



## **LISS PARISH COUNCIL**

An INFORMAL meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
by Zoom/ YouTube

### Members

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

\* Present, in addition to County Cllr Russell Oppenheimer and one member of the public  
Clerk: S. Smith

The Chair opened the meeting by noting that this informal meeting of Council had been called on Zoom rather than a formal in person meeting on the grounds of ensuring health and safety for councillors and staff. It was hoped that the next meeting of Council scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> February would be an in-person meeting at the Village Hall, subject to any adverse developments Covid related or guidance to the contrary.

### 1.Apologies

None received.

### 2.Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests.

### 3.Chair's announcements

As Chair of the East Hants Rail Partnership, Cllr Budden advised that there would be no trains between Petersfield and Havant between 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February due to signalling and level crossing improvement works (Clerk's Note: It has since been clarified that there will be no trains between Guildford and Havant). There would be two rail replacement buses per hour calling at all stations. This would increase journey times and it would not be possible for passengers with bicycles, wheelchairs, or non-folding pushchairs to be able to travel on the replacement buses. Further clarification on the options for disabled passengers etc. would follow.

This would be the first of a number of full-line closures between now and the Spring of 2024 which would bring benefits in terms of journey time and service reliability once completed.

Cllr Budden highlighted that engineering trains would still be running and highlighted the importance of checking in both directions before using any of the crossings without barriers.

### 3. Public participation

The member of the public present enquired about recent Facebook posts on recreation facilities and the link with the wider recreation strategy, particularly in relation to Liss Forest.

Cllr Wilson responded that the recreation strategy had not been finalised or published but would be published in the spring as a basis for widespread consultation, including through social media and public meeting(s). However, in terms of projects, some were already underway as established priorities, such as replacing the children's play area at West Liss and looking at provision for teenagers and adult exercise. In order to inform these two strands an LPC consultation exercise on adult gym equipment was underway and the Crossover was looking at possibilities for teenage provision. These would both inform the bid to the SDNPA for funding to be submitted by the end of February deadline. Cllr Wilson noted that these had been agreed LPC Action Plan priorities and

subject to bids to the SDNPA for the past three years.

The member of the public asked how the Facebook discussion on priorities would fit with the SDNPA deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> February for funding applications.

The Clerk noted that this discussion did not relate to either of the formal LPC consultations underway (Village Gateways and Adult Gym Equipment) but appeared to have arisen from the Liss Forest Residents Association who were canvassing ideas to put to LPC for enhancing provision at Liss Forest Recreation Ground from LPC CIL funding.

Cllr Hargreaves, as Chair of the Project Review Group, clarified that there was CIL funding available from SDNPA which we had to bid for. However, there was also CIL funding which came directly to LPC over which LPC had complete control, these funds currently amounted to around £300,000. The spending of the latter was not tied to a specific timetable and would be subject to a large public consultation exercise in the Spring.

#### **4.Update from the County Councillor**

Cllr Oppenheimer had submitted a written report (**Annex A**).

Cllr Smith asked when the repair to Hill Brow Road following the car fire was likely to take place. Cllr Oppenheimer advised that the works had been booked in and the timetable he had been given was 4-6 weeks. He undertook to chase in due course if required.

On the Call for Nature Sites, Cllr Wilson advised that two expressions of interest for sites in Liss had been submitted – the area to the rear of Fernhills allotments on Duckmead Lane and the wild area next to the Liss Pavilion at West Liss Recreation Ground.

#### **5.Update from the District Councillors**

Cllr Budden noted the following:

- a) In his role as Parish and Town Council Liaison, Cllr Budden had circulated an e-mail requesting input on training requests for councillor and officers for 2022. The Clerk would circulate and collate views.
- b) That the partnership between Havant Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council would come to an end after 12 years of working in partnership. Although a lot had been achieved during that time, the decision had been made for financial reasons and potentially differing priorities going forward in relation to potential reorganisation with Havant being in South Hampshire and EHDC being East Hampshire. The aim was to separate by May 2022. A key consideration of the process would be the impact on staff. As regards the future of EHDC, Penns Place was scheduled for disposal of and likely to be replaced with regional hubs (possibly Petersfield, Alton and Bordon).

