



LIMPSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – MONTHLY MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of Limpsfield Parish Council held on Monday 14 April 2025, 7pm at Oxted Library

In attendance: Cllrs Thomas Briggs, Michael Tinker, Bob Harvey, Ann Osborn and Jenny Williams. District Cllr Claire Blackwell and Surrey Cllr Cameron McIntosh.

Clerk: Sophie Martin

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

John Thompson, Antony Taylor, Mark Wilson, Bernie de Haldevang
Ian Booth

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE INTEREST

Michael Tinker regarding Chart Coffee Morning Grant Request (Emma Tinker is Chair of the Chart Fair Committee and proposer of the grant request).

3. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Minor amendments from Claire Blackwell.

4. PUBLIC SESSION - None

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

Claire Blackwell.

There is not much to report on Devolution. For information, Crawley has requested to join Surrey. Likely driven by the leader of Reigate & Banstead. This is of concern due to the amount of debt Crawley may have and also due to social housing allocations. This is not viewed very positively by the councillors.

Next submission regarding devolution is due on 9 May.

Catherine Sayer will give an overview at the APM on 8 May when it is hoped that there may be some more information/clarification, but unlikely.

Cameron McIntosh says it is likely is that government will indicate a preference (likely 2 or 3 authorities – most likely 2 and most likely East/West split) and ask for a business case.

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Cameron McIntosh –

- Mobile phone signal on the Chart: CMcl believes there is appetite to get a mast on the Chart. He, the district councillors and parish councillors are all aware of complaints by residents and businesses about the lack of signal in the Limpsfield Chart and rural area. This is an ongoing problem that seems to be coming to a head. CMcl is of the view that we should group together to see if there is something we can push, with the backing of the cabinet member.

There are various high points on the Chart that might be considered, however complicated due to tree coverage, visual aspect and AONB, as well as the vast area of NT land on which masts are prohibited. There is some private land (Titsey, local landowners) including St Andrew's being one of the high points and owned by the Diocese of Southwark which Claire Blackwell believes would be the best location. However, she reiterates that all planning applications are subject to planning permission and assessed against national policy, including taking into account the character of an area, national landscapes (known formally as AONB) green belt, location sensitivity etc. Two applications for mobile phone masts have been refused in the past few years on Ridlands Lane and Ballards Lane.

CMcl would like to know if the Parish would be keen to try to push this forward conversation with MBLN to explore the options for a mast to cover the Chart area – a joint letter from Parish, District and MP. Councillors are in support. Cameron agrees to draft a letter. Michael Tinker would be happy to be the parish councillor contact on this matter, as he is a Chart resident.

- CB asks about pavements in Oxted & Limpsfield – town centre. CMcl says the pavement resurfacing has been delayed due to SGN works planned (but no date yet). Cameron will endeavour to get an update.
- Roadside Rangers work has been very successful and welcome to date and will be continuing.
- Resurfacing from Detillens to Titsey Corner. Date TBA. Permits are in place now.

6. CHAIRMAN'S NOTE(s) – none



7. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE - Cllr Antony Taylor (absent) – Clerk gives overview.
 - 7.1. Note of end FY 2024/25 balances – Clerk reports balances to end March 2025 (£78,318)
 - 7.2. Overview of Expenditure for the year – Clerk has circulated summary of expenditure vs budget. We have spent £55,569 over the year – 73% of overall budget (including projects added during the year and carryover of unfinished projects from 23/24)
 - 7.3. April payments for approval/to note – Clerk has circulated all payments. No questions. All approved for payment.
 - 7.4. Note of Clerk's pay rise for 2025/26 – To note payment as agreed at March meeting (without clerk present) from £15,000 to 15,500 pa and £16.75 per hour for projects. WFH remains the same (£26 pcm).
 - 7.5. Q4 VAT Claim (£340.75) reviewed recommended for approval. All in agreement. *To note: Q3 (£826) will be submitted at the same time. Approved at January full council meeting, but not yet submitted for reclaim.*
 - 7.6. Q4/End of Year Bank Resolution – Reviewed at Finance Committee Meeting; recommended for approval. All in agreement.
 - 7.7. Draft AGAR 3 – to note (prior to Audit) Reviewed at Finance Committee meeting on 8 April. Clerk has circulated draft for review at internal audit (25 April). For review and approval at May meeting.
 - 7.8. CIL update – Clerk notes that we have received £3,507 in CIL for April, and do not know or expect any other payments this year. Next notification is in October. Clerk gives brief overview of CIL project at TDC whereby the CIL reporting system is all being made digital and reporting from now on will be direct into the online system at TDC (or SCC). TDC has done a review of CIL returns for all parishes for the last 5 years. There have been some discrepancies. LPC discrepancies were due to VAT reporting which was rectified and adjusted by TDC in the 2022 return. Clerk is submitting 2025 return in new format for digital input.
 - 7.9. Budget proposals and grant requests:
 - 7.9.1. Bin for Glebe Meadow – AO proposes new bin to be bought and installed in Glebe Meadow near to the bench due to littering. Total £421 including VAT and installation. TB seconds. All in favour.
 - 7.9.2. Biodiversity plan budget – 2025/26 AO Proposes line items for the 2025-6 Biodiversity. TB seconds. All in favour.



