



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 17th July 2023 in the Village Hall

Members:

*Mr K. Budden (Chair), *Ms S. Baldwin, *Mr I. James, *Mr D. Jerrard, *Mr C. Olley, Mr P. Payne, *Mr A. Smith, * Mrs S. Stratford-Tuke, *Ms K. Tordoff, *Ms C. Williams and Mr N. Wilson

* Present

Clerk: S. Smith, in addition to Roger Hargreaves (co-opted member of the Facilities Committee) and District Cllr Roger Mullenger.

110/23 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Payne and Wilson.

111/23 Declarations of Interests and Role as Charity Trustee

Councillors were reminded of the following:

- i. Their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest they may have in any item of business, no later than when that item is reached.
- ii. That when discussing Charity business, any decision must be made in accordance with the Charities' governing documents, rather than for the benefit of LPC as a whole.

Cllrs Williams and Olley declared non-pecuniary interests as Newman Collard Trustees.

112/23 Chair's announcements

The Chair welcomed Cllr Stratford-Tuke to her first Council meeting.

The Chair announced that the pump track would be open to the public from this Thursday with the formal opening to be by Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP on Friday 4th August at 11:30 am.

The Chair expressed thanks to Angela Flanagan from Merali Beedle Solicitors for her pro-bono work on the Mill Road Community Garden Lease.

113/23 Adjournment for public participation

No issues were raised.

114/23 Update from the County Councillor

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

The Chair advised that he had been at the HCC Parish Forum with Cllr Oppenheimer the previous week and was able to add the following which may be of interest to LPC:

- Damian Hinds MP reported that the Department for Justice are currently revitalising the concept of Community Payback teams (for offenders to repay their debt to society via voluntary work) and suggested that if any parishes had work (for example, clearing footpaths, overgrown allotments etc.) that the Community Payback team could do then to contact him with details via his office. It was noted that a small administrative fee would be involved.
- Hampshire Highways are looking to introduce a policy to favour the introduction of 20mph zones in village centres and that the police would be supporting this with enforcement.

115/23 Update from the District Councillors

Cllr James advised that he was still looking into the verge cutting schedule and advised that he was concerned that active management of the Riverside Walk was of concern due to the Himalayan Balsam in particular.

The Clerk advised that both EHDC and LPC had an active Himalayan Balsam management plan in place (the details would be forwarded to Cllr James for information as well as the lead contact at EHDC on Riverside Walk management).

Cllr Mullenger advised the following:

- That he was considering a number of applications for his cllr grants, including one for wildflower planting at Newman Collard.
- That he continued to consider all planning applications affecting the parish as well as casework from parishioners.
- That he had intended to raise with the County Cllr the HCC signage which had been left at various sites around the village by contractors.
- That he was in contact with Building Control regarding remedial works at Andlers Wood and that a new code of conduct should help prevent such issues in future.
- That he had attended the AGM of Home Start Butser.
- That a key issue was the reorganisation of EHDC following the separation from Havant Borough Council. This would involve a heavy workload to establish new processes and the shaping of EHDC for the future to be delivered in five phases.

Cllr Smith noted that LPC had been unsuccessful in its bid for EHDC CIL funding for the platform extension and sought advice on raising funding from EHDC for this project.

Cllr Jerrard enquired about the future of the Partnership Action Group meetings - Cllr Mullenger would look into this and revert in due course.

Cllr James advised that he had grant capacity and encouraged applicants.

116/23 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 19th June 2023

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 19th June 2023 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Williams and with all in favour).

117/23 Matters arising

There were no issues arising.

Cllr Mullenger left the meeting at this point.

118/23 RFO's reports on payments and receipts for the period 14th June 2023 to 12th July 2023

The Clerk highlighted any unusual payments in the report.

Resolved: That the receipts and payments reported in the Responsible Finance Officer's Report for the period 14th June 2023 to 12th July 2023, for both the Liss Parish Council and the Charities' accounts, be approved (proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Williams with all in favour) as at Annex C.

119/23 Report of the Finance Committee of 5th June 2023

Members noted the minutes of the Finance Committee of 5th June 2023.

120/23 Report of the Planning Committee of 26th June 2023

Members noted the minutes of the Planning Committee of 26th June 2023.

The importance of training and new councillors stepping forward for succession purposes was also highlighted.

