

## **MINUTES OF THE 126th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON TUESDAY 4 MAY 2021 7pm**

### **Present**

Councillors: Vianne Gibbons (Chair to Loose Parish Council), Charlie Hollister (Vice Chair), Jim Andrew, Peter Rigby, Luke Lenz, Velma Bennett, Susan Luckhurst.

Speakers in attendance:

Councillor Susan Grigg – Ward Councillor

Sarah Holman - Head Teacher at Loose Primary School

Isabelle Linney-Drouet – CEO at Future Schools Trust (which includes Cornwallis Academy)

Mick Abbott – Loose Area History Society

Terry Davis - Loose Amenities Association (LAA)

Chris Lack - Loose Good Neighbours Service and Love Loose Hate Litter (LLHL)

### **Also in attendance:**

Kim Owen - Clerk

Nicky Bourne - Deputy Clerk

Jan Capon - RFO

7 additional members of the public were present.

### **Meeting started at 7pm.**

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from KCC Ward Councillor Paulina Stockell, Community Warden Liz Lovatt, PCSO Brian Amorim, Sean Carter (NLRA). No apologies were received from Lewis Muir.

#### **2. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks & introductions.**

The Chairman of Loose Parish Council (LPC) Cllr Vianne Gibbons warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined meeting procedures.

#### **3. Minutes of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting held on the 24 April 2019**

Minutes could be viewed on the Parish Council website or available on written request to the Clerk. The minutes were proposed to be a true and accurate record and will be signed accordingly by the Chairman, Vianne Gibbons.

#### **4. Invited speakers:**

##### **i) Councillor Sue Grigg- MBC Ward Councillor for Loose. (Report attached to the mins)**

Sue Grigg read out her report:

- This past year has inevitably been dominated by the difficulties caused by the ongoing Pandemic. The Council has worked with Local Charities, Communities, Parish Councils and individual residents to support local people through the Community Hub and to support community organisations by providing help.
- The Borough Council has, with Government assistance, worked hard to help local businesses and Maidstone has been one of the best performing Councils in the Country in distributing grants to businesses.
- Currently working with organisations such as the Business Improvement District to facilitate a safe and successful phased reopening of businesses and services, including the Council Parks.
- Council's income has been affected, but fortunately, the good management of the Council's budget over years, robust Council Tax Collection Rates and Government Covid Grants have limited the damage.
- Relatively healthy Capital Funding, but pressure remains on Revenue Income. Been investment in assets that either reduce the Council's costs by reducing the spend on homelessness by providing housing, or, that provide an income that can support the revenue budget in future years (Purchase of Holy Trinity Foyer and the Head Lease at Lockmeadow and Parkwood Industrial Estate).
- Regular business has continued with virtual meetings of Committees. All Councillors will be returning to meetings at the Town Hall following the MBC AGM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021.
- Prime focus of the Council has been the ongoing Local Plan and supporting work. SG's time is taken up sitting as Vice-Chair of The Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Committee. The Council is proceeding towards the Local Plan Inquiry with crossed fingers.

- Work to provide a suite of non-spatial planning policies on issues such as biodiversity and renewables has started, which overlaps with the work put in place by the Climate Change Action Group.
- Other innovations this year include introducing free parking for electric vehicles in Council Car Parks, de-culverting the River Len and commencing the very first trial of CCTV to prosecute littering from vehicles.
- The Council has finally begun to make a dent in the back log of outstanding Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.
- Much uncertainty remains for 2021 and there has already been considerable difficulty for residents and businesses, but, we have also witnessed a great deal to be proud of in our Borough.
- SG thanked the Chair and all members of Loose Parish Council for their continued support to her.

JA asked what changes the pandemic may make. SG said there will be a need to look at the impact of the migration of workers from London due to the increase in working from home; the impact of online shopping on the high street and how hospitality may be affected. All work is going ahead from the Local Plan although budgets are being shuffled.

