



## **LISS PARISH COUNCIL**

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7.30pm on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

### **Members**

\*Mr R Hargreaves (Chairman), \*Mr K Budden, Mr D Dodds, Ms C Edwards, \*Mr I James, Mr D Jerrard, \*Mr H Linsley, \*Mrs L McDonald, \*Mr A Smith, and \*Mr N Wilson

\* Present

Also present: County Councillor (CC) Russell Oppenheimer and Steve Peach, HCC

Clerk: S. Smith

### **117/19 Apologies**

Members accepted apologies from Cllrs Dodds and Jerrard.

### **118/19 Declarations of interests**

None declared at this point.

### **119/19 Chairman's announcements**

The Chairman advised that:

- i. Two applications and a further expression of interest had been received for the councillor vacancies which had recently been advertised; interviews would be held in September with a view to co-options taking place at a special meeting before the main Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr McDonald added that the EHDC electoral department was unsure about proposed wording of the advert to encourage under-represented groups to apply and were looking into this; the Clerk noted that HALC had also added a word of caution. The Chairman concluded that the advert should remain as drafted.
- ii. Liz Ford had been confirmed in her role as Responsible Finance Officer.
- iii. A caretaker vacancy for the Pavilion was currently being advertised.
- iv. The insurers had approved the quote for the repair work to the Village Hall and it was hoped that work would commence shortly. The Chairman clarified that the insurance excess was zero.
- v. The Retirement Event would be held for outgoing councillors and staff on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

### **120/19 Adjournment for public participation**

There being no members of the public the meeting was not adjourned for public participation.

### **121/19 HCC Countryside Presentation on the Service Pollinator Project**

Members welcomed Steve Peach from HCC who gave a short presentation on the Service Pollinator Project. In summary, the project aimed to increase the availability of pollinators following their decline through a regional strategy and through joint working at parish and town council level. Mr Peach proposed that LPC work with HCC as a pilot exercise to devise a joint scheme which could be funded by the HCC Community Fund. The proposal was well received and supported by Members. The Chairman concluded that the work would be best placed within the Facilities Committee but would be dependent on a lead volunteer. He proposed a meeting between HCC and the Chairman of Facilities with other interested councillors.

Mr Peach left the meeting at this point.

### **122/19 Report from County Councillor**

CC Russell Oppenheimer had submitted a written report (**Annex A**). He highlighted the following:

- i. That the HCC budget consultation would close on 17<sup>th</sup> July and encouraged people to respond, highlighting the real potential influence in doing so.

- ii. That the Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme might be of direct benefit to some Liss residents.
- iii. That HCC had received an outstanding rating for Children's Services across all areas. HCC were proud of this achievement as it was rare and that HCC was possibly the only authority to achieve this.

Members commended the outstanding rating which HCC had received for Children's Services.

Cllr McDonald questioned whether HCC was the only authority to achieve an outstanding rating for Children's Services in all areas (Clerk's note: Cllr Oppenheimer confirmed that that HCC is one of only two Councils in the UK to receive the Outstanding rating across all Children's Services.).

Cllr Linsley enquired as to whether the OFSTED outstanding rating of HCC Children's Services extended to youth services. Cllr Oppenheimer thought that it did but undertook to check. (Clerk's note: Cllr Oppenheimer has confirmed that 'Care Leavers' of age 18-25 continue to receive support as they make their way through education, training and into employment and that this function of HCC Children's Services has also received the outstanding rating.)

Cllr Smith asked whether HCC was considering changes to local government arrangements in Hampshire, as this was one of the options noted by HCC for balancing its budget in the consultation. Cllr Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest due to his position on the NHS South East Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group and noted that there did appear to be a move towards joining up the two tiers in health services. Cllr Oppenheimer responded that he felt unitary authorities served some areas better, including health and well-being, air quality and environmental issues.

