



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, hosted by Limsfield Parish Council held on 25th April 2024 at St Peter's Church.

Attending: Cllrs Thomas Briggs, John Thompson, Bob Harvey, Ann Osborn, Mark Wilson, Bernie de Haldevang.

Parish Clerk: Sophie Martin

District Councillors: Ian Booth and Claire Blackwell

Surrey County Councillor: Cameron McIntosh

Limsfield Ranger for National Trust, Conor McNeil

Parishioners in attendance (25 excluding councillors and speakers)

Thomas Briggs invites the Rev Helen Cook to bless the meeting with a prayer.

1. Apologies for absence.

1.1. Jenny Williams, Sophie Kemp, Tony Taylor

2. Minutes from the last meeting

2.1. Move to approve the minutes from the last meeting as circulated and on website. BDH proposed MW All agreed and approved.

3. Introduction by the Chair, Thomas Briggs.

3.1. Cllr Thomas Briggs introduces the councillors and gives thanks all those attending and to the councillors and co-optees, Ted Beresford Knox, Robin Masefield and Maggie Morgan as well as Rob O'Donovan for all their hard work over the last year, including all the other Volunteers who work with the council and who make our small and largely rural community unique. Rob O'Donovan will be stepping down this year. Other residents are encouraged to contact the council if they would like to be involved with projects.

Cllr Briggs also highlights the programmes implemented throughout the year and hands over to Mark Wilson for Planning update.

4. Planning Update – Mark Wilson

4.1. Mark Wilson gives an overview of some of the key planning applications that have featured over the last year; including Gaywood Solar Farm, The Studio and Green Hedges.

4.2. With regards to Green Hedges, the results were disappointing, however the development has provided CIL for the parish to use for key projects. The Studio and Jumping Jacks: whilst the LPC genuinely supports the business itself, it does not believe it is an appropriate or safe location to have a child care facility. The concern is over traffic, parking and transport measures, the conditions for which (set by

SCC/TDC) are being monitored pending a 6-month review over the summer. LPC has requested the review takes place in school term time.

- 4.3. MW outlines the importance of also commenting on applications that are just over our parish border (Tatsfield and Oxted) but which affect our community and amenities, e.g. Oxted Health Centre.
- 4.4. There are several Green Belt applications that are being closely monitored and will be objected to – particularly those on the Limpsfield side of Red Lane which represent a creep of development into the Green Belt.
- 4.5. The conclusion of the Surrey Hills AONB (now Surrey National Landscapes) and Local Heritage Listing projects are both pending.

5. Neighbourhood Plan & CAAMP Update - Ann Osborn

- 5.1. Ann Osborn presents overview of LNP projects and achievements for the year, including CAAMP, Footpaths and The Limpsfield Way.

6. Finance Update – Mark Wilson

- 6.1. Cllr Mark Wilson gives a brief overview of the finances for the year, reiterating the council's focus on responsible budgeting, earmarked reserves for key projects and income from CIL which we do not believe forthcoming this year. The LPC is still pleased to have the second lowest precept in Tandridge. This has been achievable due to prudent spending of CIL money and grants obtained from Surrey YFS in order to realise projects.
- 6.2. Bob Harvey outlines some of the grants that have been awarded over the last year for community endeavours and also highlights what our maintenance of assets budget is spent on.

PLEASE SEE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WEBSITE FOR FULL BREAKDOWN OF ALL OF THE ABOVE

7. Questions

- 7.1. Lucy Stuart Lee asks about the presentation and if it will be available on the website. Clerk responds that both the presentation outline and the annual report will be on the LPC website after the meeting.
- 7.2. Helen Cook – proposal for crematorium on A25. There may be traffic implications to the A25. The application went to appeal following. It has gone to judicial review (by member of the public). With regards to road safety, Highways did not have any objections to this application.
- 7.3. Shirley Round - Question with regards to road signs and who is responsible for cleaning and maintenance. TB confirms that this is a matter for Highways. BH says that he is happy to help with maintenance of things like that. Although it's a Surrey CC issue. Cameron McIntosh's local street team can also maintain signs. Following the meeting CMCI asked for a list of any signs that may need maintenance/cleaning.
- 7.4. Robin Masefield pays tribute on the footpaths programme which makes a huge difference to the community.
- 7.5. Robin Masefield asks about potholes and why there does not seem to be any sense in the way they are repaired. Cameron McIntosh responds that we have one of the busiest networks in the county/country and potholes are graded in terms of those that must be repaired as an emergency measure vs those that can await patching. He does agree that it is very frustrating and invites reports that there is a final fix policy being introduced, whereby a larger patch will be implemented and more onus put on

the contractor. CMCI says he agrees that it is not a great situation and that it is very difficult dealing with the various teams of contractors. Discussions are ongoing. He does understand the frustrations and they are trying to deal with this. During the winter, some of the potholes are designated “temporary” for contractors to come back when traffic management can be put in place. Capital Spend is very different and Surrey is investing over 300m in the network, which is going to take time as it's a huge network with limited funds. Surrey has increased its capital works budget where other councils have reduced it.

- 7.6. Shirley Round – concerned about the “temporary” and inappropriate signage – banner and Bread Fridays board - on Limpsfield Cookery School Building. This is not in keeping with the Conservation Area. Councillors agree to look at the signage and talk to the owner of the LCS if required.
- 7.7. Cllr Bob Harvey who lives at Rosewell Cottage next to the buildings occupied by Jumping Jacks, Limpsfield Ceramics and the Cookery School, also notes that the large commercial bins that used to be out of sight around the back of the buildings, have now been moved to the front and are not a good look for the high street. There is some general discussion about the Jumping Jacks minibuses. MW says that there are conditions that are being monitored by both LPC and TDC's enforcement team. Cllr Briggs says we need to try to work with the business owner(s) to make sure that the site is kept tidy and appropriate for the Conservation Area.
- 7.8. Philip Ellson asks about the application for the development of the Dorothy's Cottage site. Cllr Wilson explains that an application was granted last year to reinstate 2 cottages, the plans for which look very nice and in keeping with their surroundings. The Rev Helen Cook confirms that site clearance has started on the site, and she is looking forward to the cottages being reinstated.

8. BIODIVERSITY

Ann Osborn explains the importance of having a view on biodiversity and working with larger organisations and other local stakeholders.

She outlines what we can be doing, should be doing and what the outline of the plan that Limpsfield Parish Council has adopted to get started, including working with other local groups, landowners (Titsey and NT), farmers, schools and residents.

The biodiversity programme also includes the award of small grants up to £250 for individuals and groups who wish to undertake a biodiversity activity – with the proviso it is on land that is accessible to the public. She invites locals to send in a proposal and request for grant.

Hazelwood school children have produced a 6-month tips calendar that will be in the upcoming newsletter.

Example of local biodiversity activity: Tidy's Green – the residents have planted native orchard trees which they will maintain.

Conor McNeil, Limpsfield Ranger, gives an overview of what the National Trust is doing and hoping to achieve for biodiversity on Limpsfield Common/Limpsfield Chart.

Activities focus on heathland restoration, including scrapes, plugging (of heather), and woodland management, including creation of glades and open areas; ride widening and closing off some of the unofficial paths, and work at Yalden Spring, which has been very successful to date.

He gives a very insightful overview of the threats to biodiversity in the area, which are largely based on fragmentation of the commons areas with roads, increasing number of paths and increased recreation. There is public opposition to some of the work that is being done but it is important for users to understand the bigger picture and why the NT is undertaking certain

unpopular measures such as closing off some paths and limiting access to other areas, including the spring and bluebell areas etc.

Tony Pearson clarifies that Conor is not referring to closing *public footpaths*, but some of the paths that have been created by walkers and riders. It's very important to keep areas free from humans and dogs in order to help local wildlife (such as ground nesting birds, deer and other animals) as well as woodland plants such as the bluebells.

Robin Masefield notes that the golf course used to be a heather common. Conor acknowledges that there obviously has to be a balance between conservation of the heathland and enjoyment of the golfers. BH asks if we can ask the golf course to help to replant heather in appropriate areas?

Conor invites any residents along for "Balsam bashing" in the Glebe Saturday 26th April - 10-3pm meet by the footbridge over the river (between Glebe and Brook fields – Granville Rd end).

Thomas Briggs closes the meeting at 9.34PM
Refreshments are served.

Please see website page for annual report and presentation. <https://limpsfield.org/annual-parish-meeting/>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Briggs".

Chair, Limpsfield Parish Council