7.9.3. JW Proposes a Community Noticeboard to be located at The Bull Inn .Will be a noticeboard owned by the Parish Council. To include some notices for The Bull Inn and other community. £200 JW proposes. TB seconds. All in favour.

7.9.4. Hookwood Bungalows Planters – repair/replacement MW – MW circulated initial thoughts on refurb or replacement on the planters near the bungalows. To defer discussion to next meeting. In the meantime, TB offers to see if the planters can be repaired. AO says that MW also suggested putting in a bench instead of one of the planters (there are currently 3 planters).

7.9.5. Chart Coffee Mornings - grant request. £910. Annual request for the Community Coffee Mornings on the Chart which are part funded by the Chart Fair Committee with contributions from LPC. To be invoiced on monthly basis. These are very popular and well attended and important for the Chart community which otherwise has no regular community gatherings or facilities other than the Carpenter's and the cricket club. TB proposes, JW seconds. All in favour.

7.10. Clarification re. The Trough Insurance/financing/Fundraising – Clerk.

7.10.1. TB proposes motion to approve £6,500 for the Natural Cut Stone quote for the trough replacement, plus Installation by Signal Services (pending receipt of formal quote). AO seconds. All in favour. *Clerk will forward the quotes to the insurers for progressing the claim. We can also pause the donations on Go Fund Me with note of clarification about having reached the necessary amount and thanks to all who have contributed.*

8. DEVOLUTION DISCUSSION – update and overview – no more discussion following Councillor reports (above).

9. PLANNING - Cllr Jenny Williams

9.1. Any urgent planning applications – none

9.2. Enforcement updates - Barn Owl Kennels – have appealed the TDC Enforcement.

LPC has submitted comments on the appeal supporting TDC.

9.3. Recent determinations of note - none

9.4. Outstanding applications of note – none

9.5. AOB

9.5.1. Whinchat Cottage – skip has been emptied thanks to JW's intervention with the help of Mark Wilson and Claire Blackwell.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE Cllr Ann Osborn

- 10.1.1. Any updates regarding current projects - The repointing of the kerbstones next to ironstone area opposite Detillens Lane has been done and looks much better. The kerbs protect the ironstone behind. BH mentions loose kerbstone near The Bull - AO to report.
- 10.1.2. Footpaths – Kissing Gate has now been installed at FP71 near the allotments. Pastens – fallen/rotten footpath fingerpost (corner of Tenchley's path and Pastens/GW/LW). Clerk has reported this to the Countryside team at SCC. To chase the report. AO does not believe they will do anything about it so to keep an eye on this for potential footpaths work.

10.2. LNP Review update MW – MW is absent, but the review is ongoing and making good progress. Next meeting will be to discuss planning aspects.

11. BIODIVERSITY Cllr Ann Osborn

- 11.1. B Line / Biodiversity. Ann Osborn has already presented the revised Biodiversity plan and budget outline. Swift boxes have been delivered to Limpsfield Grange, Carpenters and St Andrew's (MBT) for installation. LIB is creating B Lines from the Eden to the A25 with Cosmos planting.

12. HIGHWAYS - Cllr Bob Harvey - No further comments.

13. PARISH ASSETS – Cllr Bob Harvey

- 13.1. Nothing further to report. To note the Clerk has now sent off the adoption contract and £1 cheque for the K6 phone box and Clerk hopes the process will be complete shortly. To think about potential uses. Clerk hopes to use it for VE Day/Surrey Day and AO would like to use for Limpsfield in Bloom. Other than that, it could be a flexible space. Lending library would also be good, but it would require shelving. To be discussed further.

14. CHART PLAYGROUND (Cllr Bob Harvey)

- 14.1. Condition report – all OK. No damage.

15. AOB

- 15.1. AO – Green Royal Mailbox in the bus shelter in Detillens Lane. This is now redundant having been used by postmen on bicycles in former years. There is some discussion about whether this should be removed or moved due to its heritage value. JW/AO to follow up and consider other uses. JW to see if the key can be

obtained from Oxted post office. Otherwise, there is a process (with the post office) that can be followed to request its removal. Ian Tolley has provided information.

15.2. APM Agenda and presentation responsibilities – Clerk has invited Catherine Sayer, Leader of the District Council, to give an overview of Devolution and suggests inviting all local societies and groups to attend to showcase their organisations during the refreshments and general networking. All in agreement. Clerk will circulate email to Councillors with agenda outline and any responsibilities for the presentation.

15.3. APM – other arrangements. Clerk to organise AV and provisions (VE Day theme). Potential for attendance of Air Raid Shelter volunteers in WW2 dress).

Meeting ends 8.54pm.

Next meeting is 12 May 2025 following the APM on 8 May.

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