### **123/19 Reports from District Councillors**

DC Budden reported that:

- i. EHDC had no appetite for a unitary authority at the current time.
- ii. That the Civic Sunday had gone well but that the highlight of the service was the performance of SOS by the children at the church.
- iii. A flag for Hampshire had been unveiled that morning which could be displayed by any Hampshire organisation.
- iv. St. Swithun's Day would also now be Hampshire Day – other shire counties will have their own flag and county day too.
- v. The EHDC Partners magazine was currently being distributed – this contained details of the new bin collection day and an article on a range of health conditions which could give rise to a potential leisure centre referral.
- vi. Negotiations with Stagecoach regarding the 38 service had achieved an arrangement whereby concessionary passes would be accepted prior to 09:30 between Liss Whistle Stop and Chawton (opposite Jane Austen's House) for those travelling towards Alton. When travelling towards Petersfield, concessionary passes would be accepted prior to 09:30 between Greatham Toll House Corner and Hill Brow. Both passengers travelling from Liss and Liss Forest were included in this arrangement. Furthermore passengers with concessionary passes who have been charged to travel on the early services between 22nd May 2019 and 15th July 2019 should write to the Customer Services manager at Stagecoach bus station in Chichester with details of the dates of their journey for reimbursement by Stagecoach.
- vii. There had been an increase in reports of adder sightings on the Shipwrights Way and so users should maintain close supervision of children and dogs.
- viii. A debate on 18<sup>th</sup> July would take place on whether EHDC should also declare a climate emergency as HCC has done already.

DC Oppenheimer advised that he had been nominated as the East Hampshire representative on the Police and Crime Panel and would keep LPC updated. In turn he would welcome LPC input on issues he should raise. He advised that crime rates in Liss were low and any incidents were isolated and highlighted that LPC should continue to encourage reporting of all incidents on 101 to ensure a true picture of local crime. Cllr Oppenheimer also encouraged parishioners to follow @EastHantsCops on Twitter which he felt would provide reassurance about crime levels in the area and noted that more private CCTV could be beneficial.

### **124/19 Minutes of the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019, subject to a typo and rewording of Cllr McDonald's input at 104/19.3, be accepted as a correct record (proposed by Cllr Linsley and seconded by Cllr Budden, with all in favour).

### **125/19 Matters Arising**

110/19.1: Cllr Budden noted that the Puddleducks appeal had now been validated and would be heard by written appeal.

109/19.1: The Chairman noted that Doug Jones had been confirmed as the East Hampshire appointee to the SDNPA.

114/19.3: Cllr Wilson advised that he had agreed to be the LPC appointee to the LFRA. This would be considered under a later agenda item.

116/19.3: Cllr Wilson advised that he had liaised with representatives of the Triangle about the Village Christmas Fair following the stepping down of the volunteer who had organised the event for the past two years. He intended to propose that the Triangle encourage local business involvement via a questionnaire or telephone survey. Members agreed this would be a good way forward.

CC Oppenheimer left the meeting at this point.

### **126/19 Responsible Finance Officer's Report**

Cllr Smith declared an interest.

The Clerk undertook to check on the £144,000 "repayment in error" item which also appeared on June's RFO Report (Clerk's note: The RFO has confirmed this was an error and the payment was not made twice).

**Resolved:** That, subject to clarification on the above, the payments and receipts recorded in Responsible Finance Officer's Report be approved (proposed by Cllr McDonald and seconded by Cllr Budden, with all in favour).

### **127/19 Correspondence**

Correspondence for response:

- i. SDNPA survey for Town & Parish Councils on services and community engagement – Deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> August – Members noted this was for individual response as either a resident or councillor.
- ii. E-mail proposing a Liss community day – Members noted that this was predominately a commercial activity and that the community was already looking to hold a similar event called 'Liss Life'. Members agreed that the Clerk should put the company in touch with Peter Coley.

All other items of correspondence were for information only and would remain in the office for viewing until the date of the next council meeting.

### **128/19 Review Committee Report**

Cllr McDonald highlighted that the 10<sup>th</sup> June Review Committee had considered 10 policies, procedures and agreements. The Chairman added that these revised policies/procedures/agreements had now been circulated to all councillors by e-mail for information (see Annex B) and would be uploaded to the LPC website, and that these came into force when approved by the Review Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Council was simply being asked to note these.

Cllr McDonald highlighted the importance of the work of the Review Committee as the work provides an underpinning for all Council business. She proposed that interested Members should feed in any views on policies to be considered prior to the relevant Review Committee meeting. To facilitate this, the Assistant Clerk would need to establish a process to alert all Members that a policy was to be reviewed.

