



## DROXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES

#### FULL COUNCIL MEETING

6.00pm Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Droxford Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Matt Avison, Chris Hawkesford, Colin Matthissen, Janet Melson (Chair), Peter Richardson and Lewis Smith

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ailsa Duckworth – Parish Clerk/RFO  
County Councillor Hugh Lumby

**PUBLIC:** 2

**24.20 Apologies for absence:** None received

**24.21 Declarations of Interest:** None received

**24.22 Requests for Dispensation:** None received

**24.23 To elect a Vice-Chair:** It was agreed Cllr Colin Matthissen would take on the role of Vice-Chair.  
**PROPOSED:** Councillor Melson                      **SECONDED:** Councillor Smith

**24.24 Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting, having been circulated prior to the meeting, were approved and signed by the Chair.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Richardson                      **SECONDED:** Councillor Matthissen

**24.25 Public Session:** Two representatives from the agent, Evolution Town Planning, were present to update the PC on the progress of the current application for 22 holiday lodges at the Uplands site. A number of revised drawings were shared. It was expected that a decision would be made in the next few weeks. It was agreed that appropriate signage and footpath requirements could be discussed jointly once the application was decided. The agent confirmed that the site would be managed by them, rather than a third party management company.

Two further young members of the public were present to answer questions on their previous request for funding to replace the goals at the Recreation Ground. It was confirmed that the goals would need to be fixed into the ground and would be durable aluminium with a weather resistant net and could be left outside throughout the year for use by everyone. Other funding opportunities

had been explored and £350 had been awarded by the Country Fair Committee. The PC agreed to part-fund the goals on the basis that the residents undertook additional fundraising themselves.

- 24.26 Response to Public Participation:** The Chair thanked the Upland Park representatives for attending and for their comprehensive and informative update, and noted that some of the PC's concerns around the application had now been addressed.

The Chair thanked the Droxford residents for coming to the meeting, for their further explanation on the request and for the thorough responses to the PC's questions.

- 24.27 Reports from County and District Councillors:** A written report was received from County Cllr Hugh Lumby, and circulated prior to the meeting. County Cllr Lumby noted that the Councillor grants available from HCC were due to close on February 29<sup>th</sup> and would not be available again next financial year. It was agreed to apply for funding to contribute to the goal replacement. There was no update on the river survey data, relating to damage caused by U189 being accessible to vehicles, nor an update on the HCC owned land next to the cemetery. Cllr Lumby requested that details of HCC's Future Services Consultation resulting from the requirement to meet a £132million budget shortfall by April 2025 was shared and added to the website, as there will inevitably be an impact upon residents as a result of measures that will have to be implemented.

- 24.28 Clerk's Report including updates on previous decisions:** Verbal report Noted. All items to note were due to be covered by the agenda points.

- 24.29 Finance Reports:** Received and Noted

**a. NOTED:** Financial Status and bank balance

**b. APPROVED:** Payments as per approval list. It was noted that payments approved at the January meeting would show on the February report as the payments were delayed in being paid.

- 24.30 Planning Report:** Received and Noted

**a. NOTED:** New applications and decisions. It was agreed to make a comment on the following applications: SDNP/24/00418/TCA and SDNP/24/00540/HOUS regarding transparency of plans.

**b. NOTED:** The current open and closed enforcement cases were noted.

**c. NOTED:** The Parish Priority Statement will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting, in order that residents' views are central to the Statement. SDNPA has confirmed that input can be accepted at any time. Details are to be included in The Bridge and shared prior to the meeting.

- 24.31 Green Spaces Report:** Verbal report Noted.

**a. Recreation Ground:** A third quote is being sought for improving/replacing the play equipment. A separate working group will be set up to review the quotes before bringing options to Full Council. The request for goal funding was discussed. It was agreed to fund the shortfall from cost of the goals, from the funds raised to date, on the basis that the residents raise £200 themselves. [£350 has been awarded by the Country Fair Committee; £500 will be sought from the HCC County Cllr grant. An approximate cost of 2 x goals for 11 v 11 is £1650.] The goals will become a PC asset and will be maintained by the PC.

- b. Pavilion:** A meeting is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> February with the Cricket Club to review the lease and update on plans for improvements to Pavilion. The Clerk is to invoice for the annual Pavilion rent.
- c. Cemetery:** It was noted that several enquiries had been received regarding the cemetery. The regulations and prices require a review. The Cemetery Warden, Di Shepherd, has stepped down from this role.
- d. Garden of Reflection:** The metal edging is to be retrieved from Mr Freemantle and put in place to neaten the border.
- e. Signage:** No new updates. Safety and general signage is required.

**24.32 Highways Report:** Verbal report Noted.

- a. APPROVED:** Cllr Smith had circulated the final proposals and costings for the White Gate Initiative which was approved for sign off.
- PROPOSED:** Councillor Avison      **SECONDED:** Councillor Richardson
- Cllr Smith was due to attend the Central Meon Valley Travel Forum, set up by District Cllr Lee, and would provide feedback at the next meeting.
- b. NOTED:** The final Lengthsmen visit of the year had taken place. The epicormic growth and ivy on the trees in the centre of the recreation ground had been removed, and the protective guard on the young oak tree had been removed.
- c. NOTED:** Cllr Smith is to source costings batteries for the SLR and liaise with HCC Highways on placement.
- d. NOTED:** Footpath 14 remains closed between its junction with Footpath 9 and 12. An update will be requested from the Hampshire Countryside. The Countryside Access Team had successfully cut back the incredibly overgrown vegetation on footpath 7a in Droxford. Two volunteers also installed a new fingerpost at the eastern end of footpath 7a to show that the footpath continues both north and south. Contact with the landowner had not yet been made regarding the broken stile.

**24.33 Rural England Prosperity Fund:** Deferred.

**24.34 HALC Annual Conference (Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March):** It was agreed that Cllr Melson would attend.

**24.35 Sustainable Droxford:**

**SDNPA Re-Nature Grant:** It was reported that the application to SDNPA for funds for a rewilding project was successful. An invitation to the talk by the Bishops Waltham's Men's Shed (23<sup>rd</sup> March) is to be shared with other local Sustainability Groups and more widely within the community.

**24.36 Neighbourhood Watch – SmartWater initiative**

- a. NOTED:** A public meeting was held by Neighbourhood Watch regarding the SmartWater Initiative. It was accepted that there are issues with the signage, given the requirements imposed by HCC Highways and SDNPA. It was noted that currently no National Park has a Smartwater Initiative. Once 50% of households have enrolled in the scheme, the signage can be revisited.

**24.37 Correspondence received:**

- a. NOTED:** A letter regarding the extinguishment of part of the Highway at the Mill from a member of public was discussed. However, it was noted that the PC had previously discussed this as part of the consultation from HCC, had responded raising no objection to

the proposal and that members of the public would have an opportunity to comment during the consultation phase.

**b. NOTED:** An email had been received from a member of public regarding the poor parking/space marking in the PC owned car park on Union Lane. It was agreed to review the car park and consider the fence, space markings and the drainage as part of a wider project.

**24.38**      **Agenda Items for next Full Council meeting**

**24.39**      **Date of the next meeting:** 6.00pm Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, Droxford Village Hall