Cllr Oppenheimer added that he hoped to have an update on climate change for the next meeting.

#### **6.Minutes of the meetings of the Council meetings of 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Members were content that the minutes of the informal Council meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> December and the formal meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> December were accurate records of the meetings, subject to correcting a few non-substantive typos in the former.

The minutes would be carried forward to the next formal meeting of Council for noting/approval.

#### **7.Matters arising**

Cllr Linsley enquired as to whether any lessons could be learned from the recent councillor resignations.

The Chair advised that the key thing to take away from recent experience was to be clearer to prospective councillors about the time commitment expected, particularly as we move towards in-person rather than virtual meetings. He highlighted that this was made very clear in the recent prospective councillor interviews.

Cllr Linsley also asked whether there was an information pack provided to prospective councillors. The Clerk advised that a welcome pack was provided to new councillors but not prospective councillors.

Cllr Baker noted that his discussion with the Clerk on joining LPC, in addition to the welcome pack, has been invaluable and Cllr Bennett added that she had received remarkable support from

both officers and councillors on joining LPC.

The Clerk noted that there was a dedicated page on the website on how to become a Parish Councillor and invited any feedback on proposed amendments to enhance the page.

Cllr Jerrard picked up on Cllr Budden's earlier reference to training opportunities in 2022 which he welcomed given that training provision had slipped somewhat in recent times.

Cllr Linsley noted a collective responsibility to ensure that all references made at meetings were readily understandable.

Cllr McDonald raised the issue of the delegated authority, questioning whether there had been a change in Government policy and whether LPC was obliged to follow HALC advice. She noted a lack of wider Council debate on the issue.

The Chair responded that he and the Clerk had made the decision in consultation with the Vice-Chair faced with limited time and with the health and safety of councillors and officers as the primary concern. He noted the option of either not meeting (which would not have allowed the budget to be agreed) or meeting in person when some councillors had expressed reservations about doing so. He added that the informal, virtual meetings provided opportunity for discussion and communication and allowed members of the public to attend for transparency.

Cllr Wilson highlighted the key Government message of work from home and noted that the delegated authority had been discussed on 13<sup>th</sup> December at which point any issues could have been raised.

Cllr Hargreaves supported the decision which had been made and suggested Members now look towards the next meeting in February.

The majority of Members, as well as the Clerk, expressed a willingness to attend an in person meeting next month, subject to any adverse developments.

Cllrs Linsley and Jerrard expressed reservations as to whether informal meetings were legal.

The Chair concluded that the meeting scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> February would be an in-person meeting subject to any changes in guidance or legislation from central Government. He agreed that consultation on arrangements would be facilitated when the timeframe allowed but noted that ultimately the decision would rest with the Chair and Clerk based on health and safety grounds. Any formal decisions would be delayed until the next in person meeting took place, which it was hoped would be 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Cllr Oppenheimer left the meeting at this point.

### **8. Responsible Finance Officers Report**

No queries were raised as regards the report of the Responsible Finance Officer for the period 8<sup>th</sup> December to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

The RFO Report would be carried forward to the next formal meeting of Council for approval.

### **9. Correspondence**

Members discussed a request from the '20's Plenty For Us' campaign for LPC support for the proposed 20mph limit where people live, work and play. Although the majority of Members supported the campaign for reasons including that speeding is a key concern for residents and the measure would be welcomed by Speedwatch, some members felt that a 20mph limit would be preferable in certain locations rather than a blanket reduction from 30mph.

Members agreed to return to the specific wording of the motion proposed by the campaign at the next meeting.

