



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 19th October 2020 via Zoom teleconferencing.

Members

*Mr R Hargreaves (Chairman), *Mrs S. Baldwin, *Mr K Budden, Mrs C Edwards,
*Mr D Jerrard, *Mrs M. Knibbs, *Mr H Linsley, *Mrs L McDonald, *Mr A Smith,
*Mrs C. Williams and *Mr N Wilson

* Present, in addition to County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer
Clerk: S. Smith

84/20 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Cllr Edwards.

85/20 Declarations of interests

All Members confirmed that they did not have any interests to declare.

86/20 Chair's announcements

The Chair noted the following:

- a) West Liss Play & Leisure Project: That the bid for SDNPA CIL funds for the project had been unsuccessful. Feedback would be sought as to why the application had not been successful. The project remained a priority and so alternative sources of funding would need to be explored.
- b) Remembrance Sunday: The commemoration in Liss would be severely curtailed this year due to current restrictions and would likely consist of a small LPC delegation (possibly the Chair and Clerk) for the wreath laying at the green surrounding the War Memorial. There would be no service at St. Mary's Church this year.
- c) The LPC office would be closed next week so that all staff could take annual leave. The office was not yet physically open but this meant that no staff would be working from home. The Chair would be able to contact the Clerk in an emergency if necessary.

87/20 Minutes of the meeting of 20th July 2020

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council Meeting of 20th July 2020 be accepted as a correct record (proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Budden with all in favour).

88/20 Matters arising

The following matters were highlighted:

76/20: Toilet Refurbishment Project – The Clerk confirmed that the works to refurbish the Village Hall toilets were complete.

78/20: Cloud-based networking system – The Clerk confirmed that the new cloud-based networking system was now in place.

80/20: Repair and upgrade of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) – Cllr Smith, as Chair of Highways, advised that the works to the device had been completed and that the Assistant Clerk would co-ordinate with Speedwatch to identify appropriate locations for deployment of the SID within the village.

82/20: Shared occupancy of the Groundsman's Hut with the Liss Men's Shed – The Chair advised that the draft legal agreement between the Trust and LPC was in its final stages of preparation and

would be shared shortly. The planning application had been delayed by the consideration of possible conditions on the use of power tools externally.

89/20 Update from the County Councillor

County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer, had provided a written report (at **Annex A**).

In addition to those issues covered by the report, Cllr Oppenheimer highlighted the following

- a) The reply from HCC on the new crossing on Hill Brow Road, from the new housing at Andlers Wood to the schools, was not positive in that it did not provide any additional funds to enhance the crossing. He felt a more favourable response might be elicited in the Spring given the current financial climate.
- b) Cllr Oppenheimer had allocated a £500 grant to the Liss Men's Shed towards the re-flooring.
- c) It was hoped that the identification of East Hampshire as one of the Natural Capital Investment Areas of the new People and Nature Network would attract more green infrastructure such as walks and cycle paths.

Cllr Knibbs joined the meeting at 19h19.

Cllr McDonald noted that the new Covid app could not be downloaded onto older phones; this was supported by Cllr Hargreaves.

Cllr Linsley advised that he had been approached by an elderly resident who had travelled from Liss to Petersfield to deposit items at the recycling centre and had been turned away as he was on foot. Cllr Oppenheimer advised that the current rules meant no on foot access was allowed but that he would flag the issue, particularly the inflexibility of the Hants approach compared to elsewhere.

Cllr Oppenheimer left the meeting at this point (19h23).

90/20 Update from the District Councillor(s)

Cllr Budden advised the following:

- a) That the EHDC Climate Strategy had been adopted.
- b) The EHDC staff had moved from Skype to MS Teams for remote working.
- c) That the two councils one workforce issue had been misunderstood by some and advised that the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team had been shared with Havant Borough Council for some 10 years. The changes in structure, which will see all employees working within a single workforce, were intended to simplify HR issues.

