

# LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT Minutes of a Meeting held at Lodsworth Village Hall On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**Present:** Councillors Caroline Neville (Chairman), Victoria Anderson, Deryck Hamon, Martin Lester, Paul Phillips, Lesley Shaikh and John West

**In attendance:** Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk  
County Councillor, Mr Michael Brown  
District Councillor, Francis Hobbs

### **Comments and Questions from members of the Public**

There was one member of the public.

#### **1. To note apologies for absence**

Parish Councillor David Rowlands

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of Interest.

#### **3. Councillor Vacancy**

The Chairman announced that Alistair Proctor had resigned from the Parish Council. She thanked him for all his hard work as a Councillor and said that now left a vacancy. Clerk has put the obligatory notice on the notice board and it is hoped that someone will come forward to join the Parish Council and be co-opted at the next meeting.

#### **4. Police report**

There was no Police report.

#### **5. Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **6. Reports from the elected representatives of WSCC and CDC**

County Councillor, Michael Brown reported he was still the County Councillor for this area but no longer the cabinet member for Finance. Following recent cabinet discussions on budgets and Council tax rises, he chose to stand down as a matter of principle as he had kept Council tax frozen for five years and was not comfortable announcing any significant tax increase. He reported on a piece of land which WSCC had acquired in Horsham due to be completed in July. It is hoped the land will provide a mix of housing and a hi-tech business facility providing 1000 high quality, high calibre jobs for the area. Caroline Neville stated the Parish Council was still very concerned about the speeding vehicles in the village. Michael Brown said the parish needs to continue to apply pressure to WSCC and suggested inviting the new director of Highways and himself to a meeting to discuss the TROs for both the width and speed restrictions currently in the system. Clerk to organise.

Deryck Hamon thanked District Councillor Francis Hobbs for this support and help with the wall alongside The Street and Gills Lane. Planning applications for the tree works are currently being progressed. Francis Hobbs said he continued to press to improve the slow traffic in the middle of Midhurst which he knows affects and is frustrating for many people. He is trying to get the traffic lights sorted out so the traffic can move more quickly through the town. Paul Phillips suggested that double yellow lines be put in opposite the BP garage in Easebourne to help the flow. South of the Downs, the A27 Chichester improvement scheme consultation is currently running to include a Chichester by-pass.

The Chairman thanked both the Councillors for their time and support tonight.

#### **7. Village Design Statement (VDS)**

Ian Buckingham sent James Tree's apologies for this meeting and stated the VDS project is progressing satisfactory. He said that the first parish meeting had been an introduction to the project, followed by a questionnaire being sent out, then a second meeting with the results of the questionnaire. The short questionnaire which followed this was confirmation that people approved and strongly approved of the guideline proposals. This was very positive and the results of this were sent

out in a graph format by email. Since then the VDS team has built on the questionnaire and results to form a draft VDS document. The team would like feedback and comments from the Parish Council, they will then revise the draft and send out a suggested final to parishioners and local businesses. Then a third and final meeting will take place to discuss and adopt the document in February/March 2016. Once agreed the document will then formally go to SDNPA and the planning committee for them to adopt. Ian Buckingham said the cover of the VDS would build on the old cover of the Parish Plan, demonstrating continuity, accepting that a lot of hard work had gone into the original. Paul Phillips said he thought that the design of the cover should include the new properties in the parish and reflect the changing shape of the neighbourhood.

The Parish Council thanked the VDS team for all their hard work and continued commitment to the project.