### **10. Committees updates**

- **Planning Committee:** Cllr Budden noted that the Rother Farm license had been granted but with a number of restrictions, any breaches of which would lead to a review. He highlighted an application from Petersfield Golf Club for tourist cabins which had been submitted, although within the parish of Steep the site falls close to the Liss parish border. The Chair noted that the application had been called in by the SDNPA to consider the impact on the landscape. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the Assistant Clerk to put this on the agenda for the next Planning Committee.

- Finance Committee: Cllr Williams advised that there had been no Finance Committee since the last Council meeting; the next meeting was due to take place on 31<sup>st</sup> January.
- Facilities Committee: Cllr Wilson advised the following:
  - a) Up to 5 proposals and quotes were expected by the end of the month for replacing the children's play area at West Liss Recreation Ground.
  - b) The two moveable goal posts agreed at the last meeting for West Liss Recreation Ground had been ordered and were expected to be in place shortly.
  - c) The proposal for a MUGA at Newman Collard would be discussed at a meeting of Newman Collard Playing Field Trustees on 19<sup>th</sup> January.
  - d) Consultation was underway on the provision of adult gym equipment at West Liss and Newman Collard (with a closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> January) to inform the bid for SDNPA funding for which the deadline was the end of February.
  - e) To progress the Mill Road Community Garden the various utilities searches were being chased.
  - f) A form of words had been agreed to publicise the SANG now to be known as 'Hilliers Field'.

Cllr Hargreaves added that views were being sought from the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust on a revised Service Level Agreement which it was envisaged would take effect from April 2022. This would also be discussed by Newman Collard Playing Field Trustees at their meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

- Highways: Cllr Smith advised that all SDNPA s106 funds had been formally allocated to LPC to pursue the village gateways and school zone improvement projects. A consultation was underway on the village gateways with a closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> January.
- Project Review Group of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021: Cllr Hargreaves advised that there had been no Project Review Group meeting since the last Council meeting; the next meeting was due to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> February
- Review Committee: Cllr McDonald advised that the committee had met on 8<sup>th</sup> December and revised three policies which would be considered under the next item. The previously revised Grants Policy was due to be considered by the Finance Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> January and would then go to Full Council for approval. In response to a comment from Cllr Bennett that residents had been keen to establish what they were allowed to do, the Clerk undertook to circulate the link to the Facebook page.

### **11.Revised policies on a) Filming, Auto-recording, Photographing and Reporting of Council Meetings, b) Training and c) Environmental Policy.**

Cllr McDonald advised that the Training Policy had been subject to some updating but the other two policies only contained very minor, non-substantive amendments.

The revised policies would be carried forward to the next formal meeting of Council for noting.

### **12.Matters to report**

Cllr Jerrard asked whether the Community Partnership meetings would be starting up again. Cllr Budden undertook to establish the timetable.

Cllr Wilson reported that a steering group meeting had taken place on the Jubilee celebrations last Friday. Activities would include the beacon lighting on the Thursday evening, street parties on the Saturday (with West Liss Playing Field and Newman Collard Recreation Ground being offered for where residents' roads cannot feasibly be closed) and a picnic lunch on the Sunday at Newman Collard. A Facebook page had been launched with Karen Feeney from the Triangle in charge of communications and Cllr Williams in charge of co-ordination. It was also hoped that the new Project Officer might be able to provide support. It was noted that formal road closure applications were not expected to be required by EHDC, although this would need to be clarified in due course.

### **13.Councillor co-option**

The Chair invited the member of the public to leave the meeting at this point and stopped the YouTube feed so that Members could discuss the applicants for the two councillor vacancies in a confidential manner.

A formal vote on co-option would take place at an extraordinary meeting of Council prior to the

next meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 21.16 hrs.

Next meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 @7pm in the Village Hall.

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

# **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS 4 JANUARY 2022**

## **1. Local Government Finance Settlement**

On 16 December 2021 the Government announced only a 1-year settlement for the 2022/23 financial year. We had been expecting a 3-year settlement, so this “provisional settlement” was rather a disappointment. It is very difficult to plan services and capital expenditure when you only have funding clarity for 12 months.