Cllr Jerrard asked about the EHDC position on the Government 'Planning for the Future' white paper consultation. Cllr Budden advised that the draft would be considered further by Cabinet on Thursday with a view to signing this off and it would then come into the public domain. Cllr Jerrard also enquired about a report into the Governance of EHDC which makes a number of allegations of non-compliance with national standards but Cllr Budden was unable to provide any further detail. In response to a query from Cllr Linsley, Cllr Budden advised that EHDC would always have a physical presence in East Hants.

91/20 Responsible Finance Officer's Report

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

92/20 Application for SDNPA funding for Petanque Court

Resolved: That Liss Parish Council makes an application for SDNPA s106 environmental funds for the sum of up to £5,508.50 to re-instate the Petanque Court at Liss Forest Recreation Ground (proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr McDonald and with all in favour).

Cllr McDonald enquired about use and was advised that the game had been played for at least 15 years in Liss Forest and that it was hoped that by re-siting it more visibly in the Liss Forest Recreation Ground it would attract further users.

93/20 Funding of Himalayan Balsam Treatment Plan from General Reserves

Resolved: That Liss Parish Council authorises the unbudgeted expenditure of £720 for a Himalayan Balsam Treatment Plan on the Riverside Walk, to be funded by General Reserves.

Cllr Wilson noted that funds for works required in subsequent financial years would be budgeted accordingly (£320 in FY 21/22, £192 in FY 22/23 and £336 in FY 23/24).

94/20 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

The Chair noted that, following vacancies which had arisen as a result of Cllr James' resignation, Cllr Wilson had now been appointed to the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust.

Cllr Williams had expressed an interest in filling the vacancy on the Community Rail Partnership; this appointment was agreed by Members.

The Clerk confirmed that there were no other vacancies at present.

95/20 Exempt session

Members agreed to exclude the public by ending the broadcast of the meeting via YouTube due to the sensitive nature of the following item.

96/20 Exempt session: Co-option of councillors

Resolved (by absolute majority): That Ginette Lowe be co-opted to fill vacancy 1 for Liss.

Resolved (by absolute majority): That Rob Finn be co-opted to vacancy 2 for Liss.

Members were impressed with the number and quality of the candidates who would be thanked for their interest in becoming a parish councillor. It was unfortunate that only two could be selected at this time.

97/20 Exempt session: Approval of funds for external works to Village Hall

Members agreed to consider the remaining item in exempt session as quotes for the works required to the Village Hall were to be discussed and so the item was commercially sensitive at this time.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.05 hrs.

Next meeting: Monday 16th November 2020 at 19hrs via Zoom

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

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

1 OCTOBER 2020

1. New Covid app

The County Council is urging Hampshire residents to download and use the new NHS Covid-19 app. The official contact tracing app for England and Wales went live on 24 September and is available to download for free on both Apple and Android phones for anyone aged 16 or over.

The app has features that include contact tracing, risk alerts based on postcode district, QR check-in at venues, symptom checker and Covid-19 test booking. The County Council would also like to inform residents that if they visit one of our venues, they will see the QR posters on display to enable them to easily 'check-in'.

2. Hampshire sets out targeted actions to reduce carbon emissions

On 29 September 2020 the County Council's Cabinet approved a Climate Change Action Plan and Framework 2020-2025. The plan is based on a carbon baseline produced by the Carbon Trust which established the greatest sources of emissions in Hampshire, and therefore where efforts must be focussed to reduce them. These are from industry and commercial operations (38.89%), transport (36.98%) and housing, such as energy use and heating (23.66%). Cabinet also approved new decision-making tools, created by the Carbon Trust, designed to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impact of all significant decisions made by the County Council at the start of all projects. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets; and will ensure climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

The Strategy, Action Plan and Framework provides clarity for residents, communities, and partners on how the County Council will work to both make Hampshire more resilient to the impact of climate change and to meet carbon reduction targets. It highlights our commitment to working with partners and other organisations, and the opportunities there are for others to get involved in helping us to deliver real change in Hampshire. More information is available at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/climatechange>

3. The financial picture at HCC

Latest predictions put extra costs and losses at around £160 million this financial year – with around £83 million of that unfunded. This results from significant unplanned additional costs during the outbreak, as well as lost income from areas such as school meals, country parks and registration services (births, deaths and marriages).

