



## LISS PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 in the Village Hall

### Members

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

\* Present, in addition to three members of the public

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

### 166/22 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Tordoff.

### 167/22 Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interests.

### 168/22 Chair's announcements

The Chair highlighted the following:

- a) That Jenny Bennett had stood down as councillor – members extended their thanks to Jenny for her contribution to Liss Parish Council. The vacancy would be advertised shortly.
- b) That the Annual Parish Meeting would be held at 8pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The Chair invited as many councillors as possible to attend and asked them to encourage others to attend.

### 169/22 Presentation

Constance Taylor (age 9) presented her ideas for a Young Villager of the Year Award.

Members welcomed this presentation as an excellent suggestion.

**Resolved:** That Members consider a Young Villager of the Year Award, with two age categories to cover younger children and up to age 16, to be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting (proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr McDonald with all in favour).

### 170/22 Update from the County Councillor

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

In addition, Cllr Oppenheimer also noted the HCC decision to create a single countywide parking service across all districts, taking back all services from district council management which is was hoped would be more efficient and cost-effective.

Cllr McDonald enquired about helping unnamed refugees and who would be responsible for the vetting process, noting in particular the pressures on social services.

Cllr Oppenheimer replied that the named scheme would likely be expanded to reach those with no UK contacts. He added that HCC would likely be responsible for the vetting process and that he was very aware of existing pressures.

Cllr Linsley expressed dissatisfaction that it cost 9p per minute to contact the County Council to discuss a statutory service, with long and expensive wait times of around 30 minutes.

Cllr Oppenheimer noted that charges in general are likely to increase given the need to make savings but undertook to look into this.

### **171/22 Update from the District Councillors**

Cllr Budden noted there had been an increase in staff complement in the planning departments. Cllr Oppenheimer added that the Welfare Fund had re-opened for bids.

Two members of the public left the meeting at this point.

### **172/22 Minutes of the meetings of Council of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meetings of Council of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Linsley and seconded by Cllr Wilson with all in favour).

### **173/22 Matters arising**

148/22: Cllr Jerrard asked about the costs arising from the EHDC split with Havant Borough Council and was advised this would be taken under agenda item 19.

### **174/22 RFO's reports on payments and receipts for the period 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Resolved:** That the receipts and payments reported in the Responsible Finance Officer's Report for the period 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be approved (proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Williams with all in favour).

### **175/22 Report of the Planning Committees of 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Members noted the minutes.

### **176/22 Approval of planning comments under delegated authority**

**Resolved:** That the planning comments submitted under delegated authority Resolution 71-21 be approved (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Linsley with one abstention (Cllr McDonald) and all other Members in favour).

### **177/22 Report of the Highways Committee of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Members noted the minutes.

### **178/22 Approval of the Charities Accounts 2020/21 and Trustees Reports**

**Resolved:** That Liss Parish Council approves the audited Charities accounts for the twelve months to March 2021 and Trustees' Reports for the West Liss Recreation Ground, Village Hall and Allotments and authorises the Chair to sign the documents accordingly (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Baker with all in favour).

Cllr Wilson highlighted the receipt of generous Covid grants in the Charities accounts.

### **179/22 Asset Register 2022**

**Resolved:** That the Asset Register dated March 2022 be approved (proposed by Cllr Linsley and seconded by Cllr William with all in favour).

### **180/22 Council Risk Assessment 2022**

That the Council Risk Assessment dated March 2022 be approved (proposed by Cllr Linsley and seconded by Cllr Baker with all in favour).

The Chair extended his thanks to the Clerk and Assistant Clerk in preparing this document.

### **181/22 Public consultations**

Cllr Hargreaves introduced the paper which had been circulated (**Annex B**).

Members welcomed the paper which would help in framing public consultations going forward.

Cllrs Hargreaves, Smith and Wilson outlined their proposed approaches respectively for consultation on CIL priorities, village centre improvements and recreation facilities.

Cllr Baker highlighted the need to capture, collate and analyse data, even anecdotal data, for presentation.

Cllr Linsley expressed a preference for a random selection approach to establish a cross section of opinions. Cllr Hargreaves favoured a series of group sessions. The Chair noted that HCC should be able to assist in the village centre consultation process.

