



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Project Review Group held on 7th February 2022, 6pm, Village Hall

MEMBERS

*R. Hargreaves (Chair) *R. Baker, *K. Budden *S. Baldwin *H. Linsley
*L. McDonald *A. Smith *C. Williams *N. Wilson

*Present, in addition to Sue Halstead and Anthony Williams representing the Tennis Club
Clerk: Sarah Smith

01/PR22 Apologies

None received.

02/PR22 Declarations of interests

The following personal interests were noted: Cllr Budden as a councillor at EHDC, Cllrs Linsley, McDonald and Wilson as Trustees of the Newman Collard Playing Field Trust, Cllr Wilson as LPC representative to the Liss Forest Residents Association and a neighbouring resident of Liss Forest Recreation Ground and Cllrs Linsley, McDonald and Smith as neighbouring residents of West Liss Recreation Ground.

03/PR22 Approval of the minutes of the Project Review Group meeting of 6th December 2021

Resolved: That the minutes of the Project Review Group meeting of 6th December 2021 be accepted as a correct record (proposed by Cllr McDonald and seconded by Cllr Baker with all in favour).

04/PR22 Matters arising

Cllr Wilson suggested the need to return to a review of communications under AOB.

05/PR22 Newman Collard Playing Field Trust (NCPFT) proposal for a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

By way of background, Cllr Wilson advised that the LPC applications for South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for the past three years had included proposals for a MUGA at West Liss Recreation Ground. The NCPF Trust had also had a long-term ambition of having a MUGA at Newman Collard and had recently been considering using Tennis Court 3 for this purpose. The Crossover had now submitted proposals to LPC for a Wheeled Sports facility at West Liss. Therefore, in terms of balance of provision within the village it seemed appropriate to consider the Crossover proposals for enhancing provision at West Liss, subject to the Trust confirming proposals for a MUGA at Newman Collard.

The Tennis Club had made representations to the Trust against using Court 3 for a MUGA on the basis that it was integral given the size of the Tennis Club. As a result, a group had been convened to look at alternative siting for a MUGA at Newman Collard with a view to confirming its position at a further meeting on 22nd February.

Sue Halstead, on behalf of the Tennis Club, was invited to speak on the matter. A key point was that they felt that a sharing arrangement would not be practical. Mrs Halstead cited the Lawn Tennis Association knew of no tennis club whereby a dual use facility had been successfully used for tennis purposes and referred to the situation at Ropley where a MUGA with provision for tennis had not been

successful and was not used for tennis at all. She emphasised the value of the tennis club to the village as the most intergenerational facility.

The Trust had submitted an early proposal based on the provision of an entirely new MUGA for the sum of approximately £80,000. Some possible sources of match funding had been identified with a request for LPC to consider allocating a £50,000 expected shortfall from CIL funding.

The Chair advised the issue of the siting of the MUGA was an issue for the Trust but that the financial implications were an issue for this group to consider. It was noted that the proposal on the table was for an entirely new MUGA.

Cllr Wilson noted that the Trust were also looking at a fitness area/ adult gym equipment and suggested that an option was for a figure to be allocated for the Trust to use flexibly.

Members concluded that as the MUGA was an LPC priority it would be preferable for this to be treated as a priority for the Trust rather than diluting the focus of recreational improvements.

Cllr Wilson noted the availability of the new ear marked reserve for 'Newman Collard Recreation Improvements' (previously a slightly lower figure for tennis court maintenance) which Finance Committee had considered the previous week.

Cllr Budden added that a MUGA had been a priority for the village for many years and so he was very keen on this being delivered, although had some concerns about siting due to distance from an electricity supply should lighting be deemed desirable. Cllr Wilson said that, as well as lighting, a new path might be required. It was noted that the proposed siting (if an entirely new facility) would be as far away from nearby housing as possible to mitigate against any noise arising from the facility which might mean there would be no electric supply nearby.

Members noted that it would be important for the Trust to look for other funding sources, Cllr Smith noted that Buffa might be one option. The importance of effective project management by the Trust was also noted.

Cllr Budden noted the importance of a pre-application planning enquiry to EHDC.

- **Members agreed to provisionally allocate a sum of up to £50,000 from CIL funding towards a MUGA subject to other sources of funding being identified and the development of a more thorough proposal including lighting, path, project management and future maintenance requirements.**

Member of the public Anthony Williams left the meeting at this point.

