



**MINUTES OF THE
LOOSE PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 15 January 2024 at 7.30pm
in the Parish Pavilion, KGVPF**

Councillors taking part: Vianne Gibbons (Chairman) (VG) Charlie Hollister (Vice Chairman) (CH), Peter Rigby (PR), Elaine Lawford (EL), Velma Bennett (VB), Jim Andrew (JA) and Andrew Richards (AR).

Also present: Sue Grigg (MBC Ward Councillor) (SG), Nicky Bourne (Deputy Clerk) (NB) and Kim Owen (Clerk & RFO) (KO) who took the minutes.

There were 3 members of the public present. The Chairman explained the housekeeping rules.

1. To receive and record any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Tony Oliver (TO) (Birthday Dinner) and PC Harry Greenfield (HG) (Not on duty).

2. To receive and agree any decision regarding any item to be taken as confidential. (Item 24)

The Council **AGREED** that Agenda item 24 will be taken as confidential.

3. To receive any declarations of pecuniary interest on items in the agenda.

(In accordance with the NALC Model Code of Conduct for Parish Councils (pursuant to section 27 of the Localism Act 2011). In addition, any declaration of personal or prejudicial interest. *(As agreed by LPC 21 Jan 13)*.)

The Clerk has received completed declaration forms from VG, CH, AR and TO for agenda item 17c and these have been approved prior to the meeting.

4. To receive any signed dispensation requests for any item on this agenda.

(Councillors to approve/disapprove as appropriate and to agree the reason for the dispensation if approved. (see dispensation form). This follows the agreement made by the LPC at the meeting held on the 17 July 2017- (item 17))

JA, EL and PR have submitted signed declarations this evening for agenda 17c. They were approved by the Clerk.

5. To agree and to sign as a correct record the minutes:

LPC minutes for meeting held on the 11 December 2023 (Pages 1907-1913).

The minutes of the meeting on 11 December 2023 were duly **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman.

The following approved Minutes to be noted and adopted by the Parish Council

- Environment Committee Meeting 23 October 2023 (Pages 413-417)
- Planning Committee Meetings 27 November 2023 (Pages 643-644) and 11 December 2023 (Pages 645-646)

6. To receive an update on Councillors and make any necessary decisions. (KO)

Cllr Susan Luckhurst resigned from the Council on 2 January 2024. This has left spaces on Committees including Vice Chair on the Pavilion and Community Hub (PCH) and Vice Chair on the Human Resources (HR) Board. The Council **AGREED** that the relevant Committees will elect a new Vice Chair at their next committee meeting and the Clerk will send a formal letter of thanks to Cllr Susan Luckhurst.



7. To receive any reports from the Loose Ward Councillor Susan Grigg. (SG)

- SG advised that with regards to the Maidstone Local Plan Review, the Inspector had agreed an additional Consultation on technical documents. A number of updates to the technical documents were published by Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) following the close of the Stage 2 hearings on 9 June 2023. These comprised of:
 - An update to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (ED126)
 - An addendum to the Integrated Transport Strategy (ED127)
 - An addendum to the Viability Assessment for the Local Plan 9ED128).

As the previous consultation only sought comments on the proposed main modifications the Inspector has agreed that for anyone who has not commented on the above documents there is now an opportunity to do so. Any comments should be submitted to the Programme Officer by 5pm on 14 February 2024.

- With regards to Beacons Park SG confirmed that she had a meeting with the Developer, Rob Jarman (Head of Planning) and the Planning Case Officer. It was a difficult meeting and it looks as if the developer is going to put in an application and will go to appeal, if it is turned down. He has gone against everything the inspector has said relating to the site. He just wants as many houses as possible on the site so will put in a hostile application. She has been fighting this development for the last three years. PR asked how the planning application at Greensands will affect the Beacons Park application? Both applications will affect each other. SG advised that her priority is to fight for an anti-coalescence belt at Beacons Park to keep the Loose village identity.
- SG has been dealing with the noise issue at the Walnut Tree Public House. She met with the landlady who has done all she said she would do including putting up signs, taking speakers indoors and making sure that the village is informed of events. Another complaint was received so a face to face meeting with residents was arranged, which was productive. The first event this season is 9 March 2024. SG will be going to the event. The landlady and SG will visit the homes of the residents concerned to check volume levels. She will send them all a letter advising them of the event dates, inviting them to the events free of charge and offering a free drink as well.
- SG advised that two previous mayors sadly passed away last week, Paul Oldham and Marion Ring.

