on 25 March 2021. In advance of that meeting I would be very grateful if concerned Parish Councils could consider writing to the SDNPA Chairman and Chief Executive setting out the negative impact on communities and urging them to use their powers under the National Park Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England)

Regulations 2007 to bring Traffic Regulation Orders to restrict vehicular access to these BOATs. It would also be helpful if Parish Councils could take photographic evidence of damage and a record of incidents.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

DRAFT Action Plan for 2021/2022

During the Council year 2021/22 Liss Parish Council will undertake the following actions:

- Maintain the open spaces for which the council is responsible, including the three recreation grounds, and facilities such as the Village Hall and Liss Pavilion, to the required standard;
- Comment on all planning applications which fall within or impact on the Parish.
- Represent the views and promote the interests of the parish of Liss, particularly in relation to East Hampshire District Council, the South Downs National Park and Hampshire County Council.
- Engage with the community, including parishioners, local businesses, community groups and organisations in Liss by maintaining an up-to-date website and social media presence in the village in line with the Community Engagement Policy.
- Listen, investigate and respond to issues identified by the parish of Liss and, if appropriate, to signpost to the correct person/ organisation for resolution/ further progression.
- Work with key local groups for the benefit of residents, including the Liss Forest Residents Association;.
- Deliver speedy and transparent decisions through full meetings of the Council, supported by appropriate committees and working groups.
- Maintain good financial practices, ensuring transparency and value for money.
- Identify and secure sources of funding to advance LPC priorities.
- Promote training and induction and ongoing support for members of staff and councillors;
- Maintain good governance, including adhering to relevant benchmarks to achieve Quality Status of the Local Council Award Scheme.

Key projects for 2021/2022 include:

- Covid-19: helping the village recover and learn from the experience of Covid-19, in consultation with the community, using our services and funding and through support to and from other organisations, such as the district and county councils and local voluntary groups.
- Identifying priorities for the use of CIL funds allocated directly to Liss Parish Council, using extensive community engagement.
- Making use of new accounting software to manage finances and provide enhanced reporting data to support decision making.
- Highways priorities:
 - Delivering the village gateways project;
 - Developing the school zone proposals, including reviewing options for the crossing point on Hill Brow Road; and
 - Exploring the opportunity and costs of improvement work on Forest Road, including traffic calming.
- Facilities priorities:

Creating a new sports and leisure hub at West Liss Recreation Ground to complement the new Pavilion (subject to the availability of funding);
Delivery of the planned Community Garden on Mill Road;
Working with partners to further develop a village wide strategy for recreational facilities;

Exploring options for restoration of the Millennium Mosaic,

- Developing proposals for enhancement of the village centre.
- Exploring opportunities with supporting organisations for enhancing the social welfare of the village.
- Liss Neighbourhood Plan: working with the SDNPA to set up arrangements for the implementation and monitoring.