06/PR22 Draft guidance on bids for use of parish council CIL funding

Members welcomed the Chair's paper intended to offer guidance to organisations and individuals wishing to submit bids for LPC CIL funding. Amendments suggested included highlighting the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan, the recreation strategy and village centre strategy as guiding frameworks, that greater weight would be given to applications which had secured or had plans to secure match funding, further clarification required on sustainability, conditions such as evaluation of delivery and success, project beneficiaries, exit strategy and the importance of bringing families together (particularly as a positive driving force in intergenerational issues).

Geographical equity was also seen as important but that would be for LPC to assess rather than elements to include in the bidding process.

- **The Chair undertook to produce a further version of the paper for circulation to Members via e-mail.**

07/PR22 Update on CIL and unallocated reserves

The Clerk had circulated up-to-date figures for unallocated reserves to the sum of £59,297.76 in the Main account and £77,716.99 in the Charities account amounting to a total of £137,014.75.

The Chair noted that the advice was that 6 months running costs should be retained in reserves which amounted to approximately £120,000.

Keeping the running cost reserves aside, unallocated reserves amounted to £17,014.75. The Chair proposed that this sum should be held for the maintenance of existing assets as opposed to new initiatives. Members agreed this would be prudent.

The sum remaining in LPC CIL stood at £331,640.75.

08//PR 22 Review of established and planned projects

The Chair noted that the recreation strategy would inform the list of projects and the timescale as would village centre proposals as they were developed.

The Clerk advised that five quotes and proposals had been received for the West Liss Play Equipment project which was to be funded largely by the SDNPA award of £50,000 for improvements at West Liss Recreation Ground.

Members agreed to allocate CIL funding of up to £15,000 as match funding for the project. In terms of next steps a consultation exercise would be carried out on the proposals before Facilities Committee consideration via e-mail.

- **Members agreed to recommend that Council approves the allocation of CIL funding of up to £15,000 for the delivery on the project following a public consultation exercise and a recommendation by the Facilities Committee on the preferred contractor.**

Cllr Wilson noted that he had circulated an e-mail on 'Life in Liss – beyond Covid' to the list of local groups and organisations seeking ideas and proposals for social projects to help the village to learn and recover from the experience of Covid-19. This would form the first phase of the exercise with consultation with individual to follow once the new project officer was in post.

The Chair had circulated a draft projected costs document containing figures for projects in development and projects not yet scoped. The figures were discussed and revised accordingly with a view to managing the list of projects which could be developed using the CIL funding available.

09//PR22 Basketball replacement at Newman Collard

The Clerk had circulated quotes for replacing the basketball goal at Newman Collard and for enhancing the facility with the additional of a kick wall.

The Facilities Committee had been consulted via e-mail and their comments pointed to installing a Highfield Sports Wall for the sum of £6,180.25, to be funded from the remainder of the budget provision for play equipment repairs (£585.27) and the remainder to come out of CIL (£5,584.98).

The Clerk advised that an alternative quote for the same provision had been sought for comparison to ensure value for money.

- **Members agreed to recommend that Council approves the funding for the installation of a Highfield Sports Wall at Newman Collard Recreation Ground from the remaining play equipment repair budget (£585.27) and CIL allocation (£5,584.98).**

10//PR22 Pump track hire

The Clerk advised that a quote had been sought for the hire of a pump track for the Liss Jubilee celebrations on 2nd to 5th June for the sum of £3,800. As regards funding, the Clerk proposed that Members consider making use of the £2,000 income from the Deed of Easement for Service Media (which permitted the laying of a water pipe under Liss Forest recreation ground to serve new houses adjacent to the site) as this was income which had not been accounted for. District Cllrs Keith Budden and Russell Oppenheimer had indicated that they were willing to allocate £800 each of their district councillor grant to the proposal; Cllr Budden increased his offer to £1,000 so that the full funding was

available to deliver this valuable contribution to the Liss Jubilee celebrations.

- **Members agreed to recommend that Council approves the proposal for pump track hire as an LPC contribution to the Liss Jubilee celebrations to be funded from LPC unallocated income of £2,000 and contributions from District Cllr grants.**

11/PR22 Liss Athletic Football Club application for funding for fees associated with replacement floodlights at Newman Collard

A funding request had been received from Liss Athletic Football Club for fees required for reinstating the floodlights at Newman Collard Recreation Ground. The sum of £8,000 had been secured for replacement floodlights which had been removed for safety reasons. However, it had been established that additional finding was required for a planning application, lighting survey and structural report, estimated to be in the region of £2,500. Members noted the need for a proper maintenance and inspection schedule for the floodlights; Cllr Budden added that EHDC had already specified this requirement as part of their funding to the project.

- **Members agreed to recommend that Council approves the allocation of CIL funding of up to £2,500 to fund the fees associated with the installation of the replacement flood lights based on evidence of expenditure and project delivery.**

12/PR22 Crossover proposals

Cllr Wilson introduced the proposal from the Crossover for a “wheeled sports facility” for all wheeled activities, including scooters, bikes and skateboards. He noted that the company that the Crossover had met with had advised that a preferred supplier should be sought at an early stage to assist in the consultation process in terms of knowledge of the product.

Cllr Linsley made a statement advising the group to refer back to the very divisive experience of previous proposals for a skate park and urged Members to treat the issue cautiously. He highlighted that rules as regards distance from neighbouring properties had caused issues previously.

Cllr Linsley withdrew from the meeting at this point citing the personal interest he had declared.

Cllr Wilson advised that one of the recommendations from the two multi-agency meetings about intergenerational issues in the village was for alternative informal recreational facilities for teenagers and families. There was evidence, cited in the Crossover proposal, of the health and wellbeing benefits of wheeled sports facilities.

Members agreed that the Crossover should continue to lead on the proposal, including public advocacy and applications for funding from the SDNPA CIL and elsewhere, but noted that LPC would be required to indicate potential support for any such project, as land owner as well as part funder.

- **Members agreed to provisionally allocate up to £50,000 of CIL funding for a wheeled sports facility, subject to: (1) the further development of proposals led by the Crossover; (2) feedback from extensive public consultations; and (3) a successful planning application.**

Cllr Budden added that with the indicative figure for CIL funding there would be a deliverable solution for such activities on the table for the first time as provision of a pump track would fall within this figure.

The Crossover had also submitted proposals for funding for additional outreach work and for expanding LGBTQ+ sessions.

Members noted that the proposal for extending the LGBTQ+ sessions was to provide support for young people from Bordon and elsewhere. As such, this was not a proposal that LPC would consider allocating funding to. Members felt that other funding sources, such as Whitehill Town Council, would be more appropriate for this proposal.

As regards proposals for funding additional outreach work, Cllr Wilson described some possible developments arising from the intergenerational initiative, including more joint working with the PCSO. Members were keen to establish the additionality and added value that additional funding would bring (taking account of these possible developments), the possibility of the Crossover obtaining match funding and how the project would be evaluated – to provide assurance that the added value had been delivered. Members were also keen to understand if and how the proposition would sustain over the longer term, once LPC funding expired.

- **Cllr McDonald undertook, as the LPC link with the Crossover, to explore the proposals further to include added value and consideration of an exit strategy given any funding would be time limited.**

Cllr Baldwin left the meeting during this item.

13/PR22 Meeting extension

Members agreed an extension to the meeting of no more than 30 minutes (proposed by Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr McDonald with all in favour)

14/PR Liss Forest Residents Association (LFRA) proposals for enhancements to Liss Forest Recreation Ground

As LPC representative to the LFRA, Cllr Wilson outlined that the main enhancements the residents' association would like to see were enhancement of the basketball provision, particularly to provide a larger area of hard standing for use when the field was boggy, and also improvements to drainage at the site.

Cllr Smith noted that recreation improvements needed to be in line with the emerging recreation strategy rather than responding to the more organised and vocal groups within the village. That said, consideration needed to be given to geographical equity, as previously observed.

Cllr Wilson suggested that the enhanced basketball goal at Newman Collard might also be a suitable option to enhance the facility at Liss Forest in the shorter term.

- **Members supported the intention to improve facilities at the Liss Forest Recreation Ground but concluded that the proposals were at an early stage and needed to be worked up further by LFRA in discussion with the Parish Council (Cllr Hargreaves offered to lead discussions for the Council).**

Member of the public Sue Halstead left the meeting during this item.

15/PR22 Any other business

Cllr Budden advised that residents of Andlers Ash Road were keen to establish whether they could benefit from the fibre broadband that had been installed across the road in the Andlers Wood development, particularly as they had been subject to the local disruption caused by the development which gave rise to the CIL funds. Cllr Budden had suggested that the residents concerned get together to form an organised group to pursue any bid for funding. Members noted this, and suggested residents develop a proposal, in line with the guidance agreed at 06/PR22, when finalised.

The meeting closed at 20h30.

Date of next meeting: Spring 2022 (tbc)

Signed..... Dated.....