121/23 Report of the Highways Committee of 10th July 2023

Cllr Smith, as Chair of the Highways Committee, advised that since the meeting the two new Speed Indicator Devices had arrived. The works to deploy these around the village would now need to be undertaken.

Members noted the minutes of the Highways Committee of 10th July 2023.

122/23 Lease with EHDC on LPC use of the land at Mill Road for a Community Garden

The Chair noted that works were underway with the recent planting of the Community Orchard and the more recent installation of the play mound with tunnel (for which permission had been given by EHDC), but this formalised the long-awaited formal agreement for LPC to manage the land going forward.

Cllr Olley noted the need to remove the previous site plan which had now been updated with a more precise plan (which specified that the trees along the railway would remain an EHDC responsibility) and members agreed.

Resolved: That Liss Parish Council approve the signing of the Lease between East Hampshire District Council and Liss Parish Council for use of the land at Mill Road for a Community Garden (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Smith with all in favour).

123/23 In-year grant application from the NCPFT for tree works

Cllr Williams (LPC appointed Trustee of the NCPFT) advised that three quotes had been sought for the works and that the quote selected was from Pic-a-lily. She specified that the works were more cosmetic and so went further than what was required under the LPC Tree Policy.

Cllr Smith requested that before and after photos be requested and Members agreed.

Resolved: That Liss Parish Council approve the in-year grant application from the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust for the sum of £3,500 for tree enhancement works around the pond and in the Memorial Garden, subject to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

The motion was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Baldwin with two abstentions (Cllrs Olley and Williams) and all other Members in favour.

124/23 Memorandum of Understanding between LPC and NCPFT

The Chair expressed his thanks on behalf of LPC to Cllr Hargreaves for all his work in bringing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NCPFT and LPC to this final stage.

Mr Hargreaves outlined that the move from the existing Service Level Agreement to this MOU came about in response to the Charity Commission Scheme 2007 which set out the responsibilities of the Trust in managing the Newman Collard Playing Field with LPC as Custodian Trustee. The MOU aimed to clarify this responsibility and outline the support that LPC would provide in supporting the Trust's objectives. The MOU also aimed to make the financial support from LPC more transparent with any additional financial support to be brought into the LPC grants procedure.

Cllr Smith requested that the grant in kind arising from the services to be provided by LPC to the Trust should be recorded in the document, but Members agreed that this should be recorded elsewhere as part of the budget and grants procedure.

Resolved: That Liss Parish Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust.

The motion was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Smith with two abstentions (Cllrs Olley and Williams) and all other Members in favour.

Mr Hargreaves left the meeting at this point.

125/23 Review Committee

The Clerk gave an outline of the proposal highlighting that a working group structure would give rise to much greater flexibility in reviewing LPC policies, relying less on formal committee meetings every quarter.

There was some concern from Members about the process being less disciplined and so it was agreed that a schedule of policies scheduled for review would be presented to Council at the beginning of each year with an estimate of timeframe for the review process.

Resolved: That the Review Committee be abolished and replaced with a working group (consisting of at least two cllrs and one officer) which would consider policy reviews and make recommendations to Council for approval.

The motion was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Williams with one abstention (Cllr Jerrard) and all other Members in favour.

126/23 CIL Update

Members noted the update which had been circulated.

127/23 Matters to report

Cllr Williams reported that the Trust had selected Coloured Courts as the contractor for the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) to be installed at Newman Collard; the aim was to complete the installation by this time next year.

Cllr Williams added that £21,000 of EHDC CIL had been awarded to the Newman Collard drainage project. Other more significant applications had been submitted to the SDNPA and Football Foundation for the works.

Cllr Stratford-Tuke noted the closing of Jade News after 36 years and suggested that some form of recognition be made to Lisa and Eddie.

Cllr Jerrard noted the need to arrange a formal thank you to outgoing councillors earlier in the year and Members agreed.

Cllr James raised the issue of the uncut verges near the Andlers Ash allotment site which prevented Liss In Bloom from attending to their floral display there, suggesting that LPC look into what can be done, e.g. a cultivation licence.

Cllr Olley advised that EDHC should look at their cutting regime to identify where enhancements need to be made and works offset elsewhere.

Cllr Olley also proposed sourcing expert advice on rewilding initiatives.

Cllr Jerrard lamented being unable to report on police issues given that the Partnership Action Group meetings had been suspended in their current form.