VG thanked SG for all her hard work and continued and valuable help to the Parish Council.

ii) **Community Warden Liz Lovatt (Report attached to the minutes)**

In her absence Nicky Bourne (Deputy Clerk) read Liz Lovatt's report and this covered:

- The Warden Service have had to face some challenging situations whilst managing PPE and Covid. A number of residents across all areas have been identified who, through no fault of their own, have required additional support to manage from food parcels, phone calls, doorstep visits, support with vaccinations, accessing health appointments, benefit information and advice.
- Have tried to maintain some visual presence in most areas to offer reassurance to the residents within our communities, working with many agencies and organisations to ensure that residents have remained safe and as confident within their own homes as possible.
- Now going through the re-integration process, as many residents have lost confidence now and some may be so afraid to leave their properties. LL offers 1-1 support as groups slowly open to encourage communities to come back together in a Covid safe way.
- All are a little excited about the prospect of getting back to normal, aware it will be a 'new type of normal' for a while with the need to be respectful that the Covid virus is still around us all, and continue following the guidance given.
- LL, along with relevant agencies working together, has supported farmers and shepherds who have been experiencing an increase in animal harassment and harm. Dog owners are asked to ensure that they keep their dogs under control.
- Issues with youths on bikes have been ongoing, but relevant agencies are aware. All residents are urged to report any concerns into 101.
- LL's is currently undertaking some formal training so availability is compromised but can still be contacted via telephone or e-mail.

iii) **Brian Amorim - Police Community Support Officer - (report attached to the minutes)**

A new PCSO covers the Parish, with whom we have increased communication. In his absence Nicky Bourne (Deputy Clerk) read Brian Amorim's report and this covered:

- The most recent issues locally are a spate of fires being lit by youths in Mangravet, Shepway, Mote Park and Loose. Police are starting to get evidence and familiar faces.
- BA has regularly been patrolling KGVPF and Loose Road at various times, especially in the evenings.
- As with our recent incidences of ASB in King George V Playing Field, he urges people to contact 101 and report anything of concern, especially vandalism and criminal damage.
- BA apologises for being unavailable last minute due to technology but hopes that when meetings return to the Pavilion he will be able to pop in and show his face to introduce himself.
- He thanked the LPC for our regular communications to him regarding issues, and he will do what he can as soon as he can (for example last week he spoke to the residents who persistently park in KGVPF overnight).

SG explained that she had asked BA for the case number and results of the analysis into the poisoned meat that harmed a dog recently, but she had not had an answer. SG asked if the Office could ask the same question and forward the answer to her.

iv) **Sarah Holman (Head Teacher of Loose Primary School)**

SH explained that she had been working in and around Loose for 15 years, having been Deputy at Loose, then Head at Coxheath, now back in Loose as Head Teacher.

- Loose Primary is a large, over-subscribed, popular school serving 500 families and 655 children. It has over 100 staff and a very large site with 4 entrances and exits which they are aware causes traffic issues.
- It is now part of the Coppice Trust of 3 schools (including Coxheath)
- Children come from 20 nurseries so many transition visits have to be made.
- Majority of leavers go to Cornwallis Academy, but leavers do go to over 10 schools of parents' choice.
- Have worked closely with LAA and Loose Area History Society in the past, but are keen to make further links in the community. Keen to promote good citizenship, which links to the recent ASB/vandalism issues.
- They have numerous pupil voice opportunities including School Council, Digital Leaders, Literacy Leaders and Eco-Council. Some students have spoken to LPC in the past.

VG echoed that the students who had spoken to LPC were a credit to the school.

VG highlighted that parking and traffic continues to be an issue. In the past LPC has tried to find resolutions to the problem with Sue Grigg but it seems to have become inflammatory on social media recently due to the impact on residents. The KGVPF car park gets opened early specifically to try to help alleviate some traffic but it has little impact as so small. SG suggested with new personnel, a meeting should be convened with the new PCSO, Sarah Holman, NLRA and LPC. SH explained that the school has met with the new PCSO and the Eco-Council has gone out to talk to parents, and that they regularly name and shame in their newsletter. It was agreed that SG would arrange the meeting.

JA explained that Loose has a very active volunteer litter-picking group and asked whether children are taught about the global consequences of dropping litter. SH explained how this fits into the curriculum. They also have their own litter pickers and there is a big focus on educating children about making the correct decisions in their lives. SL recalled that the Eco-council had litter-picked at KGVPF on previous occasions and once Covid regulations are lifted, it is hoped that this might be able to resume.