8. To receive an update on the Linton crossroads proposals and make any necessary decisions. (JA)

JA gave an update on the Linton crossroads meeting, which was held at Linton Village Hall on 14 December 2023 and was chaired by Bernard Cresswell, Chairman of Linton Parish Council. Linton crossroads has been identified as the No1 priority for KCC on the A229. However, it was hoped that S106 monies from MBC would be used to help fund the project, which has been designed and modelled by Highways engineers. The MBC cabinet decided that the S106 monies should be used for other projects. The best way forward with the project would be for Coxheath Ward Cllr Lottie Parfit-Read to discuss the matter with the Cabinet at MBC. The meeting also discussed two planning applications, Greensands and Beacons Park that will affect the Linton crossroads. The surrounding Parish Councils have been asked to forward any future planning applications decisions to Linton Parish Council. There may be merit in going forward with MBC when the next S106 funding is available.

SG advised that she will see what the current situation is with the cabinet office at MBC. However, with elections in May 2024 for all Ward Councillors, things may change.

9. To receive any reports from KCC Division Councillor Simon Webb. (SW)

The Clerk advised that there was no formal report from SW as there had been limited action in his Kent County Council (KCC) role. He has forwarded the response from KCC Highways to help with



the 20mph in Well street and surrounding area and this has been circulated to Councillors. After discussion the Council **AGREED**:

- That they are not supporting the 20mph in the village because the result of consultation was against the project. However, they are not against it if no precept money will be used to complete the project.
- To refer the issue back to SW to liaise with Tim Read (KCC Head of Transportation)
- EL is happy to be involved in discussions with Tim Read.

Clerk to action.

10. To discuss the changes to the Parish Boundary and make any necessary decisions. (VG)

- The Clerk advised that CH, NB and herself met with members of North Loose Residents Association (NLRA) on 13 December 2023 and did a walkabout of the NLRA area. They discussed the assets, took photos and then received a detailed list from Paul Kinnill. The details were used to help do the precept budget.
- The discount scheme is being updated to include all of the new Loose Parish.
- It has been difficult to work on the Trust document for the ancient woodland as it is not something that LPC's solicitors get involved in. The Clerk will discuss the matter further with Sean Carter.
- JA asked if we had received boundary details on the Boughton Monchelsea side of the parish. The Clerk will chase MBC.

11. To receive an update on the shed in Brooks Field, the proposed electrical supply for the shed and the Duck Race 2024. (KO)

- The Shed - The Clerk advised that she is waiting for the solicitors to come back about the Heads of Lease and will chase. The Loose Amenities Association (LAA) have said they will insure the new shed.
- The electrical supply for the shed – The office has applied to UKPower Networks to get a quote for electrical supply. They have added the following people to the application. KO, NB, VG, JA and John Brighton from LAA, and are waiting for a response.
- The Duck Race – The LAA have asked if they can have Brooks Field for the Duck Race this year. After discussion the Council **AGREED**:
 - LAA can use Brooks Field for the Duck Race
 - That the office will ask for a donation for their use of the Field
 - That they require the risk assessment to be with LPC before 15 April 2024
 - They do not require a stall at the Duck Race

Office to action.

12. Update on Southern Water Lower Loose Valley Pumping Station. (NB)

No response has been received from Southern Water. The project should have finished by 21 December 2023. Office will chase for confirmation. Deputy Clerk to action.

