

LODSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of a meeting held at Lodsworth Village Hall
On Monday 9th July 2018

Present: Councillors Justina Leitao, Caroline Neville (Chair), Paul Phillips, James Rees, Tom Richardson and Jim Summers

In attendance: Mrs Helen Cruikshank, Parish Clerk
County Councillor David Bradford

Speaker: Colin Carre, the project manager of the SDNP Heathlands Reunited Project gave an interesting talk on the Heritage lottery-funded project. 1% of the SDNP is Heathland and it is a valuable asset with more restoration work being carried out to keep it a heritage resource. Through the Heathlands Reunited project it is hoped to inspire people to get to know their local heaths even better, visit and explore other heaths, and most importantly get involved in caring for these amazingly rich havens.

SDNP have been asking local communities to share their stories about the history and heritage of their local heathlands to help inspire seven new pieces of art, The works will link seven heathland sites in the National Park to tell the story of why heaths are so important – not just as individual commons but as part of a wider network of heathland. Seven heathland sites are being looked at as locations for the artwork: Wiggonholt, Iping and Stedham, Lavington Plantation, Short heath Common, Graffham, Black Down and Woolbeding. An artist has been commissioned to create the seven pieces to reflect what each community values about their heath – from their history and past economic importance to their rare plants and animals. Consultation about these pieces will go ahead from mid-August.

Further information can be found at www.southdowns.gov.uk/heathlands-reunited

The Chairman thanked Colin for coming along to the meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Comments and Questions from members of the Public

There were two members of the public present.

A member of the public spoke of her concern about the speed of the traffic in particular the tractors of late coming through the village. The Chairman said she had written to Gillian Keegan, the local MP and to both WSCC Highways and the Police about the problem of speeding and the size of vehicles following the horrendous accident which happened in Lodsworth on Smithbrook Hill, a few weeks ago. There had not even been an apology from Sussex Agripower. She said that we need to mount a much larger campaign and for all residents to keep a record of every incident that happens. She had received letters and reports from parishioners about the accident and all had been sent on. Unfortunately the lady involved was too traumatised to speak to the newspaper so the story was not reported in the Midhurst & Petworth Observer. These large tractors are dominating the road and something must be done to make our rural roads safer.

Another member of the public stated that a village petition had been carried out before to support and push for a width and speed restriction in Lodsworth. However after many years being on the TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) list, it was thrown out in 2016 along with 14 others due to lack of funding and not meeting policy requirements. He urged that a 20mph speed limit would slow traffic down and disagreed with the argument that it was unenforceable therefore not effective. All agreed a reduced speed limit is a message and that a physical barrier is needed. If Highways won't fund signage then maybe the parish should. People need to keep recording times and dates of incidents through Operation Crackdown, the Sussex Police public reporting tool <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/>

In the meantime, Caroline Neville is to invite Jon Forster (WSCC Safer Roads Manager) to the village to drive round, see the parish roads for himself and discuss a way forward..

41/18 To note apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Parish Councillor Charles McKee and District Councillor Francis Hobbs. Two prospective candidates for the vacancies also sent their apologies.

42/18 Declarations of interest

The Chairman reminded members of the code of conduct.

43/18 Co-option of Councillors

There was no co-option.

44/18 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the AGM held on Monday 14th May 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.

45/18 Reports from elected representatives of WSCC and CDC

County Councillor David Bradford reported on three issues:

- The schooling budget reduction which will probably see a school closure somewhere in the County.
- The news that Midhurst Community Hospital is closing to overnight patients now.
- Concerns over the Velo South cycling event due to take place on Sunday 23rd September with 15,000 cyclists taking part.

In District Councillor Hobbs' absence, Caroline Neville reported on District's summer news:

- Universal credit (the new benefit system) started in July and all applications are now online. It is hoped that The Grange in Midhurst may become a hub to help with this.
- The 28th July sees the start of the Bricks Britannia exhibition (History of Britain in Lego bricks) being held at the Novium Museum in Chichester.
- Priory Park 100: 22nd-30th September celebrates the 100 year anniversary of Priory Park with a programme of events organised. <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/summer>

46/18 Working Party reports

- **Highways:** Tom Richardson said he had been very busy but now has more time to move forward with the sign for Gills Lane over the next couple of weeks. Jim Summers said the pub is making use of getting large groups to park up at the Village Hall. Still trying to make more use of the space in the car park. Tom Richardson reported he had been liaising with WSCC Highways on the proposed new bus shelter and in short we cannot have one similar that opposite due to sightlines. It was agreed to try and progress a new shelter without sides.
- **Speedwatch:** In Charles McKee's absence, the Clerk reported that he was in the process of getting some CSW training, suggested dates were 16th, 17th and 18th July. It was agreed that an evening session would be preferable for volunteers. Clerk to inform Charlie so he can book this urgently.
- **Footpaths, Hedges and Rights of Way:** James Rees reported that WSCC rangers had done all they had to do on the parish rights of way.
- **Playground:** The Annual ROSPA inspection had been carried out and the report just received. Paul Phillips to look at the report and work out what needs to be done (including potentially raising the swings) before contacting Playsafe Playgrounds for repairs. Sadly there has been some vandalism at the play area with damage to both the swings and the zip wire. It was suggested that some adult exercise equipment might be considered at the recreation ground if money is available.
- **Allotments:** Paul Phillips said all was going well at the allotments but a mower is needed. He had had a tidy up and done a tip run. Some strimming is now required. Paul stated that rents would go up in 2019 to pay for additional on-going maintenance. He thanked the neighbouring property owner for cutting the hedge so promptly this year.