## 8. Working Party reports

- **Highways:** Vicki Anderson said she would pursue Steve Hodd regarding the overgrown areas on The Street, by Hammick House, by the Allotments and in Lickfold. The volunteer tidy up day in December had been a huge success with a further day planned on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January carrying on the good work on Gills Lane. Thank you to all those who have helped so far and to all the many residents around the parish who have been out clearing drains and ditches during the recent bad weather. It was agreed that the Clerk should write an article of thanks in the next issue of Outlook. It was also agreed that refreshments should be provided for the volunteers on the tidy up days.
- **Footpaths and Rights of Way:** Martin Lester reported that the tree on the graveyard by Bayleys Yard needs attention. Caroline Neville said she would ask a local resident for his help with this. Concern was also raised with regard to the amount of green waste being dumped in the woods. Clerk had previously contacted Cowdray Estate regarding this but to no avail. It was agreed as the waste was only green at this stage to just continue to keep an eye on it.
- **Play Area:** Caroline Neville said she, Alistair and the Clerk had met with Handmade Places to discuss the works required to allow the playground to be made safe and re-opened. Although the replacement timber is provided free of charge, any installation and works is chargeable. Clerk had received a quote from Hand Made Places for £3,898 + VAT. Caroline Neville confirmed the original guarantee does not include any labour costs. She had spoken with the company and they had explained that the work would take about 5 days for 2 men working 8 hours a day. The timber would be a pressure treated softwood and comes with a further 10 year guarantee against rot and fungal. Councillors were not happy with the costings. Paul Phillips said he would contact Playsafe Playgrounds for their advice and a price to replace the timber. Clerk to strive to find another quote for the works in line with the Council's financial regulations.
- **Allotments:** Paul Phillips reported that a clear up was still required along the front of the allotments with brambles needing to be cleared but unfortunately he could not find anyone willing to do this. Caroline Neville said she would ask Peter South if he were able to help out. Paul said he was still having problems with residents who live alongside the allotments understanding they were responsible for both sides of hedges.
- **Parish Repairs:** Deryck Hamon reported that parish repairs was an on-going issue. He and John West had mended the road sign on the junction of Shepherds and School Lane. The bus shelter was still a serious concern. Lesley Shaikh stated she had had no luck with finding any funding for a replacement shelter in spite of significant searching. Paul Phillips suggested a contact at SDNPA which he would send her information for. Clerk to investigate who is actually legally responsible for the bus shelter; the Parish Council or WSCC Highways. Deryck Hamon said he would liaise with Ben Law and local businesses for possible advertising and sponsorship.
- **Winter Planning/Operation Watershed:** John West reported that there had unfortunately been a delay with the Lickfold Bridge survey due to the weather. However it was hoped CBEC would start the survey within the next week or so once the water levels had subsided. He added that the salt/grit mix in the grit bins was not in a good condition.
- **Planning:** The following planning applications have been received and discussed since the last meeting:

SDNP/15/05537/LIS

*Rusden, The Street, Lodsworth, West Sussex GU28 9DA*

*Replacement of a stone clad open fireplace with a cast iron fire place and slate hearth*

SDNP/15/05492/LIS

*Lannowes Cottage, Church Lane, Lodsworth, West Sussex GU28 9DD*

*Alterations to window opening on rear elevation to provide a pair of doors and sidelights at either side*

SDNP/15/05443/LIS

*Lannowes Cottage, Church Lane, Lodsworth, West Sussex GU28 9DD*

*Construction of porch canopy to front elevation*

SDNP/15/05561/TCA

Woodmancote, Vicarage Lane, Lodsworth, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 9DA  
Notification of intention to fell 3 no Lawson Cypress trees, 2 no yew trees and 1 no Holly tree

SDNP/15/05657/HOUS

The Oaks, Halfway Bridge, Lodsworth, West Sussex GU28 9BP  
Proposed garden studio

SDNP/15/05588/LIS

The Great House, Langham Lane, Lodsworth, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 9DA  
Raised arch to window and altered design to steps and canopy on north elevation. New opening in garden wall.  
Internal alterations including new and repositioned doors, variations to partitions and reopening of fireplace

SDNP/15/03891/FUL

Oakleaves, School Lane, Lodsworth, West Sussex GU28 9DH  
Replacement and extension of existing dwelling with cottage style house and timber garage

SDNP/15/06000/CND

Great Gulls, The Street, Lodsworth, West Sussex GU28 9BZ  
Variation of condition 1 t permission SDNP/15/00852/HOUS. Change of roofing material from day tile to cedar shingle