13. To receive updates on the LPC Fete and make any necessary decisions. (NB)

NB advised that several stallholders have enquired about the fete and as the PCH meeting is not until 26 February some details need to be confirmed. After discussion the Council **AGREED**:

- The costs of stalls will be £25.00 for Business and £15.00 for Community Stalls.
- The timings for the Fete will be 12pm to 4pm.

14. To receive any reports/information from Community Warden Team.

The Community Warden Team are still available to help any residents where necessary. The Office has applied for a grant from the Parish Council Support Scheme. The office is still waiting for confirmation on the Winter Community Support Grant, which they applied for last month.



15. To receive any reports/information from the Police and from E-watch.

The Clerk read out the report from PC Greenfield:

“There, fortunately, hasn’t been many issues within the Loose area since the new year.

The two main issues of note are below -

- 1) Parking issue on Loose Road, outside the Walnut Tree pub. Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Matthew SCOTT was speaking with a resident on Loose Road who mentioned a parking issue on the chevrons on the exit of Walnut Tree Avenue. Police visited the resident on behalf of the PCC and I am currently liaising with relevant bodies in regards to this.
- 2) Police recently took strong action against a prolific shoplifter in the Loose area putting them in front of the courts for their repeated crimes against both the Sainsburys on Loose Road and the Shell garage by the crossroads, enquiries are still being completed by the investigating teams in regards to theft of fuel.

There are only other low-level issues which are being dealt with by the relevant teams such as in-school issues (being dealt with by the child-centred policing team), careless driving reports along the Loose Road (being dealt with by traffic teams) and downed trees which were dealt with at the time of the incidents.

There is nothing else to report at this time, please forward on any police enquiries to myself, PC Greenfield.”

E-Watch

On Sunday 7 of January around 13:33 in Linton Road. Somebody stole fuel from a petrol station, this is a repeat crime.

Crime Report No. 46/3676/24 - Posted 08/01/2024

16. To receive any questions/comments from the public or organisations.

(To include any letters/e-mails received by the Clerk from members of the public

- a. The Woodlands Trust Free Trees – The deadline for the free trees is before the next Environment Meeting. The Council **AGREED** for the Deputy Clerk to find out exactly what the trees are and do a Round Robin to see if the Council want them. Deputy Clerk to action.
- b. One of the residents who attends coffee morning asked if she can help people in the Parish in any way such as collecting prescriptions etc. NB contacted the Community Warden who came back to say that it would be good to set up a scheme in the area and could we set up something in the Parish? The Council **AGREED** for the Deputy Clerk to put out a notice to see if we can get any volunteers to help in the Parish. Deputy Clerk to action.
- c. AR raised the issue of the bin replacements in the Parish. The old bins have been taken out but the Parish is still waiting for the new bins to be put in. Deputy Clerk to chase MBC.

17. Finance & Funding.

- a. To ratify payments made on Appx A for 15 January 2024.
The payments were ratified by the Council. Authorisation by VG & CH.
- b. To receive an update on the Interim Audit if the report has been received.
The Clerk advised that the final interim auditor’s report has been received. There are no concerns on the report. The Council ratified the report.
- c. To receive and to comment on the proposed budget for 24/25, and to set and agree the precept for the Loose Parish.
The proposed budget was agreed with the Finance & Administration (F & A) Committee on 8 January 2024 with one amendment to the insurance. After discussion the Council agreed the budget for 24/25.
With the Boundary changes the D band rate has been reduced from £93.87 per year to £50.54, a reduction of 46.16%.



- d. To receive a full record of accounts from the RFO.
The full accounts as at 8 January 2024 were circulated to Councillors and noted.
- e. At the F & A committee on 8 January 2024 the following bank balances were checked and agreed by AR:

- Barclays BPA Account November 2023
- Barclays Current Account November 2023
- Unity Trust Current Account November 2023
- Unity Trust Current Account December 2023
- Unity Trust Deposit Account December 2023

The Following Accounts were checked at the LPC meeting and agreed:

- Unity Trust Deposit Account November 2023
- Barclays Current Account December 2023
- Barclays BPA Account December 2023

VG advised that Barclays have not made the transfer that was requested in November 2023 and after discussion the Council **AGREED** to close both Barclays accounts and look for another bank to deposit funds.