There was some more cash announced in the settlement. But despite additional general funding of £22.9m, the County Council is still in the position of needing to draw £61.7m from the Budget Bridging Reserve to balance the budget next year. This is mainly due to rising prices in the adults’ social care market, together with other inflationary pressures.

The settlement also announced a review of the local government funding formula in 2022, with the reforms being implemented in 2023/24. It seems possible that this funding review will be conducted alongside the County Deal consultation (the County Deal White Paper is scheduled for January).

Whilst the increased funding is welcome, some of it has already been taken into account in meeting our Savings Programme 2023 (SP2023) and the County Council is also facing significant additional pressures which were not known when the original savings target of £80m was set. Of particular concern is the increasing cost of buying adults’ social care in the market which could lead to extra costs of over £35m next year over and above those allowed for in our projections.

The Council is expecting additional staffing costs of £2.3m next year due to the increase in employer national insurance contributions. This is also expected to knock through to increased charges from the Council's contractors along with other inflationary pressures in areas such as energy. All this creates additional uncertainty.

## **2. Motorbike Noise and Nuisance Parish Forum**

Councillors may recall that I chaired a well-attended online Parish Forum on this subject on 25 June 2021. Since then I have met several times with Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones, Damian Hinds MP and Flick Drummond MP.

We want to update Parishes on progress and a Teams meeting to this effect has been scheduled by the PCC for 1300 on Friday 14 January 2022. The main items of progress

relate to Average Speed Cameras on the A32 around the Meon Hut and signage which will instruct bikers to keep noise to a minimum. If you would like to attend the meeting on 14 January 2022 you can do so with this link:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

### 3. ReNature - still time to answer the Call for Nature Sites

The South Downs National Park Authority has an ambitious plan to increase the proportion of the National Park which is managed for nature from 25% to 33% by 2030.

A call for sites is still underway. Parishes and Landowners have until 17 January 2022 to make submissions of sites where a wildlife habitat could be created or enhanced. More information is available at this link:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/nature-recovery-information-for-delivery-partners/call-for-nature-sites/>

The SDNPA are looking to identify sites/projects at varying scales, ranging from well-developed project ideas, through to expressions of interest in putting forward a site to explore further.

The SDNPA will work with interested landowners and land managers to identify and develop nature recovery projects by providing specialist advice and help to “match-make” funding opportunities for suitable sites. Due to the rapidly emerging offset market (for both carbon and biodiversity), I have reason to believe that considerable private funding is going to be available in the coming years and so I would strongly encourage Parishes to consider putting in an expression of interest for suitable sites by 17 January.

### 4. Salt Bins

With some cold weather likely to arrive later this month I thought it would be helpful to share this County guidance on the use of Salt Bins.

#### **Where to use salt:**

The salt/grit in the community bins is for use only in the community on public paths, pavements and roads. The salt is not for private use on driveways or garden paths. Bins will not be refilled where people have taken the contents for their own personal use, and Hampshire County Council reserves the right to remove bins where the contents are being continually taken for private use.

#### **Who can use the salt:**

Anyone can use the salt to put on the roads or pavements. This can be particularly useful for example, to ‘join up’ salting from the main road carried out by County Council salting vehicles - to smaller access roads or on the pavements to the local school.

**How much salt to use:**

One tablespoon of salt (20 grams) is sufficient to treat one square metre of road / pavement surface. Please use the salt carefully – overuse will result in it being used up too quickly.

**How the bins get refilled:**

To request a salt bin refill please click on this link:

<http://roadenquiries.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems/highwaydefect/refillsaltbin.aspx>

We will refill the salt bins as soon as reasonably possible, and in bad weather we will endeavour to fill up empty bins on route.

At times of prolonged severe weather, the priority of the winter maintenance teams will be to salt the main roads and we may not be able to refill the salt bins as quickly as at other times.

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**

**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**