



## LISS PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 via Zoom.

### Members

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

\* Present

Clerk: S. Smith

### 29/21 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Finn.

### 30/21 Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

### 31/21 Chair's announcements

The Chair advised that:

- a) Cllr Margaret Knibbs had resigned as councillor and expressed thanks on behalf of LPC to her for her work for the council. The vacancy would be advertised shortly;
- b) Liz Ford had resigned as Responsible Finance Officer and would depart at the end of May once the new software installation was complete. The vacancy would be advertised shortly. In addition, the Chair noted the need to scope the staffing requirement for LPC as this might affect what could be delivered;
- c) Advice from HALC had been received that legislation which permitted council meetings to be held virtually would expire on 7<sup>th</sup> May and so it was recommended that Annual Meetings of Council be held between 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May. It was considered unlikely that the legislation would be extended. The Annual Meeting of Council scheduled to take place on 17<sup>th</sup> May was therefore be moved to 5<sup>th</sup> May and the meeting of Council on 19<sup>th</sup> April cancelled.

Cllr Wilson proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the Council to Mr Glover, a local business owner, who had donated the fourteen new hanging basket brackets over the Tesco block.

Members agreed.

### 32/21 Minutes of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be accepted as a correct record, subject to an amendment by Cllr McDonald to amend the word "webpage" to "homepage" in minute 22/21 (proposed by the Cllr Linsley and seconded by Cllr McDonald with all in favour).

### 33/21 Matters arising

25/21: Cllr Smith advised that the Project Review Group sub-group on the village centre improvement project had met with HCC via MS Teams and were impressed with what they had to offer in terms of consultancy services. Work would now progress to explore the options before bringing them back to the PRG.

Cllr Williams echoed and agreed with Cllr Smith's sentiments, noting in particular the work HCC had done with Romsey and the phased approach in Winchester.

Cllr Wilson offered his support to the views expressed so far by cllrs Smith and Williams and added that he thought HCC were particularly strong on transport planning expertise, but also well attuned to the wider issues.

### **34/21 Update from the County Councillor**

County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer, had submitted a written report (at **Annex A**) which was noted by Members.

The Clerk advised that she had uploaded the details relating to Census Day on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and the consultation on Walking and Cycling improvements to Petersfield (with a deadline of the same date) to LPC social media.

### **35/21 Update from the District Councillors**

Cllr Budden also took the opportunity to remind people about Census Day on Sunday. He also advised that:

- a) the EHDC budget was approved at the last full council meeting after a heated debate and that council tax bills were now being sent out;
- b) the April meeting of council had been cancelled as it fell in the election purdah period.

Cllr Wilson enquired about the new £1 billion EHDC Supporting Communities Fund noting that some areas of the criteria supported the LPC Action Plan.

Cllr Budden replied that the fund was open to community groups to apply with funding decisions to be made in April.

### **36/21 Responsible Finance Officer's Report**

Cllr Linsley enquired about the entry relating to childcare vouchers. The Clerk and Cllr Williams explained that this was a salary scheme whereby staff were able to pay for childcare from pre-taxed salary.

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

### **37/21 Reports of committees:**

**Resolved:** That the report of the Planning Committee of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be noted.

**Resolved:** That the report of the Review Committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 be noted.

### **38/21 Revised LPC policies**

Cllr McDonald advised that the following policies had been amended:

- a) Code of Conduct
- b) Dealing with Allegations
- c) Community Engagement
- d) Risk Management
- e) Social Media.

She added that the first two documents were new and followed the EHDC models (Clerk's Note: There was a previous LPC Code of Conduct but this had been completely overhauled).

The Chair added that as the EHDC Monitoring Officer deals with any issues arising within East Hampshire parishes it was sensible to have the same policy in place (Clerk's Note: This is also recommended by EHDC.)

Members noted the revised and new policies.

### **39/21 Watering system for Liss In Bloom**

Cllr Wilson introduced the item which was intended to help support the efforts of Liss In Bloom (LIB) in watering the many hanging baskets and floral displays around the village.

Cllr Linsley asked about the operation and watering of the other baskets in the village.

The Clerk advised that a timer would activate the water supply as required and that other baskets and lamp post planters would still need to be watered manually. However, the new system would reduce the overall watering burden.

Cllr Linsley asked whether a watering system had been investigated for the other baskets.

The Chair replied that there were issues involved with sourcing the water among other issues. Cllr McDonald clarified that the fourteen brackets above the Tesco block that this system would serve are higher than the other hanging baskets and so this would mean the ladder would not need to be used combined with the watering bowser. The Chair added that LPC were looking at how the organisation of the LIB funds to enhance the financial management as well as how best to support LIB in other ways, such as assisting in recruiting new volunteers to ensure these are sufficient in numbers and to provide succession in the leadership of the group going forward.

**Resolved:** That Liss Parish Council allocates CIL funds available to fund a watering system for the hanging baskets above the Tesco block for the sum of £445, subject to formal approval from the owner of the block for installation (with any subsequent maintenance to be carried out by LPC) and approval from Tesco who supply the tap which would feed the watering system (proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Smith with all in favour).

