



Parish Office: Clock Tower House, Lindfield Enterprise Park, Lewes Road, Lindfield, RH16 2LH
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Web site: www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council Election Thursday 7th May 2015

We know there are a lot of you out there with all sorts of skills who care a great deal about our village. Why not stand for election and make a real contribution to the community by becoming Parish Councillors?

The Parish Council elections are scheduled for Thursday 7th May, the same day as the UK Parliamentary General Election and the Elections to Mid Sussex District Council. The nomination period runs from 30th March to 4pm on Thursday 9th April.

There are twelve seats on Lindfield Parish Council so there is an opportunity to have a strong team of elected representatives working for the good of our community.

Nomination packs for the local elections are available from the Mid Sussex District Council website – at the following link: <http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/elections/9812.htm>

Parish Meeting Wednesday 15th April 2015

The Parish Meeting (which, it must be stressed, is NOT a meeting of the Parish Council) is a forum for local government electors to discuss parish affairs and to pass resolutions on them, although such resolutions are not binding on the Parish Council. As this Parish has a Parish Council, it is the Council's Chairman who must convene and, if present, chair the meeting.

This year's Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th April at 8pm in the King Edward Hall. The Agenda will be on the Parish Council's notice board in Denmans Lane nearer the time, as well as on our website (www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Thank you, Paul!

We are all very sad to be saying farewell to Paul Frost, our Village Orderly, who is retiring after twenty five years keeping our streets clean in Lindfield. Paul first came to the village as an employee of Mid Sussex District Council's street cleansing contractors in 1990, working as a dedicated street sweeper in Lindfield and Cuckfield. When he retired from SERCO in 2010, the two Parish Councils got their heads together and since then we have each employed him for two mornings a week to supplement the service provided by SERCO.

But Paul is much more than an employee – he has been one of the best friends this village could have. He has huge pride in his work as a self-styled 'kerbside beautician' and he has always done a fantastic job, going the extra mile and often in the worst of Sussex weather.

On behalf of our residents we would like to say: Thank you Paul for a job very well done and our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

We'll miss you!



Members of Lindfield Parish Council:

They can all be contacted, in the first instance, via the Parish

**Cllr. William
Blunden
(Chairman)**

**Cllr. Valerie
Upton
(Vice Chairman)**

**Cllr. Mike
Allen**

**Cllr. Michael
Amor**

**Cllr. Jane
Chatfield**

**Cllr. Alan
Gomme**

Lindfield Parish Council Office is open on Tuesdays 1pm to 4pm, Thursdays and Fridays 10am to 1pm – when members of the public are welcome to come along to look at planning applications for Lindfield, buy concessionary railcard vouchers, or simply seek advice on issues of concern. However, if you do need to speak with someone outside our normal opening hours, then please contact the Clerk who will be happy to make alternative arrangements with you.

Parish Clerk:
Mrs. Christine Irwin

Deputy Parish Clerk:
Iain McLean

Responsible Financial
Officer: Mrs. Sue Koliën

WSSCC street lights

By the time you read this newsletter, the replacement of West Sussex County Council owned street lights throughout Lindfield will probably have been completed, except for the modification of those columns that are to be altered to heritage style, which is to follow. The replacement of the cast iron columns in the High Street in particular has dismayed many residents but, unfortunately, retaining the cast iron columns was not an option under the WSSCC/SSEC scheme. To achieve the effect, the standard columns will be shortened and swan neck lantern brackets, traditional lanterns and embellishments to the columns will be added.

The heritage lights after they have been adapted will be taller than the cast iron columns; 5 metres in total. The standard columns will be cut down to 4 metres to allow for the 1 metre uplift from the heritage style bracket. We have been advised that any further lowering in the height would be detrimental to the lighting because it brings the light source down to give more glare to the road users and to achieve the required levels with shorter columns would necessitate even more extra columns in the street.

A number of people have also expressed their concerns and objections to the lights being set to turn off around midnight. West Sussex County Council have stated that since the 1970s it has been their policy to

light residential roads to a part night lighting regime, with the lights coming on at dusk until midnight and then coming on again at 5.30am until dawn. Town centres and main roads will continue to be lit all night but dimmed by 50% during the middle of the night. This regime was set out by WSSCC in a bid to safeguard the County Council against the future predicted large energy price increases, to help sustain current energy bills and ultimately use taxpayers' money efficiently, as well as reducing carbon emissions. Over a period of time, and for a variety of reasons, some columns have been reverted to the all night regime. During the upgrade the opportunity is being taken to move back to part night lighting. WSSCC have also stated that there are no crime studies which show that additional illumination makes a difference to crime levels and that there are other local authorities such as South Gloucestershire, Essex and Hertfordshire which have even reported reductions in crime where the the hours of illumination are reduced.

Exceptions to the part night policy and requests to leave a street light on all night will only be considered by WSSCC if there is a local social problem which involves the police and is intended as part of a crime detection or surveillance project. Any change made for this purpose would be time limited and only extended when it forms a part of a more serious crime detection case.

Neighbourhood Plan progress

By the time you read this, the period for making representations on the Lindfield and Lindfield Rural Neighbourhood Plan as submitted to Mid Sussex District Council, and publicised by MSDC, will have closed (on 26th March 2015). Provided all is in order, the next step is for MSDC to appoint an independent examiner, who will be sent the Plan, along with any representations received. The examiner will then have to decide whether the Plan meets all the tests and requirements of the Neighbourhood Planning rules and regulations.

Office, or by reference to the Lindfield Village Directory and Year Book, which contains details of individual contact numbers.

**Cllr. Stephen
Henton**

**Cllr. Margaret
Hersey**

**Cllr. Simon
Hodgson**

**Cllr. Roger
Pickett**

**Cllr. Ron
Plass**

**Cllr. Christopher
Snowling**

If you have a dog (and even if you don't) please read on...

I would like to tell you about Michael. Michael was a lovely little boy in my son's class at infant school, elsewhere, nearly thirty years ago. As a toddler, Michael had a habit of putting his hand out of his pushchair and playing with gravel on the path. Sadly he picked up toxocariasis - the disease transmitted by worm larvae in dog faeces. As a result he was blind in one eye and during his early years at school he had to have several operations, mainly to improve his appearance - a poor start in life for any child.

Of course the vast majority of the people who walk dogs in our village are diligent about clearing up their dog's deposits and they are to be commended, but unfortunately there are some exceptions. Yes, your dog may be clear of worms but if other people see heaps being left, they may well think "why should I bother clearing up?" and let's face it, stepping in dog dirt is very unpleasant regardless of the health risks.

If you witness dog fouling on the Common, Hickmans Lane field or the nature reserves, please contact Mid Sussex District Council's Park Rangers on 01444 477561 (rangers@midsussex.gov.uk) or for dog fouling on the public highway or public rights of way contact the Dog Control Officer on 01444 477041 (dogcontrol@midsussex.gov.uk). Please give them as much detail as you can including: name of site, description of dog and dog owner, date and time the incident was witnessed, description of the owner's car, whether it is a regular occurrence and any other information which may help. Please do not approach the person yourself.

Parish Clerk

Police Community Support Officer

PCSO Erica Baxter can be contacted about neighbourhood concerns such as graffiti, rowdy behaviour and burglary on 101 voicemail extension 27123, by twitter: @hheath_police or by email: erica.baxter@sussex.pnn.police.uk. Crime should be reported on 101 in a non emergency incident or 999 if appropriate.

Village Spring Clean - Saturday 18th April 2015

Why not come and join us for our annual Spring Clean around the Village on the morning of Saturday 18th April? The Parish Council has organised a Spring Clean every year since 1999, when it started as an initiative of the Tidy Britain Group, and helpers find it to be a rewarding and worthwhile few hours. Volunteers meet in the King Edward Hall and are given tasks such as collecting litter from the areas in the village not covered by the normal street cleaning agencies. Street furniture, such as the posts around the Pond and the Common, always benefits from a wash down after the winter, and cutting back vegetation in the footpaths is another job that can be tackled.

The Spring Clean will take place between 9.30am and 1pm and there will be a free ploughman's style lunch for all participants. Any children taking part must be supervised by parents or adult group leaders if they belong to youth organisations. Suggestions for areas in the village that might benefit from a little 'TLC' are always appreciated, particularly if you could let us know in advance to help with the planning. If there is a task you particularly want to tackle, please let us know beforehand and we'll save that job for you. Litter pickers and bags, buckets, detergent and cloths will be provided but you are asked to bring your own gloves - and wheelbarrows can be very useful for bringing back sacks full of litter.

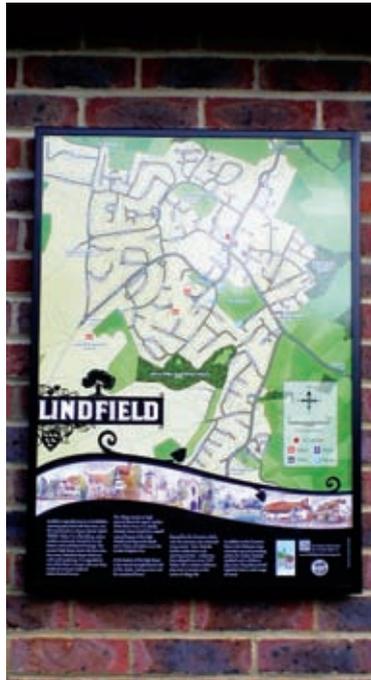
Mobile civic amenity collections

The refuse freighters will be in the Tollgate car park on Sunday 10th May 2015, between the hours of 10am and 12noon, for the collection of household and garden waste. Please note that due to current legislation they cannot accept items such as televisions, computer monitors and fluorescent tubes. These can still be taken to a civic amenity centre. Please do not leave rubbish in the absence of the refuse freighter. The remaining dates for the rest of the year are as follows: 12th July, 13th September, 15th November and then 10th January and 20th March 2016.

Street map panels

We are very pleased to announce the completion of our street map panels which are now in place on the walls outside the Denmans Lane Public Conveniences and Lindfield Medical Centre.

We would like to express our grateful thanks to Merie Blundell who has very kindly allowed us to use some of her lovely drawings to enhance the maps, to the GPs at Lindfield Medical Practice for giving us permission to put one of the panels on their wall and to Fitzpatrick Woolmer who have designed, made and installed the maps.



Parish Council meetings

April - June 2015

Tuesday	7th April	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8pm
Thursday	8th April	Environment and Amenities Committee	8pm
Wednesday	15th April	Parish Meeting (see article)	8pm
Tuesday	28th April	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8pm
Tuesday	19th May	Annual Meeting of Council	7.30pm
Wednesday	20th May	Planning and Traffic Committee (full)	8pm
Thursday	28th May	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8pm
Thursday	4th June	Environment and Amenities Committee	8pm
Tuesday	9th June	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8pm
Tuesday	20th June	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8pm

All meetings are held in the King Edward Hall, unless shown otherwise. Please check the noticeboard in Denmans Lane for any additional meetings that may be called. All meetings are open to the public and there is a period set aside at the beginning of each meeting for public questions/comments, except at 'plans only' Planning and Traffic Committee meetings. At meetings of the Planning and Traffic Committee, up to two people for and two against each planning application are allowed.