



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 17th June 2024 in the Village Hall

Members

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

* Present

In addition to S. Smith (Clerk) and County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer.

62/24 Apologies

Members noted that District Councillor Roger Mullenger had sent apologies.

63/24 Declarations of Interests

Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest they may have in any item of business, no later than when that item is reached.

Cllrs Olley and Williams noted an interest in the approval of payments and receipts, as Trustees of the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust, as one of the payments was an LPC CIL grant to the Trust.

64/24 Chair's announcements

- a) Thank you to everyone who took part in the D-Day celebrations.
- b) The Liss Village Festival would take place on Saturday 22nd June, 2-5pm at Newman Collard Park.
- c) LPC still has a vacancy for a councillor. Anyone wishing to apply should get in touch with the Clerk.
- d) The Village Hall will be used as a polling station on Thursday 4th July for the General Election. Members were advised that they should not handle any postal votes on behalf of constituents.

65/24 Adjournment for public participation

No period of adjournment was required as no members of the public were present.

66/24 Update from the County Councillor

Cllr Oppenheimer's written report for June had been circulated (**Annex A**).

Cllr Tordoff enquired as to whether the focus on tackling road defects might have reduced focus on other areas, including the installation of the sockets as commissioned by LPC for the moveable speed indicator devices. She asked whether Cllr Oppenheimer could assist. Cllr Oppenheimer undertook to raise the issue with the appropriate member.

Cllr Oppenheimer left the meeting at this point.

67/24 Update from District Councillors

Cllr Mullenger provided an update as at **Annex B**.

Cllr James added the following:

- a) That a conversation had taken place with the regeneration portfolio holder regarding possible funding towards the village centre works; unfortunately no funds were available. He wondered whether the sale of the Liss Business Centre might give rise to funds for a regeneration project and was advocating to the EHDC Overview & scrutiny Committee treat the proceeds of the sale as a community asset rather than going into the investment pot for the property portfolio.
- b) There had been no progress on the Riverside Walk volunteer issue.
- c) That there might be a role for LPC in contributing to energy regeneration for the Energise South Downs event which was due to take place in the Village Hall on the evening of Wednesday 19th June 2024.

Cllr Mort asked about contamination of plastics recycling noting the very limited plastics collection. It was clarified that HCC are responsible for disposing of the plastics for which EHDC undertake the collection service.

The Clerk noted that the bottle bank in the EHDC car park was often overflowing and that the removal of the bottle bank in the Sainsburys Liphook car park was likely a contributing factor. Members noted that either the bottle bank needed emptying more frequently or there were insufficient bottle banks in the vicinity.

Cllr James left the meeting at this point.

68/24 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 20th May 2024

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 20th May 2024 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Mort and seconded by Cllr Williams with all in favour).

69/24 Matters arising

58/24: Cllr Payne enquired as to whether the Chair had written to the SDNPA about the disposal of the Liss Business Centre. The Chair replied that the letter was currently in draft format.

70/24 Payments and receipts for the period 1st April 2024 to 12th June 2024

Resolved: That the receipts and payments set out in **Annex E** for the period 1st April 2024 to 12th June 2024, for the Liss Parish Council accounts, be approved (proposed by Cllr Mort and seconded by Cllr Smith with all in favour).

71/24 Report for the Planning Committee of 10th June 2024

Members noted the minutes of the Planning Committee of 10th June 2024.

The Clerk noted that the Whistlestop application for two dwellings had been approved despite a strong objection from LPC.

Members expressed some concern about the Liss Athletic Football Club's publicly stated desire to install floodlights at the Cricket Club for which they had entered into any agreement to use.

It was noted that LPC had not yet been consulted on any application as no planning application had been submitted as yet.

Members agreed to write to Peter Storrie as Chair of LAFC to invite him to the Planning Committee to present his plans.

72/24 CIL update and allocation

The Chair noted that the unallocated sum of LPC CIL stood at £11, 096.31.

Cllr Payne asked whether there was any pressure to spend the funds; the Chair advised that the SDNPA liked to see the funds allocated as there was more protection in the first three years, after which developers might seek to claw back the funds paid if unallocated.

73/24 End of financial year arrangements

It was resolved as follows:

- a) That Liss Parish Council approved the audited Liss Parish Council accounts for the FY 2023/24.
- b) That Liss Parish Council note the Internal Audit Report from Lightatouch covering March 2024 and Year End procedures.

- c) That Liss Parish Council note the Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24.
- d) That Liss Parish Council approve the Annual Governance Statement for the FY 2023/24, having considered the responses to the statements to ensure there is a sound system of internal control, and authorise the Chair and Clerk to sign the document accordingly.
- e) That Liss Parish Council approve the Accounting Statement for the FY 2023/24 and authorise the Chair to sign the document accordingly.
- f) That Liss Parish Council approve the dates for the exercise of public rights.
- g) That Liss Parish Council confirm that it has no conflict of interest with external auditors BDO LLP.
- h) That Liss Parish Council is satisfied with the effectiveness of the Internal Audit 2024/24.
- i) That Liss Parish Council appoint Lightatouch as the Internal Auditor for the FY 2024/25.