**40/21 Financial Risk Assessment**

**Resolved:** That Liss Parish Council approves the updated Financial Risk Assessment following annual review by the Finance Committee and the inclusion of Covid-19 considerations, subject to approval of clause 2.1 at the Finance Committee of 26<sup>th</sup> April (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Smith with all in favour).

Cllr Wilson proposed that financial arrangements with Liss In Bloom be considered in the document. Cllr Williams advised that this review process had now been concluded and agreed with the auditor but that once the financial arrangements with LIB had been agreed this could be kept under review.

**41/21 Matters of concern**

Cllr Budden expressed concern about the self-made de facto BMX track behind the children’s fenced play area noting the depth of the holes which were potentially dangerous. In addition there was evidence of fly tipping. The Clerk advised that the land in question belonged to the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust. Members agreed that the issues should be raised with the Trust. In response to a question from Cllr Linsley regarding responsibility under the Service Level Agreement between the Trust and LPC, the Chair advised that it was silent on the issue.

**42/21 Exempt Session**

**Resolved:** That the following item be treated as exempt due to the sensitive nature of the business (proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Smith with all in favour).

**43/21 Exempt Session**

**Resolved:** That the exempt minutes of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> February be approved as a correct record (proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Williams with all in favour).

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.00 hrs.

Next meeting: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 19hrs via Zoom

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

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

**1 MARCH 2021**

1. Supporting the Census this month

Census day for England and Wales is 21st March 2021. I would be very grateful for Councillors' support with raising awareness of the Census and encouraging participation. By accurately recording our population in East Hampshire we can ensure that we get a fair allocation of resources in a wide range of areas, from school places to mobile signals.

Every 10 years the census gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. For the first time, there is a "digital first" approach. This means people can complete their census where and when they want to online. Paper forms are available for those who need them.

Everyone will receive a 16-digit code in the post which they can use to submit their Census response at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk). There is a process for requesting a new code in the event that someone does not get a letter for whatever reason. The new code can be sent by text. It would be great to ensure that everyone in our community knows that they need to look out for their code, go online and complete the questionnaire in the week ending 21 March.

2. Consultation on Walking and Cycling improvements to Petersfield

In January of this year HCC was awarded £3.8m for Active Travel measures and they are proposing to spend some of that in Petersfield. A consultation is underway which invites public comment on the proposals. Here is a link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/22022021PetersfieldATFPR>

I am very conscious that Parishioners from across Petersfield Hangers Division use the shops and markets in Petersfield on occasion, and so I hope that the current consultation will be of wide interest. The consultation ends on 21 March 2021.

3. Supporting Families programme receives funding boost

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government awarded £2m of funding to HCC on 12 February which will ensure that our successful Supporting Families programme continues for another year. The funding announcement from MHCLG is particularly significant this year, when the adverse impacts of the coronavirus pandemic are being keenly felt, especially by families who were already struggling to cope under normal circumstances.

The HCC Supporting Families programme brings together a wide range of Hampshire agencies including local councils, the Police, voluntary sector, Health and Criminal Justice. Between January 2015 and December 2020, the Programme engaged with 7,696 vulnerable families with multiple and complex needs. To date, positive outcomes have been recorded for 1,923 families,

who have accepted and engaged with support and achieved sustained changes within the family as a result, such as sustained employment or improved school attendance. Independent evaluation by Solent University demonstrated that between 2015-19, the support given to families to get back on their feet successfully translated into savings of £27million to the public purse.

#### 4. Revamp of the South Downs Partnership

Following the launch of its new Partnership Management Plan for the period 2020-25, the South Downs National Park Authority is relaunching its South Downs Partnership. If you are interested, or anyone you know is interested, please could you let me know by 3 March 2021 so that I may put your name forward.

In line with the Glover Review of Protected Landscapes, the SDP will have a crucial role to broaden and deepen the participation of individuals, communities and organisations in in the National Park and to bring its benefits to a much wider audience. As Julian Glover said in his report:

“We need to reignite the fire and vision which brought this system into being in 1949. We need our finest landscapes to be places of natural beauty which look up and outwards to the nation they serve. More must be done for nature and natural beauty. More must be done for people who live in and visit our landscapes.”

The diverse membership of the new SDP will increase the breadth of experience and skills available to the SDNPA and help to expand and develop the networks which will be needed to make the long-term outcomes of the National Park a reality. Members of the South Downs Partnership will:

- Be champions and advocates for the National Park,
- bring with them, or rapidly build up, strong networks in particular sectors or parts of the community – both inside and outside the Park
- use their own expertise and their networks to broaden and deepen the participation in the NP and help deliver its Partnership Management Plan,
- provide constructive advice and feedback to the Authority and to the rest of the SDP.

SDP Members will be expected to attend at least four meetings a year plus sub-groups. This will require preparation beforehand and follow through afterwards. Members will receive payments for all reasonable expenses incurred in delivering the role. Members will be appointed for a three or four-year term, at the end of which they may be considered for reappointment.

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**  
**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**