VG thanked SH for attending the meeting.

v) **Isabelle Linney-Drouet (CEO of Future Schools Trust which includes Cornwallis Academy)**

- ILD gave the background to Cornwallis Academy which is the largest secondary school in Maidstone and sits within the parish. It is increasingly popular which they are proud of, serving the community better and better all the time. The journey has been challenging but it is hoped that the student body is seen to be representing their school and the local area more positively than perhaps they have at times in the past.
- Traffic is also an issue. Over 70% of the student population travels by bus, but due to Covid restrictions and parents' anxieties, more students are arriving by car this academic year than ever before and this has impacted the Linton crossroads and local area. Inconsiderate parking causes issues, but the school responds immediately to any complaint from a resident and people are urged to contact the school with any such issue.
- As a school, Covid has brought challenges but also improvements. The school delivered food parcels to local residents, carried out home visits and offered support for mental health to vulnerable families. The full curriculum was delivered via online lessons during lockdown which kept students engaged in their education and not free to get up to alternative activity.
- Cornwallis is part of a Trust including New Line Learning and Tiger Primary, both in the local area. The recent fires and vandalism mentioned earlier have impacted on these sites and also Five Acre Wood Special School and they have been working with MBC and Kent Police on this.
- As well as academic studies the school focusses on the arts, sports, well-being, student leadership and citizenship. There is an increased hunger from students to want to make their community even better. The Academy would like to support the community in any way it can. It has huge resources with 150 staff, 1300 students and amazing facilities so would be open to an approach for any help.

VG thanked ILD for attending the meeting.

vi) **Mick Abbott – Local Area History Society**

MA explained that although meetings had not been possible, the society still exists. The Kent Archeological Society and the British Association for Local History have both been doing zoom presentations to keep interest. LAHS send these out to members.

When meetings resume they will be at KGVPF on Wednesdays at 7.30pm with a speaker at 8pm.

All details are on their website [www.looseareahistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.looseareahistorysociety.org.uk)

VG thanked MA for attending the meeting.

vii) **Chris Lack – Loose Good Neighbours Service (Report attached to the minutes)**

Nicky Bourne (Deputy Clerk) read out the report submitted prior to the meeting.

- Loose Neighbours consists of a small team of volunteers who aim to provide a free “good neighbour” service to anyone in the Parish of Loose who needs some occasional help. The service started in January 2014, aided by grants from the County Council and the Loose Amenities Association, and supported by the Parish Council.
- The service provided mainly involves transport to medical appointments (GP surgeries, hospitals, dentists and chiropodists), to shopping or to social events. No charge is made for these services, although most clients make donations. No expenses are paid to volunteers, apart from running costs for journeys of more than 10 miles.
- For the last year the service has had to be suspended, because it involves close contact between clients and volunteers, all of whom are potentially vulnerable to the Covid virus. The intention is that it will resume at some point in 2021 when most people have been vaccinated and life has returned to something closer to normality.
- In January we were pleased to be able to contribute to the “Tea in the Box” project organised by our local community warden. Boxes containing a mixture of savouries and cakes were delivered to over 90 local residents who were aged 65+ or were shielding. We helped to identify suitable residents, check their dietary needs, make up the boxes and to deliver them on 31 January.
- For more information about Loose Neighbours please contact Sue Bradburn (07968594951) or Chris Lack (07896611392)

CL added how frustrating it had been having to suspend the service, but they hoped to be able to continue after 21 June. He hoped that they would not have been forgotten but they may need to do another publicity campaign. VG offered support from LPC if needed for anything and thanked CL for attending the meeting.

viii) **Chris Lack – Love Loose Hate Litter (Report attached to the minutes)**

Nicky Bourne (Deputy Clerk) read out the report submitted prior to the meeting.

- Litter is a blight on our lovely village and a health hazard to children and wildlife.
- Love Loose Hate Litter is a group of over 20 volunteers who regularly collect litter in an agreed area, usually close to their homes. They have continued to do this despite the pandemic and have recruited some new volunteers, including 2 students who are working for Duke of Edinburgh awards.
- Anyone wishing to join should contact either: Susan (07975653520) or Chris (07896611392) for more information. All will be very welcome and LLHL will provide all the equipment needed.
- Keep Britain Tidy currently has a campaign called the “Great British Spring Clean” in which “litter heroes” pledge to pick for their chosen amount of time between 28 May and 13 June. Full details are on the KBT website.

SL echoed that they would always welcome further volunteers. CL added that they were low on supplies of litter-picking equipment as still awaiting a delivery from MBC. CL also highlighted that the 2 bins promised for the village green had not materialised. NB reported that the Office has been chasing MBC regarding the bin installation and it is behind schedule, although a new bin has just appeared at the Parish bus stop on Linton Road. CL asked ILD for a specific contact at Cornwallis Academy which was given.

ix) **Sue Carter - Loose Valley WI (Report attached to the minutes)**

In her absence, Nicky Bourne read Sue Carter’s report.