- **Parish repairs:** Lodsworth Preservation Society is lucky to have use of a parishioner's trailer but has a problem in the winter with the towing vehicle. Paul Phillips kindly offered his vehicle as a substitute. Clerk thanked Deryck Hamon for completing the finger board outside the Hollist Arms. He would be looking at repairing the one by the Lickfold Bridge next.
- **Winter Plan:** Justina Leitao reported she had completed the annual grit/salt audit, quite a few bins were nearly empty, and some full and three were missing. It was agreed that two new large green grit bins be purchased in September.
- **Lickfold Bridge flooding:** Jim Summers reported he had met up with the Chair of Lurgashall Parish Council to discuss the economics of further work and it was agreed that the consultant's recommendations were incredibly expensive and that money would be spent better elsewhere. Fernhurst Parish Council is happy to lend a voice but not financial assistance. Chair of Lurgashall Parish Council is looking into what funding is available from the Environmental Agency and Operation Watershed for various other options.
- **Planning:** Since the last meeting the Parish Council has discussed the following planning applications:

SDNP/18/01819/LIS

Location: Lickfold Cottage Surrey Road Lickfold Lurgashall GU28 9DX

Proposal: Doff cleaning with stone and brick work repairs to the facade of the property

SDNP/18/02095/HOUS

Location: Green Oaks Highstead Lane Bexley Hill Lodsworth GU28 9EA

Proposal: One and a half storey side extension with link and external alterations.

SDNP/18/01440/HOUS

Location: 1 Sunnyside Cottages Selham Road Selham Lodsworth GU28 0PJ

Proposal: Side/front extension infill. Open porch - projection 1.2m.

SDNP/18/01369/TPO

Location: Lodsworth House Gills Lane Lodsworth West Sussex

Proposal: Reduce heights by 4m and crown raise northern sectors by up to 6m (overhanging Gills Lane) on 1 no. Chestnut tree (T3), 2 no. Beech trees (T1 and T5) and 1 no. Oak tree (T7) and fell 3 no. Sweet Chestnut trees (T2, T4 and T8) and 1 no. Beech tree (T6). All 8 no. trees within Area, A1 subject to LD/02/00610/TPO.

Since the last meeting, Chichester District Council/South Downs National Park has made the following decisions:

SDNP/18/02801/DCOND and SDNP/18/02546/DCOND

Location: Great House, Lodsworth

Proposal: Discharge of Condition 3 of planning permission SDNP/17/04962/LIS and SDNP/17/04961/LIS - Samples materials

Decision: Approved

SDNP/18/01369/TPO

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Decision: Approved

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Decision: Approved

47/18 Lodsworth Tidy up Day

The Lodsworth Tidy Up day is Saturday 21st July at 10am. Please contact Deryck Hamon, if you are able to attend. Clerk is picking up kits from CDC on the Friday and they will be available to be collected from the Lodsworth Larder from midday.

48/18 SDNP Local Heritage List

The South Downs National Park Authority is look to create a 'Local Heritage List' which will cover the entire park. This is one way of identifying non-designated heritage assets. Justina Leitao to speak to the Lodsworth Heritage Society.

49/19 WW1 Centenary – Lest we forget silhouettes

The Parish Council agreed to help fund a Lest we Forget silhouette for the parish. This would be sited on the green outside the Hollist Arms and then moved to the Church.

50/18 Association of Parish Councils Aviation Group – Night Flights 2019

James Rees had met with Mr Ian Hare from APCAG (Association of Parish Councils Aviation Group) regarding the proposed night trials in the area for 2019 and the effect it may have on the parish. The Parish Council discussed its level of involvement. It was agreed to become an associate member which entitles members to attend the APCAG PC forum and able to submit views with no associated cost.

51/18 Velo South Cycling event – Sunday 23rd September

Caroline Neville stated that many District Councillors, North of the Downs are against this event however both District and County are backing it. There are lots of people with loud voices trying to get it stopped due to the amount and length of the road closures. There is much concern over the disruption it will cause and the problems it brings in being able to maintain emergency access. Tom Richardson added he has written to Velo South with his concerns as a business owner as there had been no consultation with local businesses. Velo South is a profit making event.

52/18 Financial Matters

- The Councils current financial position of £26,806 was noted
- The bank reconciliation at Appendix 2 was noted.
- The schedule of accounts submitted for payment at Appendix 3 was noted. Payments were authorised for WSCC (Clerk's May and June Salary) @ £923, Playsafety Limited (Annual play area inspection) @ £88, Mrs Helen Cruikshank (Clerk's Exps Q1 2018/19) @ £61 and Mr Deryck Hamon (Contribution towards Lest we Forget silhouette @ £100)

53/18 Reports back from meetings attended by Councillors

Paul Phillips said he had attended a MAC meeting and still wished that Lodsworth could be added to the cycle path. Any cycle path would need to be on Cowdray Estate land and therefore require their permission.

54/18 Clerks Report including any correspondence

Clerk had nothing further to report than that on the agenda.

55/18 Items to be included on the next agenda

Co-option

Please let the Clerk know of any additional items for the agenda by Tuesday 4th September 2018

56/18 Date of next Parish Council meeting – Monday 10th September 2018 at 7.30pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30pm