**182/22 Appointments to Committees and Champions.**

**Resolved:** That Cllr Deacon be appointed to the Facilities and Planning Committees and Cllr Tordoff to the Highways and Planning Committees and as Climate Change and Environment Champion (proposed by Cllr Budden and seconded by Cllr Williams with all in favour).

**183/22 Matters to report**

Cllr Smith suggested a review of the APM start time and date following the forthcoming meeting. The Chair thought the time was enshrined in legislation but that this should be checked.

Cllr McDonald asked whether those overlooking West Liss Recreation Ground would receive advance notice of the installation of the pumptrack for the Jubilee weekend.

The Clerk responded that this would be arranged.

Cllr Deacon reported an overgrown path between Inwood Road and Huntsbottom Lane.

Members noted this should be reported to HCC. It was noted that the Highways Committee are walking the footpaths to report back any issues and the assistant Clerk would be asked to check this one was on the list.

Cllr Wilson asked whether other Members had felt there was a rise in low level criminality and vandalism in Liss.

Cllr Budden noted a perceived slight increase but that this was a normal cyclical pattern.

Cllr Jerrard noted the lack of the Community Partnership meetings did not allow the exchange of such information.

Cllr Wilson concluded that the view from the Police Community Support Officer was that Liss is a generally safe community and that the issues at the railway had reduced.

The Chair undertook to try to get the flow of crime statistic reinstated and that he and the Vice Chair should meet the Longmoor police team leader.

The Chair advised that he was considering a way to help focus project delivery across the different committees. He invited ideas and undertook to draft something for the next meeting of Council.

**184/22 Q and A session on the EHDC/Havant Borough Council split.**

The Chair responded to queries regarding the EHDC/Havant Borough Council split.

Cllr Oppenheimer left the meeting at this point.

**185/22 Exempt Session**

**Resolved:** That the following item be taken in exempt session (proposed by Cllr Linsley and seconded by Cllr Williams with all in favour).

A member of the public left the meeting at this point.

**186/22 Exempt Item: Approval of exempt minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

**Resolved:** That the exempt minutes of the Council meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 be approved (proposed by Cllr Linsley and seconded by Cllr Williams with all in favour).

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.53hrs.

Next meeting: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 7pm

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

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT  
TO  
ALL PARISH COUNCILS  
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS  
2 MARCH 2022**

1. Ukraine: HCC Leader's Statement

Hampshire County Council has expressed solidarity with the people of Ukraine and has stated its preparedness to support the UK Government, if called on, to help with the unfolding humanitarian crisis.

Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Keith Mans said: "As the world watches events in Ukraine, across Hampshire we all send our thoughts and prayers to the Ukrainian people, including those who are living in Hampshire. None of us would have expected to have seen such hostilities in Europe in these modern times, and we condemn the attacks on Ukraine's innocent citizens.

"Hampshire County Council, in common with the rest of the country, is watching the concerning situation in Ukraine and stands in solidarity with the Ukrainian people and communities affected by this conflict. Should Government seek our support, we will assist as needed - building on our experience of supporting refugees and evacuees from previous conflicts."

I am sure all Councillors will share this sentiment from the Leader. Incidentally Keith Mans will be standing down in May 2022 and this has been reported in local newspapers. HCC will therefore be under new leadership in May following an election process within the Conservative Group.

2. Storms put Hampshire Highways to the test

The consecutive Storms Eunice and Franklin in February were extremely challenging for everyone at Hampshire Highways. We had over 2,000 incident reports and over 1,000 trees down. The clean-up operation is ongoing and may take another week or two. The bill for the response will run to seven figures.

When the ground is wet, it is always more likely that trees will come down in storms. Councillors will be aware that the ground is still unusually saturated and so we are currently vulnerable in the event of further high winds. I would advise people to be very cautious about driving during storms when the ground is so wet.

Sadly there was a fatality in Alton which shows how dangerous these storms are. The bravery and commitment of our Highways teams cannot be overstated. We all rely on our highways to live our lives and these frontline workers are doing a great job this winter, showing considerable resilience. We owe them our profound thanks.