SDNP/15/06023/LIS and SDNP/15/06022/HOUS

Erickers, The Street, Lodsworth, West Sussex GU28 9BZ  
Removal of existing garage to allow for formation of new ancillary annex

SDNP/15/06232/HOUS

Valley Croft, Selham Road, Selham, Lodsworth, West Sussex GU28  
Erection of a first floor extension

SDNP/15/06508/TPO

Lodsworth House, Gills Lane, Lodsworth, West Sussex GU28 9BY  
Crown raise up to 6m (above ground level) on northern sectors on trees mainly consisting of Hazel, Holly, Sweet Chestnut, Hawthorn, Laurel, Ash, Elder, Yew, Beech, Scots Pine and Sycamore within area A1 subject to LD/02/00610/TPO

SDNP/15/06331/TCA

Lodsworth House, Gills Lane, Lodsworth, West Sussex GU28 9BY  
Crown raise up to 6m (above ground level) on north/north east sectors on trees mainly consisting of Hazel, Holly, Sweet Chestnut, Hawthorn, Laurel, Ash, Elder, Yew, Beech, Scots Pine and Sycamore

## 9. Parish Parking

Unfortunately David Rowlands is still waiting to hear back from the new Hyde housing officer for Lodsworth despite having left several messages.

## 10. Street Party

Martin Lester said the Clerk had submitted the form requesting the road closure and was waiting on a decision. Clerk had been sent an email from CDC encouraging parishes to mark the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with beacons, Martin said he would follow this up.

## 11. WSCC Library Service

WSCC Community Mobile Library is changing the day it visits Lodsworth from April 2016 to a Tuesday at the same time of 14:20 - 14:50. It will continue to visit fortnightly. Until then it will continue its 30 minute visit on a Wednesday outside The Hollist Arms (10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February, 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March). It is hoped this change will enable more local residents to access the service. A new timetable will be put up on notice board and website once received.

## 12. Donations and Grants 2015/16

The figures for the current budget 2015/16 were examined at Appendix 3. All budgeted annual grants and donations previously agreed were approved as follows:  
Lodsworth Village Hall £1450 (£1250 for annual contribution towards the insurance and £200 annual rental charges)  
Midhurst Community Bus £100 (annual donation)

Rother Valley Together £100 (annual donation)  
Arun & Chichester Citizens Advice Bureau £150 (increase from £50)  
Lodsworth PCC £750 (annual donation towards the churchyard maintenance)

It was determined there was money available for the playground repairs and to replace the bus shelter on the A272. All agreed to this as both deemed essential works. Lesley Shaikh said she would ask the fete committee for some funding towards the shelter from this year's fete proceeds.

### **13. Precept/Budget 2016/17**

The draft figures for 2016/17 were considered. It was agreed the precept would not be increased and stay at £16,081. Martin Lester proposed that the Parish Council should consider increasing the precept in future years so they may invest in equipment which could be used to maintain the parish.

### **14. Financial Matters**

- The Councils current financial position of £24,741 was noted.
- The bank reconciliation at Appendix 2 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 3 was noted. Payments authorised for WSCC (Clerk's Nov & Dec Salary) @ £779.90, P F Lawson (October's Grass Cutting) @ £40, Southern Water (Allotment Water) @ £11.38 and Mr Niel Daubeny (reimbursement of Easyspace website annual charges) @ £65.51

### **15. Reports back from meetings attended by Councillors**

There had been no meetings due to the Christmas break.

### **16. Clerks Report**

Clerk spoke of two meetings being held over the next week or so:

North Chichester CLC meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7pm at Capron House

North West Parishes Forum meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30 for 7pm at Lodsworth Village Hall

John West said he was having problems contacting SSE regarding the resilience funding available to parishes. Clerk to try her contact at the Petersfield depot. Deryck Hamon said there was a representative who spoke at the NW Parishes forum he and Caroline had attended in Woolbeding. Clerk to find out his contact details.

### **17. Matters to be included on the next agenda**

Please inform the Clerk of any other items you wish to see on the next agenda by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

### **18. Date of next Parish Council meeting - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm**

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

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