- Loose Valley WI celebrated their 50th Anniversary as a WI in 2019 with a party, inviting other local WIs.

- They are small group but welcome new prospective members. Members are long-standing, the oldest being 95 years young.
- When they started in 1969, meetings were held in a small hut on the Linton Road, then Loose School before receiving an invitation from Loose Parish Council to the opening of the Loose Parish Pavilion dated 17 July 1996. A former member, Val Davey attended with her husband and Min Patel, Kent and England Cricketer performed the opening ceremony.
- Attached to the invitation is a copy of a letter sent by Val to the Parish Clerk requesting the use of the Pavilion monthly, for two hours from October 1996 at the hourly rate of £7 per hour! Therefore, it appears the relationship with Loose Parish Council commenced 25 years ago.
- Loose Valley WI enjoy a very good relationship with members of the LPC Office, namely Kim Owen, Ann Rigby and Jan Capon and now Nicky Bourne. Once the current restrictions are lifted, we look forward to contacting them to once again set up our regular monthly meetings, discussing dates and times.

x) **Terry Davis - Loose Amenities Association**

- TD explained that he had stepped down previously as Chair, due to his imminent retirement, but the new Chair who took over has since stepped down, so TD is temporarily back in the role. He hopes an active member of the group will soon be able to take over. Sadly, the LAA Treasurer recently and very suddenly passed away. LAA unfortunately currently cannot access any accounts on the late Treasurer's computer.
- The year has been one to forget with little or no income.
- There has been a bank slippage in Salts Lane which requires stabilisation and estimates from civil engineers suggest that it will cost around £20 000. It cannot be delayed or KCC will do the work at a higher cost and charge LAA.
- LAA have agreed with LPC to delay the construction of the shed in Brooks Field. Part 1 will be to build it to slab level before the planning consent runs out, then build on it next year when funds are available.
- They have suffered with a loss on enthusiasm. Sub committees have collapsed and the main executive committee is down to five from twelve. Many residents enjoy using the valley, want things done, but have no interest in helping to maintain it.
- Maintenance work continues. Fences have been cut and need repairing and there have unfortunately been sheep attacks.
- Hoping to hold a music event in July to fundraise.
- If anyone is interested in getting involved with LAA, please put them in contact TD.

VG asked how LPC could help. TD explained it was disheartening to have a lack of interest, but even more disheartening to get complaints when people are volunteering. People also wrongly believe it is public land. VG offered to put something on the LPC facebook and website. SH suggested the Eco-Council could try to engage parents. VG also suggested people who use the valley be asked to become a member. JA suggested any appeal should make mention of the eco-engineering that LAA engage in as that is very emotive. A resident highlighted that they had been unaware they could subscribe and therefore support the LAA, so suggested getting the message out wider. ILD added that Cornwallis Academy publish a weekly bulletin and will include any information in this to their very large parent body. VG asked the office to produce some information that could go out as an appeal to support LAA. SH also suggested that one of their non-school uniform days could be an Eco day and the funds raised go to LAA.

VG thank TD for attending the meeting.

## **5. Comments by the public on any matters of concern or of local interest**

### **i. Well Street Traffic Issues**

Sam Hall spoke on behalf of residents of Well Street. Residents have been in communication over the issue of increased traffic in Well Street since the new development in Forstal Lane. The road cannot cope with the size of many of the vehicles and speed is also an issue. Half of the road is national speed limit (50mph) and people drive at that speed, despite it being used regularly by horse riders, dog walkers and families walking to school. In the Loose Neighbourhood Plan, several traffic calming measures were suggested, but when SH has been in contact with numerous people at MBC and KCC, she is referred back to LPC every time, being told that they would have to fund and make the decisions.

VG responded to explain how the parish precept is set, the funding timeframe, and the requirement that expenditure has to benefit all of the people of Loose. VG asked SG for comments.

SG explained that everything had been tried, since the development was initially proposed. She had attended pre-application meetings, then planning meetings to put in objections, put forward suggestions, and taken the issue to the newspapers, on behalf of Loose. The actual development sits in Coxheath and was similarly objected to by Coxheath PC. Ultimately the roads are the responsibility of KCC who know that LPC does not have the level of funding for any of the measures proposed. SG did manage to get some street furniture installed, but it has been proven to be limited in its effectiveness. She also fought for some signage diverting traffic away from the village, but that has been retracted. SG explained that speed reduction would take about 3 years and KCC will not do anything unless the crash data is high enough to be of concern.