### 3. 2022/23 Budget is approved by Council

Hampshire County Council's council tax precept for the financial year beginning 1 April 2022 will increase by a total of 2.99%, of which 1% will go specifically towards adults' social care. This equates to an annual charge of £1,390.86 for a Band D property – an increase of just over £40 per year. This recommended increase will generate an extra £21m towards delivering essential County Council services in the next financial year, especially in the care of the vulnerable.

Hampshire still has one of the lowest Council Tax rates in the UK, alongside Somerset. This year's increase has to be seen in that context. Price inflation and demand growth in social care (both adults and children) have put pressure on budgets and mean that a Council Tax rise is the most responsible decision.

Alongside revenue budget plans, the County Council has approved a capital programme worth £556.2m over the next three years to boost jobs, build schools and cycle paths, and improve the quality of the environment. This provision for Hampshire's infrastructure brings the County Council's four-year total investment in the fabric of Hampshire, to £832.6m. Our prudent financial management and strong reserves has made this investment possible. Very few County Councils in the UK have the capacity to embark on such a substantial capital programme.

Nevertheless, the financial challenge facing Hampshire County Council over the coming years looks to be considerable. At HCC we are lobbying the Government to use its review of Local Government Finance to increase funding and to provide a multi-year settlement so that we can plan services effectively.

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

## LISS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 21 MARCH 2022

### CONSULTATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON FUTURE PROJECTS

#### A DISCUSSION NOTE

1. This note sets out some of the issues over public consultation and engagement on projects for improving the village to help a discussion on how best to conduct that engagement. Following this discussion and further work on projects specific proposals for engagement will be developed.
2. Over the next few years the Parish Council is in the fortunate position of having substantial funding available to it from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It currently has received around £331k and can expect more over the next few years. It also has access to CIL funding managed by the National Park, although that money has to be bid for in competition with other areas in the park. Public engagement is expected as part of spending CIL money. There are also grants potentially available from various providers although again this is in competition with others.
3. The Council has already discussed a number of projects which it might wish to pursue. Most of these fall within three areas: The Village Centre Redesign, a Recreation Strategy for enhancing recreation provision across the village, and a number of highway related schemes. Less developed but under active consideration are projects for supporting social inclusion, including anti-social behaviour. A few of these projects have been approved by the Council, typically projects which have been underway for some time (and have included public consultation), or are about small scale replacement or enhancement of existing provision. To make decisions on the remaining projects the Council needs to involve the public in its decision making.
4. Public engagement is needed both at a broad level, involving much of the village, such as what principles to apply in allocating CIL funding, what to do with the Village Centre, and what the recreation strategy should be attempting, but also over individual projects which need consultation on the detail of proposals and their impact on adjoining areas. It is a real opportunity to involve villagers and meet their aspirations.
5. But there are difficulties. For example,
  - It is always difficult to consult on broad principles. Understandably, the public finds it much easier to relate to specific proposals.
  - Consulting on different things at the same time can be confusing as well as being difficult for the Council to manage.
  - Consultation and public involvement often needs to be ongoing, particularly as projects move through different stages, moving from the general to detailed proposals.
  - It is difficult to reach many villagers, particularly those not particularly engaged with village life.
  - The technology of consultation is changing with the advent of social media and a more effective council website, which work for many but not for everyone.
  - Consultation is time consuming and can be expensive.
5. The Village Centre Redesign has already been scoped which includes proposals for public consultation, which will be spread over time, so it could be particularly difficult to integrate other consultations during that time.
6. A few thoughts:
  - Workshops or focus groups. For complex proposals, or discussing general principles these may be the best way of engaging with the public but need good organising. We could hold one-off workshops or perhaps establish a consultation group which we could keep going back to (as done for the Neighbourhood Plan).
  - Social media is great for alerting people to proposals and issues, but less good at getting a balanced or representative response. It needs careful management.

- Traditional questionnaires or surveys may still work well for surveying opinion of people directly affected by a particular proposal.
- Village Voice became moribund during the pandemic, but for some people it could still be a useful for presenting proposals, particularly if they need explaining.
- There is a need to programme consultations and spread them out. The Council is employing a new member of staff to manage projects and managing public engagement will be a major part of their work.
- The large number of groups and organisations in the village is a potential audience, as well as individuals.

RAH  
March 2022