The job of forecasting the financial impact of coronavirus is an immensely difficult task because of the uncertainty caused from such a fast-moving, evolving pandemic.

HCC has had some additional, welcome funding from Government in the form of grant and reimbursement of lost income. Together with some additional savings secured across our departments, the financial liability of coronavirus for this year is slightly less than we predicted earlier this summer.

However, moving into the medium term, the situation worsens as we also take stock of growing demand in adult social care which we expect to increase further as a result of the pandemic, further lost income and council tax revenue, and the costs of responding to any subsequent coronavirus outbreaks. It means that our total unfunded costs and losses rise to around £210 million over the next three years – with the need for at least £52 million from Government in order to remain financially viable in the future.

4. Successful start to school term

Attendance at Hampshire schools is exceptionally good and above the national average, despite the fears relating to COVID-19. The week ending 18 September 2020 saw: 91% of primary aged children attending Hampshire schools compared to 86% nationally; and 92% of secondary aged pupils compared to 88% nationally. Many absences are explained by the need to continue shielding because a pupil has a serious medical condition or a pupil has one of the more usual childhood illnesses.

In preparation for the new term, all schools carried out detailed risk assessments to put in place whatever they needed to, with support from HCC Children's Services. Those arrangements vary from school to school, depending on the size and layout of their sites, as well as the ages and number of children attending, but include:

- Placing children in distinct 'bubbles' to be maintained throughout the day
- Operating a one-way system around the school site
- Staggering the start and end of the school day
- Staggering break times
- Building time for frequent handwashing in the daily timetable
- Additionally, providing hand sanitiser in strategic areas of the building
- Frequent reminders to Catch It, Bin It, Kill It
- Additional cleaning of school buildings.

The successful return to school is a great success for Hampshire and we can all be proud of our schools.

5. Employment and training support post-Covid

Hampshire County Council is putting in place a raft of support to help residents get into work if they have become unemployed or had difficulty finding work after leaving education or training, due to COVID-19.

Our ambition is to minimise the negative impact of COVID-19 on our local economy, increase economic prosperity and continue to develop a skilled workforce for Hampshire to 2030 and beyond. The strategy sets out the actions that the County Council will be taking, including:

- Doubling the available Apprenticeship Levy funding to a total of £2 million. Further, the levy funding criteria will be extended to allow businesses to support higher and degree level apprenticeships.
- £1.3 million is being invested in Adult and Community learning and, in partnership with training providers, new, county-wide programmes will be created for adult basic skills.

- Employability Hubs are being established across the county, specialising in training and support for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- In support of those nearing school and college leaving age, the County Council's comprehensive Careers Information and Guidance Service will be expanded to be able to offer schools and colleges expert advice to enable them to develop their careers programmes, as well as to achieve the Quality in Careers kitemark.

Anyone wanting to find out more can visit:

<https://www.hampshirefutures.co.uk/course/view.php?id=548>

6. SDNPA launches New "People and Nature Network"

The South Downs has launched a document officially called the "People and Nature Network – Green Infrastructure in the South Downs National Park and wider South East". The document sets out how a wide range of partners can work together to plan positively for nature and natural services within and surrounding the protected landscapes of the South East. This is in recognition that nature, and the provision of natural ecosystem services do not follow administrative boundaries.

The authors of the plan (including academics, SDNPA Officers and the Sussex Biodiversity Centre) have analysed a wide range of evidence to develop a series of key priorities and principles for the 1st phase of the PANN area. From these high-level principles more detailed and localized strategies, plans, projects, and their delivery will be developed.

The research has found that there are hotspots in the study area where a number of issues coalesce to inhibit nature and natural processes. These areas are called 'Natural Capital Investment Areas' (NCIAs) and will be targeted for early action. I am pleased to report that "East Hants and Heathlands" is one of the 12 NCIA's.

I provide below a link to the Executive Summary for Councillors who wish to learn more about this exciting initiative:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/PANN-GI-in-the-SDNP-and-wider-SE-FINAL.pdf>

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers