

Loddiswell Annual Parish Meeting

Meeting online due to COVID-19 restrictions

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held online on Tuesday 4th May 2021 commencing at 8pm.

AGENDA

1. Welcome to the members of the public
2. Apologies for Absence -
3. Minutes of the APM held in March 2020 are online for public reading
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Police Report - No report available. Monthly updates online
6. Report by the Chairman (Cllr. Peter Sheard)
7. DCC (Cllr Rufus Gilbert)
8. SHDC (Cllr Katharine Kemp)
9. School Governors report (Miss Louise Nichols)
10. Report on Charities (Cllr Paul Harvey)
11. Playing Field and Village Hall Trust (Mrs. Sue Sweeney)
12. Allotments Association (Mr. Mike Hine)
13. Parish Footpaths (Cllr Malcolm Dicken)
14. Financial Report (Miss Fiona Stace - Parish Clerk)
15. Public Questions

Annual Parish Meeting – Chair’s Report

4th May 2021

Good evening and thank you to everyone for joining this meeting tonight. I appreciate holding this meeting via Zoom is far from ideal, but we live in unusual times which, I know we all hope, will eventually return to some level of normality in the near future.

I became chairman of Loddiswell Parish Council in September 2020, which already seems like a lifetime ago. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their confidence in appointing me and hope we can achieve bigger and better things for the Loddiswell community when life returns to something more familiar.

Over the past year, the Covid virus has changed all our lives and yet the communities within our parish have shown strength, great spirit and resolve, pulling together to overcome all the difficulties we have faced. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the part you have played throughout the last year, in particular (but not limited to!) to everyone involved in the Loddiswell Community Face Mask Project; those supporting the Kingsbridge foodbank, either by donations or providing a helping hand; and the many volunteers providing lifts, shopping and/or prescription pick-up services for those isolating or simply without transport.

The world of Zoom meetings has taken over in the last year which has ensured that the Parish Council meetings have been able to continue to allow essential parish council business to be carried out. It is interesting how quickly we have adapted to this way of communication. However, communicating online can be tiring and for that reason I am keeping this year’s report short. I look forward to meeting you all in person again at next year’s Annual Parish Meeting.

Whilst the PC has not been involved in as much activity as usual over the past year, we have:

- Supported VHPFT activities, including the new floodlights at the playing field and more recently the children’s play area.
- Driven forward the Neighbourhood Plan – Special thanks to Cllr Satterley for continuing to pursue this on our behalf
- Installed the Vehicle-activated Signs (VAS) at the entrance to the village – the results will support our requests for road calming measures.
 - Our thoughts go out to the Bordas family, whose son was sadly involved in a road accident last year. We are continuing to put pressure on DCC to improve conditions on our roads.
- Boosted the content on our Facebook site, providing details of planning, local Covid news and village updates – thanks to our own Clerk, Fiona, for managing this site
- Continued to fund the village maintenance contract which continues to receive positive feedback – Our thanks to Richard Barney who completes this work on our behalf
- Monitor and maintain the Public Pathways (PPP) – thank you to Malcolm Dicken who spent many hours walking the pathways, organising maintenance and reporting back to the PC

On that final point I would like to acknowledge the support Malcolm gave the council as a parish councillor over the past few years. Malcolm has now moved out of the village and resigned as a councillor leaving an opening for a new councillor.

Cllr Peter Sheard LPC Chair

RUFUS DCC ANNUAL REPORT LODDISWELL.

1. The past year has been dominated by Covid-19 for DCC as it has for all of us. I have sent you various weekly reports updating you on the situation which I hope you have found helpful.
 2. B3196 pinch points. Following a PC petition a feasibility study is to be undertaken this year and hopefully some improvements will follow.
 3. A 379 traffic lights and road works are ongoing, but hopefully all work will be completed soon. Edmeston looks to be near completion.
 4. Hatch Bridge flooding and road closure. After the elections a meeting will be sought with the land manager to try and get the agreed drainage works completed asap. A report has been sent to you laying out the related issues.
 5. I gave from my locality allowance £250.00 to school £350.00 to Village News £553.00 to Rake Corner sign and £250.00 towards face mask making.
 6. 2021/22 will prove financially challenging for DCC post covid with an emphasis on helping the economy get back on track.
 7. Post lockdown for coastal communities will create stresses this summer for local residents, with a quite probable larger than normal influx of visitors. DCC will do all it can to help, alongside SHDC.
 8. Sadly a road accident with a child took place at Beech Wood Park last year. The PC launched another successful petition. It was agreed a safety assessment would be conducted for a possible crossing.
 9. Towns Lane has now been re surfaced.
- Primrose Line. I have received a considerable number of emails expressing concern as to the proposals.

Loddiswell Annual District Cllr Report 2021

Dear Loddiswellions.

A year of zoom meetings and Officers changing their roles to assist during the pandemic, has taken its toll on normal service provided by SHDC, but there have been advantages too.

I for one, feel I have grown into my role as a District Cllr, which has partly been facilitated by being able to attend more meetings than I would have been able to, if I were having to drive to Follaton House on a regular basis. This also has the advantage of less emissions and idol time, unfortunately it is the Government ruling that Zoom Meetings will have to come to an end.

I also am heartened by how hard officers have worked to maintain some assemblance of service throughout. The biggest challenge has been the new refuse collection service which was in the early stages of being rolled out when the Pandemic hit, and lockdown then occurred. I realise some residents have had a below acceptable service which I hope has now sorted itself out. FCC have been fined handsomely for not honouring the detail in the contract they were awarded so I am hopeful things will improve. I would personally like to see the refuse contract taken back in house.

The Joint Local Plan is also an area of optimism as within this huge document are policies designed to go some way at least to giving us what we need by way of housing and is supposed to protect rural towns and villages from the ravages of development.

The next Challenge for SHDC is to honour its declaration of a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency. Others and I will be pushing for a lot more action and less talking about action going forwards. There is so much more we could do that would not cost the earth.

Finally, I am pleased to say that I have managed to pin DCC down for a meeting with myself and the Planning Officer dealing with the old School Playing Field, my intention is to limit the amount of housing to less than 10, for those properties to be rentals to locals and to be passive housing, either that or create a recreational educational space for the School and all residents. (unfortunately, though the site needs to make them money, so they probably would not go for it.)

I would also like to see the Spinney improved and properly managed in perpetuity, baring in mind it is nearly the last green space central to the village. If anyone else would like to make any sensible suggestions then please email me.

Wishing you all well,

Kind Regards

Kate

Cllr Kemp

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Numbers

15 Foundation Stage children started in this academic year - We were oversubscribed and had 19 first choice

Total on roll at this point 105

September 2021- predicted on roll 103 (14 Year 6 leavers and 12 New starters)

Class structures

We continue to run 4 classes - FS, Y1/2, Y3/4, Y5/6

Class sizes are - 15, 30, 30, 29

Many classes are running at full capacity or almost full

We have had enquiries about spaces and are currently running a waiting list for Year 2 in particular.

Staffing

Mrs Coulthard is now our executive head. Mrs Moore continues to deliver very successful Forest Schools on a Wednesday. She continues to be very grateful to the Parish council for allowing us to use the space. Mrs Meek continues to teach Science to Class 3 and Class 4 and provides cover for teachers who are undertaking subject leader work.

Anne Marie continues to cook lunches on site and will be looking at providers once the budget streams have been separated and she has her own budget. We have taken on a new member of staff at pre school and numbers continue to be healthy. Some sessions in September are already full.

Lunches

School dinners continue to be very popular with a high uptake.

Clubs and Activities

We have not been running clubs due to Covid but are hoping to restart these in single bubbles as soon as possible.

Residentials 2021

These are unable to take place but all children are going on day trips in place of residentials

Wider community involvement

We have still taken part in fundraising activities and have raised over £200 comic relief as well as taking part in World Book Day online with the children for

Phillips Charity .

This charity was established in 1728 by Richard Phillips for the benefit of the poor of the parish .Long before the welfare state this gave welcome relief to the needy. Down through the centuries the tradition of distribution of the investment dividends has continued with an annual service on St Stephens Day in the parish church .

In 2020, Covid meant we were unable to conduct the normal service so the money was distributed by feofees Garry and Karen Elliott to recipients homes. It meant 42 locals who met the criteria were rewarded . We hope to be able to conduct the normal service in 2021.

We will also be reviewing the rules of the charity distribution and this update will be published in the parish magazine in the autumn.

Arundell Charity .

Again an old established parish charity which distributes funds from investment dividends this time to parish projects. This year 500 pounds was given to Loddiswell school for new sports equipment and 1,028 pounds to Loddiswell pre school for equipment .

The Arundell charity also has responsibility for management of Blackdown Rings . This old ironage fort remains a popular attraction for locals and visitors alike .In 2020 the information boards at the rings were replaced and updated . Our thanks to Fiona Van Es for project managing this and husband Rob for ably installing them . They are a big improvement and have received many good comments.

We thank all walkers with dogs to be mindful of the sheep grazing there in summer time and keep them under control. The site is also registered with Natural England and is enrolled in a wildlife enhancement scheme.The Rings are free to use but donations are gratefully received at the donation box locatedat the entrance gate.

LODDISWELL PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL TRUST.

The restrictions imposed on us in respect of the Covid 19 pandemic have had a large impact on the Trusts income, especially in respect of the Village Hall, which has now been closed for over a year. Fortunately, we qualified and received a generous grant from S.H.D.C. for both the Playing Field and the Village Hall. This money has been used mainly in the Playing Field to address some of our long outstanding projects whilst maintaining the reserve funds required by the Charity Commissioners, - some of which have been waiting for up to 4 years for attention, mainly because tradesmen being inundated with work. We have now made significant progress with the projects needed to bring standards up to an acceptable level in both maintenance and health and safety in the Playing Field and Pavilion.

The childrens Playpark was inspected last Sept., and estimates obtained from Sutcliffe Play, who installed the equipment in 2010 and Rhino Play who subsequently quoted lower and have now carried out most of the refurbishment required. However some repairs highlighted the need of further work on the Birds Nest and Seesaw and these are being addressed at the moment. The lockdown period has shown a marked increase in use of the playing field and the play area.

The planned work to provide a parking and disabled access to the Tennis Courts, has now been completed and we are very pleased with the result. We are in the process of finishing off the small surrounding area, leveling out the verge and sowing grass seed.

We have been advised that the 4 benches along the width of the courts are now starting to rot and will need replacing in due course. These benches are well used by the public.

We have commissioned work to reinstate the steps with a handrail, to the 2nd tennis court. We applied for a grant from S.W.W. to help with the cost of this work and hope for a positive outcome, when we hear from them in May.

All of the memorial seats and benches have now been treated and stained as necessary. We are please with their much improved appearance.

Over the winter there have been a few instances of cars being driven over the playing field, causing deep ruts. We do not encourage cars onto the playing field and will hopefully stop this with a removable barrier that has been installed that restricts access by cars from the Clarks Barn Road entrance.

Work has been carried out on the pavilion changing rooms to remedy damage and smarten up their appearance.

The external lighting around the pavilion has been replaced, including the floodlights to enable Devon Air Amulance to operate on a 24 hour basis.

We have now replaced the pavilion stanchions, and will be completing the work on the newly installed vents soon.

Our mole problem has reappeared and we have arranged for a local mole catcher to sort this

problem. Our main concern is the football field, which unfortunately, the moles seem to favour.

The work will begin when the season ends and children return to school, which we understand will be soon. We will also be able to carry out work on the worn surface areas in need of reseeding.

The only work on the Village Hall has been the replacement of a leaking urinal and redecorating the disabled toilet. We have installed an automatic hand dryer in the gents at the pavilion and installed hand sanitising stations which will be needed when the Hall and pavilion reopen as restrictions are eased.

The Trust was approached by the Parish Council with a view to selling the Village Hall and replacing it with a new sports/community hall on the Playing Field. We are in the process of investigating our legal responsibilities and will in due course undertake a feasibility study, after which we will hold a public meeting to vote on the project.

We recently received an email from a few new families in the village, offering help to revamp the play area, applying for grants etc, and to suggest new play items they feel are more appropriate to children's needs. We have advised that the Trust is not in a position to consider further long-term projects, as we do not yet know how much of the field would be required to accommodate a new building and additional carparking.

We are extremely grateful for all the financial support we have received during this difficult period from S.H.D.C., our County and District Councillors, and particularly our Parish Council, who have supported us generously this year and over many others. We are also very grateful for the unpaid work carried out by Michael Hine and Nigel Hall in respect of the pavilion and other areas. I also thank all the other Trustees for their input over the past year.

**Loddiswell Allotment Association Report
for Loddiswell Parish Council AGM
Tuesday 4th May 2021**

Like everyone else the last twelve months has been quite different for Loddiswell Allotment Association and its plot holders. With the allotments being outside, we are very grateful that we have been allowed to visit and work on our plots which has been vital for our health and wellbeing. All our plots are now taken with 11 new plot holders joining us over the last year and everyone actively working their allotment; we do have an open waiting list if we receive any further enquiries.

The donation table at the entrance to the allotments continues to be a success, bringing in funds for the allotment association and supplying produce for the local community. Over the last year where our plots holders have not been able to 'show' any of their fruit or vegetables, the donation table has been groaning under the weight of excess produce but Loddiswell residents have been very generous in taking this and leaving a donation. The financial situation of LAA is healthy, allowing us to keep the site in good condition and well maintained; we are planning to put funds raised this year towards replacing the allotment shed in our communal area as it is rotting in places and in a pretty bad state.

Unfortunately at the end of last year we had some intruders at the allotments where our honesty box was damaged and broken into; thankfully only a small sum of money was stolen. The matter was reported to the Police and a crime reference number obtained.

Last year we lost a stalwart of the Loddiswell Allotment Association, Jim Spooner; as a plot holder since 2007 and Treasurer for many years, Jim was a key member of the allotments. As a friend and fellow plot holder Jim is sorely missed by all of us that knew him.

At the beginning of 2020 we had a change to some of the Officers with Mike Hine taking over as Chair, Rodney Brooking as Vice-Chair, Tim Smith as Secretary and Trudy Smith as Treasurer. Due to the Coronavirus restrictions we have only been able to have a couple of Committee meetings over the last year and had to cancel our AGM due to be held mid-September 2020. We will be holding a Committee Meeting soon and are hopeful we will be able to go ahead with our AGM this year.

Loddiswell Parish Council

Parish Paths Partnership Report – May 2021 AGM

Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme

The Parish Paths Partnerships Scheme is an initiative to ensure that the rights of way network is properly maintained.

The purpose for the scheme is to encourage community involvement and enjoyment of public rights of way.

The Parish Council is working in partnership with Devon County Council with the aim to improve the condition of the local rights of way and keep them open and used properly.

Following the resignation of Councillor Malcolm Dicken, Emma Sweet is the new named Parish Councillor for the scheme who will ensure that each year all the paths within the Parish are surveyed and reported back to Devon County Council.

As part of the scheme the Parish Council receives an annual grant to undertake:

- Administration of the P3 scheme
- Hand clearing of spot vegetation
- Waymarking and replacement of 'stick on signs'

The Parish Council can also request additional grant funds for:

- Repairing of public rights of way furniture
- Celebratory events

Paths within Loddiswell

The River Avon is the natural boundary for Loddiswell and we have 13 designated footpaths within the Parish which total 7270 Metres (4.5 Miles).

All the paths were surveyed in January 2021 and a report was submitted to Devon County Council along with a request for £750 to enable the Parish Council to allow for cutting and clearing the undergrowth which is generally undertaken by Richard Barney.

Loddiswell Parish Council Finance Summary for 2020-2021

Main Payments

Insurance	£209.49
Salary	£4218.31
Disbursements	£475.69
Maintenance to include:	
Grass Cutting	£1220
Cleaning of disabled toilets	£850
Village maintenance	£6639.95
Total for repairs to pipe leak	£5620
Electric repairs for Air Ambulance lights	£1637.35
Surfacing path to tennis courts	£3475
Maintenance total	£19,442.30

Capital Items (finger post and defib parts)	£1286.49
Hall Charges	£0
Audit	£400
Website	£125
PAYE	£1071.60
Allotments loan repayment	£1463.58
Admin	£444
(including subscriptions for Devon Association of Local Councils)	
Donations for local organisations	£2285
(covid mask making and large print books for school books)	
Payments Total	£37,544.95

Main receipts

Precept	£31,517
PPP Scheme	£750
VAT return	£1620.16
Allotment rent	£1200
Locality funding	£3498
Covid grants (of which £750 is unspent) and finger post	
Total	£38585.16
Current Bank Account Balance	£74,879.36
S106 money available	£6174.27