**Resolved:** That the following revised policies/procedures/agreements approved at the 10th June Review Committee be noted:

- Anti-Fraud and Corruption

- Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons
- Freedom of Information Publication Scheme
- Whistle-Blowing
- Allotment Tenancy Agreement
- Liss Village Hall Fire Precautions and Procedures
- GDPR documents: Privacy Policy – Data Protection and GDPR, Privacy Notice – Residents and Members of the general Public, Privacy Notice – Staff, Councillors and Role Holders & Subject Access Requests Policy

### **129/19 Highways Committee Report**

Cllr Smith noted that the Highways Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> June had now been circulated and highlighted the important work which would be undertaken to re-establish the list of highways priority projects, including a strategic assessment of the village centre.

Cllr James advised that he felt the work on the village centre should have its own dedicated committee to avoid detracting from other important highways priorities. The Chairman advised that the nature of the project was not so easy to separate from highways issues and that there would be a lot of overlap.

Cllr Smith proposed that the Highways Committee scope the work with a view to reporting back to Council at a later date. Members agreed.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Highways Committee of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 be noted.

### **130/19 Facilities Committee Report**

Cllr Wilson enquired about the possible use of the Groundsman's Hut for a proposed 'Men's Shed'. The Chairman clarified that even though a small Groundsman's Hut had been provided in the new Pavilion, the Groundsman's Hut at Newman Collard was still in use.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Facilities Committee of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 be noted.

### **131/19 Planning Committee Report**

Cllr Budden highlighted that two very large applications had given rise to the need to separate the meeting into two:

- LPC did not object to the first, the CALA application for 77 homes on Land North of Andlers Ash Lane, subject to certain restrictions including confirmation from HCC that an adequate and sustainable drainage system is achieved.
- LPC submitted a strong objection to the second, the proposed erection of a 40 bedroom care home at The Oaks at the end of St. Mary's Road, siting that the site was not one identified for development in the Liss Neighbourhood Development Plan and numerous other grounds including overdevelopment and traffic and access concerns.

Members noted the amount of hard work and dedication which the Assistant Clerk had shown in producing the minutes to meet very tight deadlines for submitting the comments and noted their appreciation.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Planning Committees of 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be noted.

### **132/19 Revised Committee Terms of Reference**

The Chairman noted that the Terms of Reference for the Buildings and Grounds Committees had been merged to reflect the new Facilities Committee and that the Terms of Reference for the Committee, as well as the Highways, Planning and Staff Committees had been tidied up and responsibilities clarified.

**Resolved:** That Council approves revised Terms of Reference for the following committees: Facilities, Highways, Planning and Staff (proposed by the Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Linsley with all in favour).

### **133/19 Extension to meeting**

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

### **134/19 Committee Start Times**

Members considered various viewpoints on allowing some flexibility in terms of Committee start times including attracting new Members, encouraging public attendance and impact on staff. The possibility of a pecuniary interest was raised but none was declared. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman advised that they too felt there was no pecuniary interest involved in the matter. Cllrs Linsley was strongly opposed to any change to meeting start times based on the needs of commuters and Cllr James felt that the public didn't have a say in the matter. Cllr McDonald also expressed concerns that people who couldn't get to meetings earlier might miss out if they are in the minority when decisions are made. The Chairman noted that the public generally attended a specific item of interest but that the meetings did not generally attract much public attendance. Other Members generally favoured flexibility to suit the need of the committee and felt that an earlier start time might be beneficial in attracting new councillors and would be beneficial to all those who attended.

Cllr Wilson proposed a tightening of the original motion to provide for a unanimous rather than a majority decision on the matter.

**Resolved:** That Council approves a derogation from Standing Order 4iii to allow committees to vary the start time of a committee meeting subject to the following: a) the timing does not discourage public attendance and b) the timing meets the needs of all its Members and has been approved by all Members of the Committee (motion proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Wilson with one abstention (Cllr James) and one against (Cllr Linsley) and all others in favour).

### **135/19 Installation of bollards at the entrance to the Riverside Walk**

The Clerk explained that EHDC had proposed to install collapsible bollards at the start of the EHDC owned part of the Riverside Walk having witnessed a car accessing the LPC allotments and subsequently turning around in the pic nic area. Members agreed that preventing unauthorised vehicular to any part of the Riverside Walk was desirable.