18. To review the Enquiry, Concern and Complaints Spreadsheet. (KO)

Since the last meeting the office has dealt with the following issues:

- Following up the Old Loose Close blocked gully, yet to be dealt with after several previous reports
 - One broken railing left on High Banks barriers, after the other reported repair was done.
 - Pothole on Church Street – now been filled
 - Concern about the timing of a Forstal Lane planning application over the Christmas period
 - Request for help from the #HelpingLoose fund but unfortunately there were no funds left, so alternative suggestions were given
 - Tree down on Linton Road - thanks to Cllr Lawford for her assistance
 - Pothole on Walnut Tree Avenue
 - Pothole on Loose Road – now filled
 - Tree down at the top of the Kirkdale footpath - kindly cleared by a volunteer
 - Broken manhole cover on Linton Road – again thank you to Cllr Lawford for reporting
 - Concern that MBC took away the refuse bin from Loose stream/Kirkdale
 - Enquiry from the Beat Officer regarding parking on the Walnut Tree Avenue chevrons
 - Escalation of the Well Street overflowing drain as water is freezing across the whole road
- PR asked is there is any progress on the damaged manhole cover just up from the Walnut Tree Pub. There are planned works due to be started in the area and the Office hope that the damaged manhole cover will be fixed.

19. Promotion of Loose Parish Council & Articles. (KO)

The Social Media data was circulated to Councillors and noted. AR asked if an average for last year for each area of information could be including at the beginning of the 2024 data for comparison. Clerk to action.

20. To receive and discuss any items of concern escalated by Councillors, Committees or the Office.

JA raised an issue with gas drain covers on Loose Road as road surface is disintegrating. Office to check and deal with.

21. To ratify any ROUND ROBINS used since 11 December 2023. (KO)

None.



22. To agree the date and format of the next Annual Parish Meeting.

After discussion the Council **AGREED** the meeting will be on 25 March 2024 and the format will remain the same as last year. Office to action.

23. To discuss the D-Day 80th Anniversary – 6 June 2024 and make any necessary decisions. (VB)

The Clerk advised that she has put some documentation from Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) on the shared area for information on the event.

Session Closed 9.03pm

24. To discuss new Councillors joining the Council and make any necessary decisions. (KO)

At the closed session the Council **AGREED** that Mick Westwood, Sarah Leeson and Mark Woodward will join the Loose Parish Council with immediate effect. Clerk to action.

Session Reopened 9.25pm

25. Information Only.

- The Clerk reminded the Council regarding the Mayor’s Charity Quiz and if they wish to take part they will need to book a table.
- There is a planning application on Pested Bars, which will come into the Parish in May 2024. The pre-planning application came in about four years ago. There have been several meetings since that time with the developer and North Loose Residents Association to look at the best deal for the area. Originally the application was for 400 houses and MBC agreed 196 houses. The Planning Inspector has come in and increased the number to 300 houses even though Highways were against this, plus 247 houses on the Kent Police Sports Field. That means roughly 600 houses coming out onto the Sutton Road, which would produce approximately 3600 traffic movements per day. JA, MJW and SC had a meeting with the developers just before Christmas. The developers are now looking to go back to 400 houses. However, there is an agreement that the extra houses will spread across the Boughton Monchelsea Parish. A 70-metre wildlife corridor has been agreed by the developer and is still in place. A suggestion has been made that the wildlife corridor be passed to Loose Parish Council to look after. The developer will look at the options. The formal application will be submitted later in the year.

26. Next meeting of LPC – 19 February 2024

The Meeting ended at 9.30pm

Dated.....

Signature