CH (Chair of the LPC Environment Committee) added that LPC has fought over 20 years for different highway measures but have never got anywhere. LPC has recently agreed to fund several traffic surveys, initially just on the A229, but to now include Well St. However, their installation has been delayed due to lockdown, as it was felt they would not represent normal traffic flow.

CM (Well St resident) explained she had personally been surveying and recording the vehicles passing her house and sending the details to freight watch. She has also reported pot holes which have since been repaired, and damage to the cobble stones, which were repaired but then re-damaged by the oversize traffic. KCC have said that they will not be repaired until after Forstal Lane is adopted because they will cost too much.

CM explained that she had contacted Paulina Stockell (KCC Councillor) and Richard Webb (MBC Councillor for Coxheath) for help but heard nothing. SG explained that Paulina Stockell was unfortunately sick and KCC had not provided any alternative contact for over a year. The new KCC Councillor will be elected on Thursday, and SG suggested that as soon as the name was known, the residents should make contact with the whole issue as the newly elected Councillor would most likely be wanting to make an impact.

VG re-iterated how hard SG worked fighting the development, as did Coxheath PC and how frustrating the whole matter has been. SH agreed to take the advice of SG and would contact the new KCC Councillor. SG will advise all parties when the name is known.

JA added his sympathy to the residents of Well St, and noted that Boughton Monchelsea PC had reduced the speed limit on several roads recently. It was explained that BMPC were able to fund this themselves as they were in receipt of substantial S106 monies.

SG re-iterated that LPC does support what the residents are trying to do. VG thanked the Well Street residents for attending and asked that they keep LPC updated.

**6. Chairman to close the meeting.**

The LPC Chairman, Vianne Gibbons, closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation and input.

Meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Signed by the Chairman to the Loose Parish Council.....

Dated .....

Additional documentation to the meeting:

#### **4. i Report from Councillor Susan Grigg – MBC Ward Councillor**

Although it could be wished otherwise this past year has inevitably been dominated by the difficulties caused by the ongoing Pandemic. The Council has worked with Local Charities, Communities, Parish Councils and individual residents to support local people through the Community Hub and to support community organisations by providing help. The Borough Council has, with Government assistance, worked hard to help local businesses and Maidstone has been one of the best performing Councils in the Country in distributing grants to businesses. Currently we are working with organisations such as the Business Improvement District to facilitate a safe and successful phased reopening of businesses and services, including the Council Parks.

The current circumstances have had some effect on the Council's income but, fortunately, the good management of the Council's budget over years, robust Council Tax Collection Rates and Covid Grants from the Government has limited the damage. However, whilst the Council continues to benefit from relatively healthy Capital Funding, there remains pressure on Revenue Income. Consequently, the Council is continuing to invest in assets that either reduce the Council's costs by reducing the spend on homelessness by providing housing, or, that provide an income that can support the revenue budget in future years. Hence the purchase of Holy Trinity Foyer and the purchase of the Head Lease at Lockmeadow and Parkwood Industrial Estate.

Despite the difficulties of the last year, the Council's regular business has continued with virtual meetings of Committees. All Councillors will be returning to meetings at the Town Hall following the MBC AGM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021.

As always, the prime focus of the Council has been the ongoing Local Plan and supporting work. Sitting as Vice-Chair of The Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Committee, this is the area that takes up most of my time. The Council is proceeding towards the Local Plan Inquiry with crossed fingers. Perhaps as importantly, work has also commenced on providing a suite of non-spatial planning policies on issues such as biodiversity and renewables. This overlaps with the work put in place by the Climate Change Action Group which is moving forward in many areas.

Even with the focus on the Local Plan a number of other innovations have taken place this year including introducing free parking for electric vehicles in Council Car Parks, de-culverting the River Len and commencing the very first trial of CCTV to prosecute littering from vehicles. It is also pleasing to note that the Council has finally begun to make a dent in the back log of outstanding Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.

There remains much uncertainty about the coming year and there has already been considerable difficulty for residents and businesses since the beginning of 2021, but, we have also witnessed a great deal to be proud of in our Borough.

I would just like to finish this evening's report by thanking the Chair and all members of Loose Parish Council for their continued support to me personally. I also know the residents appreciate everything that is done for the Parish as well

#### **4. ii Report from Liz Lovatt – KCC Community Warden**

This past year has set out many challenges for us all, and as a Warden Service we have had to face some challenging situations whilst managing PPE and Covid. We have identified a number of residents across all areas who through no fault of their own have required additional support to manage from food parcels, to phone calls to doorstep visits, support with vaccinations, accessing health appointments, benefit information and advice to name but a few.

On top of this wherever possible we have tried to maintain some visual presence in most areas to offer reassurance to the residents within our communities. I have continued to work with many agencies and organisations to ensure that our residents have remained safe and as confident within their own homes as possible.

We now have the re integration process to go through, many residents have lost confidence now and some may be so afraid to leave their properties, I hopefully will be able to support this by offering 1-1 support especially as groups slowly open to encourage our communities to come back together in a Covid safe way. Whilst we are all a little excited about the prospect of getting back to normal, I think it will be a 'new type of normal' for a while as we still

need to be respectful that the Covid Virus is still around us all, and therefore need to follow the guidance as it is imparted to us.

I have also been carrying out support for farmers who have been experiencing an increase in animal harassment and harm, there have been reports of sheep being injured this year, which is very sad to hear. I have joined up with relevant agencies to help manage this situation. Please can dog owners ensure that they keep their dogs under control.

We continue to have some issues with Youths on bikes but relevant agencies are aware and I would urge all residents that if they have concerns regarding this they report it into 101.

Whilst I am currently taking part in some formal training within my role my availability is somewhat compromised but I continue to be available via telephone or e-mail so please do not hesitate to contact me if you have anything you wish to discuss and I will respond.

#### **4. iii Report from Brian Amorim – PCSO**

Most recent issues are a spate of fires being lit by youths in Mangravet, Shepway, Mot e Park and Loose. They are starting to get evidence and familiar faces. He has regularly been patrolling KGVPF and Loose Road at various times – especially in the eve.

As with our recent incidence of ASB in King George V Playing Field, he urges people to contact 101 and report anything of concern – especially vandalism and criminal damage.

He apologises for being unavailable last minute due to technology but hopes that when we return to the Pavilion he will be able to pop in and show his face to introduce himself. He thanked the LPC for our regular communications to him regarding issues – and will do what he can (for example last week he spoke to the residents who persistently park in KGVPF overnight).

#### **4. vii Report from Chris Lack – Loose Neighbours**

Loose Neighbours consists of a small team of volunteers who aim to provide a free “good neighbour” service to anyone in the Parish of Loose who needs some occasional help. The service started in January 2014, aided by grants from the County Council and the Loose Amenities Association, and supported by the Parish Council.

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For more information about Loose Neighbours please contact Sue Bradburn (07968594951) or Chris Lack (07896611392)

#### **4. viii Report from Chris Lack – Love Loose Hate Litter**

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If you would like to join us, please contact either: Susan (07975653520) or Chris (07896611392) for more information. You will be very welcome and we can provide all the equipment you will need.

You might also like to know about Keep Britain Tidy's "Great British Spring Clean" in which "litter heroes" pledge to pick for their chosen amount of time between 28 May and 13 June. Full details are on the KBT website.

#### **4. ix Report from Sue Carter – Loose Valley WI**

We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a WI in 2019 with a party and invited other local WIs to share our enjoyment. We are small but, welcome new prospective members. Our members are long standing and our oldest member is 95 years young. When we started in 1969, we may have used the small hut on the Linton Road for our meetings, but many members remember using Loose School for our monthly meetings.

However, we have in our records, an invitation from Loose Parish Council to the opening of the Loose Parish Pavilion dated 17 July 1996 when one of our former members, Val Davey attended with her husband. Min Patel, Kent and England Cricketer performed the opening ceremony.

Attached to the invitation is a copy of a letter sent by Val to the Parish Clerk requesting the use of the Pavilion monthly, for two hours from October 1996 at the hourly rate of £7 per hour! Therefore, it appears our relationship with Loose Parish Council commenced from that time which is now 25 years.

We enjoy a very good relationship with members of the committee, namely, Kim Owen, Ann Rigby and Jan Capon and now Nicky Bourne. Once the current restrictions are lifted, we look forward to contacting Kim to once again set up our regular monthly meetings, discussing dates and times. We can't wait!