Cllr Baldwin advised that she had attended her first meeting with Rake Village Hall, noting that the toilet refurbishment works were complete for which a contribution had been agreed in the LPC grants process upon completion. The Clerk responded that she had sought confirmation so that the grant could be processed but was awaiting a response.

Cllr Budden raised the issue of a possible band stand in the Memorial Garden for Liss Band's 50th anniversary. Members suggested that, although LPC was supportive, the initiative should be worked up by the band and pursued with the NCPFT.

128/23 Exempt session

Resolved: That the following items be taken in exempt session (proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Smith with all in favour).

129/23 Councillor co-option

Resolved: That Harry Mackay be co-opted as councillor to the Liss Ward (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Tordoff with all in favour).

130/23 Exempt Minutes

Resolved: That the exempt minutes of the meeting of 19th June 2023 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Smith with all in favour).

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.25 hrs.

Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 18th September 2023, 7pm

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

DRAFT

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

3 JULY 2023

1. Pothole repair boost

An extra £7.5 million each year for the next three years will be spent on repairing more potholes across Hampshire under new plans outlined by the County Leader Councillor Rob Humby in June.

Anyone using roads in Hampshire and elsewhere will be fully aware of the impact of sustained severe weather on our highway network. We are currently fixing record numbers of potholes and road defects – currently around 1,000 repairs every week – but it's still not enough to keep up with the number of defects on Hampshire's 5,500 miles of roads.

As part of these new proposals, we have asked the County Council's contractors Milestone to relook at how we programme repairs so that when a single repair is made, smaller ones nearby are also filled at the same time. Currently, repair gangs are being asked to focus on the defects that pose the biggest risk, but under our new approach we want to empower and equip teams to fill more potholes in a single visit and help deliver stronger roads today.

Our firm commitment to fixing the roads will address the demand for action right now, but it does mean rebalancing the highways budget to scale back how much we spend on the larger planned maintenance activity (Operation Resilience) which seeks to prevent potholes forming in the first place. This is not a decision we take lightly, but it reflects the national picture of sustained underfunding which has led to a decline in road conditions across England.

Despite extra money awarded to the County Council by Government earlier this year, to mend potholes, unprecedented levels of damage combined with soaring costs, means that current funding levels are simply not enough. We are not alone in facing this considerable challenge. The cost of repairing roads has risen steeply in recent years, but local authority highways teams in England are estimated to have only received around two-thirds of what they need from the Department of Transport to maintain local roads.

The County Council currently spends around £13.5 million on reactive pothole and road defect repairs each year. Under the new proposal, funding would increase by £7.5 million starting in this financial year and across 24/25 and 25/26. Excluding one-off grants from the Department for Transport and other temporary budget adjustments, this will mean a core annual budget specifically for reactive highway repairs of around £21m through to spring 2026.

2. Repairs to King William III Statue in The Square, Petersfield

The statue of King William III (William of Orange) has been a focal point of our market town for over 200 years. People from right across the Western Downs have visited the markets in Petersfield Square for as long as William has been there.

The Square in Petersfield is actually owned by EHDC but the statue of William III is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and hence it falls under the purview of Hampshire County Council. You may be aware that William's arm has become detached and requires repair. HCC will this month be removing the statue. The timeline is as follows:

- Monday 10th July: Scaffold erection by RHC (Conservator)
- Thursday 13th -Friday 14th July: Removal of William.
- Monday 17th July: Scaffold down, followed by Heras fencing, installed around the plinth by HCC.
- Repair period of 10 weeks (Provisional)
- PROVISIONAL Monday 18th September: Scaffold erection by RHC
PROVISIONAL Thursday 21st -Friday 22nd September: Reinstatement of William.
PROVISIONAL Monday 28th September: Scaffold down, Heras fencing removed.

The second batch of dates are provisional as they depend on how the repair progresses in the workshop in London.

William will undoubtedly be missed; no-one likes to look at an empty plinth. But we can look forward to William returning in September in fully restored condition. PTC may wish to consider organising a ceremony to celebrate his return?

Since Petersfield Urban District Council purchased William III for the town in 1911, it has been repaired at least seven times. In September 1913 Petersfield residents held jumble sales and concerts to raise money to repair the statue. The townspeople filled the Square to celebrate the unveiling of the newly restored statue, which was decorated with laurel leaves. Amazingly the event was filmed and that film is available to view at Hampshire Records Office in Winchester (I have watched it myself).