**Resolved:** That Council approves the installation of collapsible bollards at the entrance to the Riverside Walk by EHDC contractors to prevent unauthorised vehicular access onto the Riverside Walk (motion proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr McDonald with one abstention (Cllr Budden) and all in favour).

### **136/19 Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies**

**Resolved:** That Cllr McDonald would join Cllrs James and Linsley to provide the three LPC nominees to the NCPFT, as discussed at the last meeting.

**Resolved:** That Cllr Wilson would represent LPC on the LFRA (proposed by Cllr Linsley and seconded by Cllr Budden with all in favour).

### **137/19 Matters of concern**

Cllr Wilson advised that he attended a meeting at the Triangle at which concerns had been expressed about a potential negative impact that the Pavilion could have on Triangle bookings. The Clerk added that Pavilion bookings were new to the village and so it was not felt that any displacement was taking place. The Chairman proposed that communication be maintained on the matter.

### **138/19 Further extension to the meeting**

**Resolved:** That the Standing Orders be suspended to allow for a further extension to the meeting of no more than thirty minutes (proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr McDonald with all in favour).

### **139/19 Matters of concern continued**

- i. Cllr Budden advised that he aimed to prepare the next edition of the Village Voice by the end of the month and so councillors should submit any material within the next week.
- ii. Cllr Linsley advised that the NCPFT looked forward to welcoming a new principal tenant, a pre-school, in September.
- iii. Cllr Wilson advised that there had been no applications for the Village Agent post to date. It was

agreed that the advert should be included in the imminent Village Voice.  
iv.Cllr McDonald put out a plea for more volunteers for Liss In Bloom watering.

**140/19 Exempt session: Co-option of non-Council members to Committees**

The Chairman proposed that this agenda item be taken in exempt session due to the sensitivity nature of discussion of individuals. The motion was seconded by Cllr Budden with all in favour.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 22.26 hrs.

Next meeting: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 19.30hrs

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

# COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

1 JULY 2019

1. HCC declares a **Climate Emergency** and pledges a bold **Action Plan**

The new Cabinet of Hampshire County Council met for the first time on 17 June. Top of the agenda was the issue of climate change and four deputations were heard from local activists. It was acknowledged that HCC had a strong track record on reducing emissions. The Leader Cllr Keith Mans proposed that the Cabinet agree to propose to Full Council that they sign up to the motion to declare a climate emergency. A bold and deliverable Action Plan will be developed to reduce emissions further and faster. This Action Plan would take into account the emerging recommendations of the Hampshire 2050 Commission which had looked carefully at climate change issues and was due to issue its final report and recommendations in the coming month.

Hampshire County Council has been tackling climate change issues for many years, both in terms of making Hampshire more resilient to changes already coming, and also to mitigate future climate change through reducing carbon emissions. This includes reducing carbon consumption by over 40% since 2010, seven years ahead of target; reducing energy costs in its buildings by £30 million since 2010; installing photovoltaic panels on County Council owned buildings, and delivering energy savings of £240,000 each year through street-lighting operations. By the end of the year, 80 new electric car charging points will be installed across Hampshire, and a programme is underway to convert the County Council's small vehicle fleet to electric vehicles.

2. HCC Budget Consultation

Hampshire County Council is asking for residents' and stakeholders' views on ways to balance its budget, in response to growing demands on council services and continuing pressures on local government funding. The consultation can be completed online: [www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget](http://www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget)

By April 2021, the County Council will be facing an anticipated budget shortfall of £80 million. With less money available and growing demand for council services, decisions will need to be made about what it can and cannot provide in the future. HCC is

required by law to deliver a balanced budget and therefore cannot plan to spend more than is available.

The County Council would like to hear your views on the following options for balancing its budget, as well as any alternatives that you may wish to propose:

- introducing and increasing charges for some services
- encouraging central Government to make legislative changes
- generating additional income
- continuing to use the County Council's reserves prudently
- reducing and changing services
- increasing Council Tax
- changing local government arrangements in Hampshire.

Any changes to specific services will be subject to further, more detailed consultation, at a later date.

### 3. Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme

The UK Government has officially launched a new £200m Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) programme, which was originally announced during the 2018 Budget and aims to encourage an “outside-in” approach to building new ultrafast broadband ISP networks by focusing on helping to connect rural areas.

#### **Eligibility**

- Applicants must be in a rural area (as classified by DEFRA)
- Only group projects are allowed (a group being 2 or more residents or businesses).
- A group of residents or businesses or a combination of both can apply
- Applicants must have current internet speeds below 30Mbps

#### **Funding available**

- £3,500 is available per SME
- £1,500 is available per resident
- The voucher is to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections only.

For more information see <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/rural/> where there is also a postcode checker to find out if your area is eligible.

### 4. HCC Childrens Services rated “outstanding”



Following a thorough inspection, OFSTED has rated Hampshire County Council's Children's Services as "outstanding" across all areas. This is a rare achievement and a tribute to the work of all the staff who work hard every day to ensure the best possible outcomes for vulnerable children.

In an unconnected but interesting development, the Government announced in June that HCC is to undertake the role of Commissioner for Children's Services at West Sussex County Council. This follows West Sussex's "Inadequate" judgement in their recent Ofsted inspection. The Commissioner role will be covered by a Statutory Direction from the Minister and will be fully funded by the DfE. It will be a challenging task given the severity of the Ofsted judgement in this case.

#### 5. National Park Entry Signage project completes first phase



Bespoke signs that reflect the unique heritage of the South Downs and create a sense of arrival have been installed at 19 pilot sites at specially chosen locations at, or near, the National Park's borders across Sussex and Hampshire. The signs will help people know that they are in a unique landscape that has been designated for the whole nation and deserves special care and attention. Every location has been carefully selected at key entry points to the stunning landscape and each sign's size and design have been tailor-made to fit its surroundings.

The signs are made from iron or a mixture of wood and iron – reflecting the history of iron work in the South Downs during the 17th and 18th centuries and that the South Downs has the most woodland of any English National Park. The sweet chestnut wood used in the signs has been locally sourced from the Stansted Estate by English Woodlands. The white lettering reflects the iconic chalk landscape of the South Downs.

The public's response to the signs is an important part of assessing the success of the pilot phase. After the first batch of signs were installed in early spring, we issued a press release which resulted in 12 pieces of separate media coverage in print media across the three counties, with a reach of over 220,000 people. The coverage was all positive. At the same time we went out proactively on social media and asked people "What do you

think of our new bespoke entry signs?”. We had a large response with over 1450 liking the post and well over 100 comments. The majority of the comments received have been extremely positive comments on the design, their appropriateness for this important landscape and a few comments referring to it being ‘about time’.

We have been approached by a number of parishes excited by the project wishing to have an entry sign or a parish sign for their community. There are now 11 variations of sign so there is one for every location. Within Petersfield Hangers I hope that East Tisted and West Tisted will receive signs in due course.



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

## Review Documents Adopted - hard copies attached

From: clerk-smith@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk <clerk-smith@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Sent: Thu, 11 Jul, 2019 at 11:56

To: puttinglissfirst@linsley.co.uk, a.smith@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk, l.mcdonald@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk, k.budden@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk, d.jerrard@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk, h.linsley@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk, n.wilson@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk, i.james@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cc: Frances Cook

[Anti fraud & corruption policy - 2019 - final.doc](#) (226.1 KB)[Child Protection Policy October 2019 - final.doc](#) (188.4 KB)[Freedom of Information Policy - 2019 - final.docx](#) (2.7 MB)[2019 - Privacy Policy - final.docx](#) (76.9 KB)[2019 - Privacy Notice - Residents and Visitors - final.docx](#) (64.5 KB)[Subject Access Requests Policy - final.docx](#) (64.5 KB)– **Download all**

All,

At the Review Committee on 10th June the following policies/procedures/agreements were approved:

- Anti-Fraud and Corruption
- Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons
- Freedom of Information Publication Scheme
- Whistle-Blowing
- Allotment Tenancy Agreement
- Liss Village Hall Fire Precautions and Procedures
- GDPR documents: Privacy Policy - Data Protection and GDPR, Privacy Notice - Residents and Visitors, Subject Access Requests Policy.

These are all attached for information. I am circulating via e-mail rather than hard copies with hard copies. If you require a set of hard copies, please let me know ASAP and I will print a set for you.

Kind regards,  
Sarah

Sarah Smith  
Clerk to Liss Parish Council  
Tel: 01730 892823

Liss - Winner of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Village Of The Year Award 2017