The motions were proposed by Cllr Mort and seconded by Cllr Olley with all in favour.

74/24 Internal Control Statement 2024

Resolved: That Liss Parish Council approve the Internal Control Statement 2024 (proposed by Cllr Mort and seconded by Cllr Olley with all in favour).

75/24 Matters to report

Cllr Williams advised the following:

- a) The Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust had received a grant from County Cllr Russell Oppenheimer for £800 for 12,500 daffodil bulbs to be planted in the autumn.
- b) She thanked the Chair for the planting of the tree as part of the D-Day commemorations.
- c) A Triangle Trustee meeting had taken place last week; trade was back to normal following the works. However the works had cost much more than anticipated and so the Triangle was looking for grants.
- d) An LPC councillor surgery had taken place that morning but had not been well attended.

Cllr Olley advised that he was pleased with the cross-departmental working with regards to tree planting and achieving green corridors, although Highways would not provide any funding as Liss was not one of their priority areas. On the positive side, the HCC Tree Strategy and Planting Team had asked that Liss be used to develop a case study as a fantastic example of joint collaboration to benefit both wildlife and residents. Cllr Olley would continue work to create further green corridors in Liss. Cllr Stratford-Tuke asked whether a map was available of the green corridors. Cllr Williams thought the HCC Tree Planting Team might come up with this. Cllr Tordoff suggested linking this with the Village Design Statement and logging works on the Green Matrix which had been developed internally.

Cllr Payne reported that he had attended a Crossover Trustee meeting and noted that the Crossover were still undertaking street-based work on two Saturdays a month. An open day was due to be held on Saturday 6th July, 12-4pm; he encouraged councillors who weren't familiar with the Crossover's work to attend.

Cllr Payne asked about the LPC position of the Rotherbank Farm Lane Bridge; the Clerk replied that the issue was being discussed with EHDC prior to LPC getting involved in maintenance issues.

Cllr Baldwin noted that a request had been received to remove the old football goals at Liss Forest now that the moveable goals were in place. Cllr Olley undertook to write to the Chair of the Liss Forest Residents' Association to establish their position on this. Cllr Payne noted the importance of the disposal in case the goals were of some value.

Chair closed the meeting at 20:11 hrs.

Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 15th July 2024, 7pm

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

1 JUNE 2024

1. New Leader appointed at HCC

I am sure you will have heard that a new leader has taken over at HCC following the resignation of Cllr Rob Humby. Cllr Nick Adams-King was elected to the post of Leader at Full Council on 23 May. Many of you will know Cllr Nick Adams-King from his previous role overseeing Highways as Executive Member for Universal Services.

I have worked closely with Cllr Adams-King over the last two years. He has a wealth of senior experience in the private and public sector. Nick is optimistic about Hampshire. I have confidence that Nick will lead us into a healthy period in which HCC will be even more efficient and commercial. Nick has also said that he will listen to the key messages arising from the Future Services consultation and hopes to ensure that vital services for communities are retained and improved.

2. Update on new BOATs policy

You will recall that I commissioned a review of the Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) policy when I was Executive Member for Countryside at HCC. The scope of the review was scrutinised by the Universal Services Select Committee in late 2023. Some of you attended the second Parish meeting on this issue in early May 2024 at which the Byways Manager outlined the latest thinking on the review.

I need to stress that final decisions have not yet been made. The policy is still under development and it will be published in draft form for scrutiny in due course. Having given that caveat, I would now like to share with you some of the areas that are being examined as part of the review of the Byways Operating Procedures (BOP):

- 1) HCC is considering a proposal to alter the Red/Amber/Green classification system to include a new “AT RISK” Upper Amber category. In addition to the Red routes, these Amber AT RISK byways would also have gates and noticeboards installed. 31 new gates/noticeboards would be needed for all the routes that are classified as Amber AT RISK.
- 2) Adoption of Summer Closures linked to serious adverse weather events, such as flash flooding.
- 3) Working with trained Parish Councils to expedite gate ‘closures and re-opening’ efficiently, especially during the summer period.
- 4) Application of an advisory Speed Limit, possibly in the realm of 12mph. This is not yet confirmed but it is something I have personally been advocating for some time. So I really hope it makes it into the final policy!

- 5) Removal of the stage of “voluntary restraint” from BOP and Policy process and move directly to active intervention through Temporary Traffic Regulation Order TTRO (winter and summer closures).
- 6) The BOP is to include new scoring for NNRs, LNRs, SSSIs and a greater weighting based on ‘Furthering the purposes’ of National Parks and National Landscapes.
- 7) The BOP may also include new scoring on safety of users, based on risk to NMUs (Non-motorised Users) on byways. This needs to be defensible against criteria and will take into account the width of the route and frequency of passing places, and visibility.
- 8) The BOP will hopefully identify a more specific route to escalate through to the TRO of a BOAT. It may be proposed that if HCC has operated 2 winter closures and the route continues to deteriorate in the summer months then these routes will be subject to a TRO to ban the most upper level of users (e.g. Motorised).