Finally I would also like to mention that Cllr Robert Mocatta and I have recently met with the Petersfield Area Historical Society with a view to developing a new plaque which would provide more historical detail and context for the statue. We are both supportive of the concept of this additional plaque. Work on this is ongoing. Planning permissions are needed so this new plaque may not be ready in time for William's return but hopefully it can be installed before the end of the year.

3. Pulens Lane Traffic-Calming Project

This scheme is the highest priority for the Petersfield Strategy Group and for Hampshire County Council. Cllr Mocatta and I have been pushing this scheme strongly behind the scenes for the last three years and we are very pleased to have a great team of people working on it and strong commitment from the HCC and EHDC Leadership and senior officers at HCC to deliver the scheme.

Raised crossings will form the basis for slowing traffic and for making it easier for people to cross the road at key points. Cycling and environmental improvements will be embedded within the scheme.

An in-person Workshop with stakeholders took place in Penns Place on 14th June. I know that the Placemaking Team at HCC found this extremely useful. A second Online Workshop will be held from 4.00-5:30pm on either Tuesday 18 or Thursday 20 July. The date will be confirmed this week.

The purpose of the second online Workshop will be to show emerging designs and discuss them in Workshop Groups, with a view to the Project Team developing the proposals in more detail over the Summer. If you would like to be invited to this Teams workshop please let me know.

4. HCC Budget Consultation

A brief reminder that the closing date for the HCC Budget Consultation is 23 July. If you have not already completed the questionnaire I would like to invite you to do so by clicking on this link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/budgetconsultation>

5. Agroforestry Workshop

At the Hampshire Forestry Partnership we are keen to win hearts and minds when it comes to planting more trees and hedges on agricultural land. There are benefits to the bottom line because farmers can make extra profits from the timber, fruit and nuts whilst also increasing output. Trees can improve grazing pastures by providing shade for animals and improving soil and water retention. And by providing a natural habitat, trees can naturally increase numbers of helpful predators such as spiders and beetles, controlling aphid crop pests without the need for costly and harmful insecticides.

We have organised a free Agroforestry workshop for land managers and farmers which takes place in Alresford on the afternoon of 28 July 2023. It's a great opportunity to learn more from the experts. Please share this opportunity with anyone you know locally who might be interested. To register for the workshop please follow this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/silvoarable-agroforestry-workshop-for-arable-farmers-land-managers-tickets-668673238657?aff=oddttdcreator>

6. Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire

Hampshire County Council has been appointed by HM Government to prepare a 'Local Nature Recovery Strategy' for Hampshire, including the areas of Portsmouth and Southampton. £388,000 will be provided to coordinate the development of the new strategy in collaboration with key partners.

The Strategy will bring together organisations and residents to restore precious habitats, protect wildlife and combat climate change. Hampshire County Council is one of 48 individual local authorities across England designated as leads for the delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and will work with Southampton and Portsmouth unitary authorities, the region's two national parks and all eleven district and borough councils across Hampshire.

7. South Downs Park Protectors is launched

The SDNPA has launched a new scheme which gives corporations a significant opportunity to get involved with nature recovery and staff volunteering in the great outdoors. The South Downs Protector scheme is inviting corporate partners to support the South Downs National Park with a £10,000 contribution.

The donation will help fund the National Park's ambition to create 13,000 hectares – or an area almost twice the size of Southampton – of new habitat where plants and animals can thrive. The ReNature initiative is tackling biodiversity loss by creating significant new areas of woodland, hedgerow, wildflower meadow, and wetlands over the next decade.

Businesses that sign up to the scheme receive volunteering days in the incredible landscape of the National Park, a ranger talk, as well as corporate getaway opportunities at the breathtaking Seven Sisters Country Park.

They will also receive a one-year subscription to the Green South Downs Sustainability Certification Program, which focuses on helping businesses reach sustainability goals.

It would be great to get local firms to sign up and I hope Councillor colleagues will help to spread the word. Joining the scheme will be good for businesses and good for nature!

To find out more about becoming a Park Protector visit <https://oursouthdowns.co.uk/page/SupportNP> or email james.winkworth@southdownstrust.org.uk

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers