



LIMPSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – MONTHLY MEETING

Minutes of the Limpsfield Parish Council Meeting

Date: Monday, 14 July

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Oxted Library

Present:

Tony Taylor (Chair), Mark Wilson, Jenny Williams, Bob Harvey, Ann Osborn and John Thompson. Claire Blackwell and Ian Booth (Tandridge DC); Cameron McIntosh (Surrey CC)

Tribute to Robin Masefield

Tony Taylor expressed sadness at the death of Robin Masefield. His memorial was last Friday. The Parish Council was represented by Tony Taylor and Ann Osborn. A card was sent to Rosemary and the family and LPC has posted a tribute on the website and social media. Robin was an extraordinary man with a huge range of achievements throughout his life, both locally and in Northern Ireland. He will be very much missed in the Limpsfield and wider community.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Tom Briggs, Michael Tinker

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Signed as circulated.

4. PUBLIC SESSION – None

5. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (Surrey CC & Tandridge DC)

Claire Blackwell

- Following up with TDC on the allotments, which appear largely unmaintained. Communal areas, paths and hedges have also been neglected. TDC has started tidying but it's unclear how far this will go. AO asked to be kept updated. JW noted the plot holders are likely in breach of contract and plots should be reallocated to those on the waiting list. CB to continue chasing the matter.
- The Surrey Hills National Landscape review has positively included all proposed areas in Limpsfield. Final consultation still to take place.
- Outstanding planning applications:
 - Red Lane Farm stables: pending, with amended plans submitted.

- Stoney Field: outline application to be discussed at Planning Meeting on 22 July. Memo circulated. Comments due by 22 July. Site will fall within the Surrey Hills National Landscape.

Cameron McIntosh raised serious concerns about the proposed access for Stoney Field. Highways have objected. Issues include surface water, drainage, and burial ground implications. May be referred to the Planning Regulatory Committee in September.

- AT queried why Limpsfield was not included in the pilot Neighbourhood Area Committees. CB suggested this might have been too complex at this stage. CMcl explained these committees may resemble the former Local Committees, but this is a welcome opportunity for better local involvement in decision-making on health care and social provision. [See the meeting online, the part on Neighbourhood Area Committee (formerly named Community Boards) starts at approx. 22/23'. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9W20gjidBOs>]
- CB noted Unitary Councillors should retain community and highways budgets, potentially aligned with local health trust boundaries.

Cameron McIntosh

- There is a meeting set up with Vodafone for 22 August – online. CMcl and councillors. Positive that they came back quickly.
- Community projects councillor allowance (YFS) and Cameron would be interested in receiving suggestions – preferably over the next few months. Potential for community funding. The potential for planting and barrier planters would be lovely and would require maintenance to keep alive which may not be possible. Ann Osborn is also talking to TAG.
- Regarding the barriers at the traffic lights, CMcl says that Highways may replace the railings panels, but it's not a priority.
- Banking Hubs – Claire Coutinho did submit a letter to Emma Reynolds (Minister in charge) saying that LINK have not followed the criteria they set themselves. CMcl will keep pushing this on the agenda in the hopes that pressure will help. Labour has announced they will be installing more banking hubs. To keep us updated.

Cameron leaves following his update and no further questions on the above or on highways.

6. CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

6.1. Update on councillor vacancy –

- To meet with candidates (currently there are 2) by the end of July.
- AT and MW will be first port of call interviewers for consistency.

6.2. Response to LGR consultation

- Consultation ends 5 August. LPC to submit a response, although the overall feeling is that this is already a fait accompli and nothing about the consultation will change a decision that has probably already been made.
- TDC is in favour of 3 unitaries and 3 councillors per divisional ward (even if it's 2 unitary authorities). LPC agrees with this.

- All councillors present agree that we should support 3 unitary authorities.
- Clerk to submit response after the meeting.

6.3. Village / Chart fairs. We should be there, but there needs to be some activity or reason to pull people in. To think about the fetes earlier. Timetable for early 2026.

7. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

- 7.1. Balances to end of June – presented and signed as circulated. The Council currently has £93,315.15 in reserves
- 7.2. July payments for approval – all approved, with some discussion about the additional costs for the installation of the bench and planters at Hookwood (£384 including £64 VAT which will be reclaimed).
- 7.3. Q1 Bank reconciliation for approval – this has been reviewed and recommended by for approval by the finance committee. Approved and signed by AT
- 7.4. Q1 VAT reclaim for approval - this has been reviewed and recommended by for approval by the finance committee. Approved and signed by AT.
- 7.5. Note of additional cost for Planters/Bench at Hookwood Bungalows (*see above*)
- 7.6. K6 phone box refurbishments initial discussion – The K6 is a Grade II listed asset, which needs to be maintained and refurbished properly. After lengthy discussion it is agreed that we should look at proper refurbishment. There is no clear-cut decision on its future purpose, but the mini exhibitions have been popular and the box could be used as a flexible space including a lending library and home for different mini exhibitions or history / museum style presentations / installations by local organisations such as Limpsfield in Bloom, WI, Floral Society, Arts or History societies. Action: Clerk to obtain quotes for necessary refurbishments from companies recommended by BT.
- 7.7. Pedestrian Railing budget request (CAAMP) – AO This proposal is part of the CAAMP enhancement programme to link Wolf's Row to the village. The proposal is to replace 2 panels of pedestrian railing that has been damaged/bent and paint both "sheep pen" areas of the crossing (A25 and Limpsfield High Street)
LNP Review – proposal to get the railings at the A25 replaced and painted AO proposes. BH seconds. 5 in favour, 1 against. Clerk to advise Signal Services (Highways Contractors) ASAP. *[see additional discussion in Cameron McIntosh's update]*
- 7.8. Any other minor expenditure or grant requests.
 - 7.8.1. Proposal to get Charlie Hayward to cut the hedge at the end of Detillens. He has done this before. Would be around £40. This is agreed as part of general maintenance costs line item. SM / BH to contact Charlie Hayward.
 - 7.8.2. To note for September meeting: AO has received a request for a biodiversity grant for Limpsfield Infants School Gardening Club for planting in school grounds for SEND relaxation area. This is agreed as a worthy endeavour. JW mentions the need to stress the importance of maintaining these projects after completion.
 - 7.8.3. It is also agreed that for any future biodiversity small grants, we should request receipts/invoices from the applicants with regards to agreed activities.
- 7.9. Items arising from Finance Committee Meeting
 - 7.9.1. 2025/26 Budget adjustments – only adjustments in the end were for LNP Review costs and projects that have not been identified. Clerk to circulate the revised budget.

- 7.9.2. Assets review (value and condition) – Clerk proposes a full review of all assets to be carried out over the course of the next few months with councillors or pairs of councillors being allocated areas to oversee in terms of any assets within them.
- 7.9.3. Review of Internal Audit recommendations. AT would like to minute that Limpsfield PC has held another very successful and positive audit with a very positive overview summary from the internal auditor. There are a few minor recommendations going forward that have already been or are being implemented (circulated).

8. PLANNING

8.1. Any planning applications for discussion

- One planning application 101 Granville Road. Application for a porch extension. JW proposes no comment MW seconds. All agreed.

To be discussed on 22/7

- 2025/245 - Stoney Field application – It is agreed that LPC should object to this on the basis that it is overdevelopment and will affect local Limpsfield infrastructure and facilities (health centre etc). [see Chichele Road objection]
- 2025/779 - JW mentions that while this may not be Limpsfield (Poss Tatsfield) Moorhouse Quarries have asked for a renewal of their extraction licence.
- Co-op building for change of use/application for restaurant. CB advises they do not need to change use with the recent Business Class updates, the application will be more about installation of kitchen/extractor.
- 2025/681 - 95 Bluehouse Lane –applicant currently lives adjacent in 93 and will attend the planning meeting.

8.2. Recent determinations of note – none

8.3. Outstanding applications

Orchard Cottage Farm – has gone to appeal and LPC submitted further comment regarding threat to Green Belt and urban sprawl. LPC is committed to making sure that all these sorts of applications are addressed to avoid any unwanted precedents with regards to encroachment into the Limpsfield Green Belt.

8.4. AOB

- 8.4.1. Whinchat Cottage – to look at the boundary markers which are not correct. JW and MW to take a look and send an email regarding boundary lines and encroachment onto the bridleway.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 9.1. Project updates – including Broadband / Mobile provision – meeting 22/8 with Vodafone. Clerk notes that Michael Tinker has had further discussion with Nigel Press (AirFast) with regards to potential outstanding connections, but we need to confirm actual need / shortfalls via our survey of residents before any further discussions are had.
- 9.2. LNP Review – document for TDC (circulated) and has been sent to TDC. Neighbourhood Plan Review Team for comment and any recommendations. A document for parishioners will then be drafted for publication and dissemination via on and offline channels.

10. HIGHWAYS (Cllr Bob Harvey) – any updates – nothing significant to report.

11. **CHART PLAYGROUND** (Cllr Bob Harvey) - Condition report – the playground appears to be in good working order except for the broken platform, which has been taped off by TDC/contractors (Safeplay) and needs repair. The tape was destroyed by unknown persons, and this has been reported to TDC, who have said that they will cordon it off again. The Clerk has asked TDC / Safeplay for response on timeline and cost of repair if assistance/budget is needed. BH notes that there is also some graffiti.

12. OTHER ASSETS

- 12.1. Update on any works or maintenance required – see previous discussion under Finance and Governance. Already identified assets for some repair/refurb would be
- 12.2. Update on Asset Transfer – Ellice Road Car Park / Allotments / Tidy's Green - Clerk provides update on the meeting held with TDC and Oxted PC last week to discuss Ellice Road Car Park and the two councils' joint expression of interest. It was felt that TDC is making this very difficult for the councils in asking for a business case to be put together to bid for the car park, without any valuation having been done to date. The Clerk would have expected the council, as vendors, to provide a sale price and terms for the two parish councils to then agree/negotiate. There needs to be further discussion with Oxted Parish Council following their monthly meeting to consider the response to TDC. All other aspects of the workings of the car park are premature at this point until we know if the "purchase" is achievable. The Clerk notes that TDC confirms that "community" assets such as the allotments and Tidy's Green will not incur financial cost to the council in terms of transfer. But we need to prove our ability to maintain them. AO says she would like to be part of any meetings with TDC on the above Assets transfer opportunities.
- 12.3. Update on trough – This is now under construction. The Drinking Fountain Association has kindly provided £2000– Bob Harvey hands over the cheque to be paid into the LPC account. Councillors agree we need to ensure all donating parties – residents and the DFA are invited to the official reinstatement ceremony as and when it happens. There is some discussion about the reconnection of the drinking fountain, which would be metred. The Drinking Fountain Association has offered further financial donation if we were to decide to do this. It would be metred. BH to contact SES to find out more about the potential for reconnection and practicalities thereof.

13. AOB

- 13.1. Councillor emails reminder – deadline is September meeting or all emails to have been configured please!
- 13.2. AO – Mulberry Tree is looking very sad and has struggled this spring with the lack of rain. AO believes a rota for watering needs to be set up. JT thinks it is dead and should be replaced but other councillors note signs of recovery.

Next meeting is 8 September 2025

Meeting ends 21.12.

Signed – Antony Taylor