I hope you will agree that consideration of these changes represents progress. Both Cllr Mocatta and I have been speaking to the new Leader of HCC and the new Exec Member Cllr Kirsty North about this issue. We wish to ensure a strong focus and drive on this issue through to implementation. I look forward to reporting on this issue again once the draft policy is published.

3. New Parents Meet and Connect

[New Parents Meet and Connect](#) is a free weekly event at selected libraries across the county, specifically for parents and carers with newborns. The friendly sessions offer an ongoing opportunity for mutual support while parents take part in baby-friendly play and activities with their children. The County Council is providing this support to families as part of its Public Health responsibilities.

We know the first 1001 days of life is an important time for development, from [research carried out by the County Council](#). The quality of parent/carer interactions with babies during this period profoundly shapes a child's cognitive growth. However, loneliness and isolation can undermine a parent’s wellbeing and potentially impact their child’s development. New Parents Meet and Connect, can help tackle loneliness and enable parents to get any help they may need.

It seems that Petersfield Library is not currently part of the scheme but I have encouraged them to consider joining in the next wave. Currently the closest library to us with a Meet and Connect morning is Bordon library. I think this is a good scheme and I am hopeful that it will be successful and will be rolled out to all libraries.

4. How are roads chosen for resurfacing and surface treatment?

I was asked about this issue at the Froxfield & Privett APM recently. It is a good question and I have decided that the answer is worthy of inclusion in my monthly report.

All roads in Hampshire are inspected every month. Sites are selected for surface intervention based on an assessment of the road’s condition including the level of potholes, cracking and other defects present. Depending on the precise level of defects, and the volume of traffic using the road, they may be selected for treatment to make the road stronger.

County Councillors can draw attention to roads of concern and request that consideration is given to surface treatment. I do not like to play this card too often but I will certainly do it if I feel it is warranted. If any Parish Council would like me to email the Operation Resilience team about a specific road, please get in touch with me at any time. Once a road has been deemed suitable for resurfacing it will be scheduled for the coming financial year.

Carriageway resurfacing is the replacement of the surface of the road, with a new surface layer (between 30 to 105mm of new asphalt). Sometimes the existing road will be overlaid with the new surface. However, generally the existing surface will be removed (referred to as milling or planing) and a new surface put in its place.

In addition to resurfacing, Hampshire Highways undertakes a programme of Surface Dressing treatments. Surface dressing involves the application of fresh stone onto a layer of bitumen binder (a glue that holds together crushed gravel to create a durable, flexible surface, essential to the success of the treatment). The loose stones are then embedded by rubber rollers with remaining loose chippings then swept up. Surface dressing cannot happen if the road is wet as the moisture will prevent the bond between the chippings and asphalt. Hence treatments are usually applied during the summer months because the process needs warm, dry weather to be successful.

Surface dressing treatments help to slow the natural deterioration of roads and reduce the occurrence of potholes and other road defects, as well as giving the road more grip to boost safety. It is a cost-efficient way to target roads that carry the most traffic so are most at risk of wear and tear, helping taxpayers' money to go further at a time when our budget is extremely stretched.

Where surface dressing is being carried out, road closures will usually be in place from 9.30am to 4pm, with a few exceptions. Timings will be flexible, as the process is very weather dependent, but local roadside signage will be updated as promptly as possible to keep people informed.

Hampshire residents can find out more about roadworks taking place in Hampshire, including surface dressing schemes at: <https://one.network/>

This link also provides more information about the resurfacing process.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/plannedmaintenance>

Now that we are entering the drier months, Hampshire Highways are rapidly tackling the backlog of defects from the unusually wet winter. I hope you are all noticing an improvement in the condition of the roads.

5. Farming in Hampshire

In April I had an opinion piece about farming published in the Hampshire Chronicle. In case you missed it, here is a link:

<https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/24233542.comment-practical-help-hampshires-farmers/>

6. Grant year is now open

The County Councillor grant round for the current municipal year has now opened. The total pot available to me is £8,000. I would like to try to limit each of my grants to £800 or thereabouts so that I can support more projects. I am especially keen to fund tree planting and infrastructure improvements. I look forward to receiving some applications in due course!

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

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Apologies for my absence

Councillor grants •

I have agreed in principle to two grants, ° Petersfield Shakespeare Festival. <https://psfest.co.uk/> at Wylds Farm ° The Triangle for the autumn festival. Applications not yet submitted. Surgeries • Ian James & I have continued run two-hour surgeries on the first Saturday each month. Casework • Problem raised about the exit from Barnside way on to Andlers Ash. There have been several residents saying out how difficult and dangerous this is. • Sight-lines at the foot crossing near Forest Rise. • There are some on-going cases. I will follow these up after July 4th Planning • I was disappointed that tree works have been permitted in Opie Gardens, when the original planning permission moved a house to avoid this happening. Other • I have promoted Wednesday's energy meeting through my councillor Facebook page. EHDC business • Most meetings have been cancelled because of the general election • I attended an Audit Committee meeting. The papers for the meeting run to 200 pages, however there are some interesting figures within. Roger Mullenger 16th June 2024

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