

LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING OF LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on TUESDAY 12 MAY 2009 at the King Edward Hall, Lindfield

Present: Mr. W. Blunden (Chairman)
Mr. M. Allen
Rev. M. Davies
Mr. A. Gomme
Mr. D. Johnson
Mr. C. Snowling

Also present: Councillor Mrs. M. Johnson (WSCC)
1 member of the public

In attendance: Mrs. C. Irwin

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m

262. WELCOME AND EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

262.1 Councillor Blunden opened the meeting, welcomed those present and announced the emergency procedure for the King Edward Hall.

263. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

263.1 Councillor Blunden called for nominations for the office of Chairman of Council. Councillor Blunden was PROPOSED and SECONDED and, there being no further nominations, Cllr. William Blunden was duly ELECTED as Chairman of Lindfield Parish Council for the Council year 2009/10.

264. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

264.1 Cllr. Blunden's declaration of acceptance of office as Chairman of Lindfield Parish Council was duly received and he took the Chair for the rest of the meeting.

265. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

265.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Leach, Hersey, Nicolle, Pickett, Upton and Willcox and the reasons accepted.

266. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

266.1 No such declarations were made.

267. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

267.1 There were no comments from members of the public.

268. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

268.1 The Chairman called for nominations for the office of Vice Chairman of Council. Councillor Nicolle was PROPOSED and SECONDED. It was understood that Cllr. Nicolle was willing to continue as Vice Chairman for a further year and, there being no further nominations, Cllr. Nicolle was duly ELECTED as Vice Chairman of Lindfield Parish Council for the Council year 2009/10.

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269. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF VICE CHAIRMAN.

269.1 The Parish Council's Standing Orders required the Vice Chairman to make a declaration of acceptance of office. As Cllr. Nicolle was absent, it was AGREED that she should make and sign her declaration in the presence of the Proper Officer at the earliest opportunity.

270. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING AND STATUTORY COMMITTEES

270.1 It was noted that Cllr. Johnson had asked not to be put on any Committees as he would shortly be resigning from the Parish Council. The Chairman took the opportunity of recording thanks to Cllr. Johnson for all the work, particularly financial, that he had carried out during the fourteen years he had been a Parish Councillor. He had served on all the Committees and been a driving force on a number of issues, including the initial stages of negotiation with MSDC regarding the transfer of ownership of the public toilets. Councillor Johnson stated that there had been some frustrations, but that he had enjoyed being a member of the Parish Council; he had particularly enjoyed being part of the team work and wished the Council well for the future.

270.2 RESOLVED that there should be four statutory and standing committees as follows: Finance and General Purposes Committee, Planning and Traffic Committee, Environment and Amenities Committee and Complaints Committee. It was noted that Cllr. Leach had asked to come off the Environment and Amenities Committee. Committee membership would be considered again after a replacement for Cllr. Johnson had taken office, but it was AGREED that Cllr. Johnson should be replaced on the Complaints Committee immediately because of the low number of members on that Committee. RESOLVED and that the membership of the Committees should be as follows:

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllrs. Allen, Blunden, Davies, Gomme, Nicolle (ex officio) Upton and Willcox..

Planning and Traffic Committee

Cllrs. Blunden, Gomme, Hersey, Leach, Nicolle, Snowling, Upton and Willcox

Environment and Amenities Committee

Cllrs. Allen, Blunden, Gomme, Hersey, Nicolle, Pickett, and Upton

Complaints Committee

Cllrs. Allen, Davies, Nicolle and Snowling.

270.3 It was also AGREED that Cllrs. Blunden and Nicolle should continue to have specific responsibility for the Archive Collection.

271. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

271.1 RESOLVED that the following representatives be appointed to outside bodies:

§ Two representatives to the Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils: Cllrs. Nicolle and Davies.

§ One representative to liaise with the police and be a member of the police neighbourhood panel: Cllr. Allen.

§ One representative to the Scrase Valley LNR Steering Committee: Cllr. Gomme.

§ One representative to the Mid-Sussex Older People's Council: Cllr. Upton

§ Two representatives to the Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee: Cllrs. Allen and Willcox. Cllrs. Blunden and Davies were also regular attendees at meetings of the CLC.

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§ Lindfield Village Plan Joint Advisory Committee. NOTED that this group was to be reshaped and it had already been agreed that Cllrs. Snowling and Gomme would represent Lindfield Parish Council on the new group. This was AGREED.

§ One representative to the River Ouse Stakeholders group: Cllr. Gomme.

272. PAYMENT OF ANY SUBSCRIPTIONS FALLING TO BE PAID ANNUALLY

272.1 RESOLVED that annual subscriptions to the following organisations should be continued:

§ Sussex Associations of Local Councils and National Association of Local Councils: £1,321.43 including VAT.

§ Association of Small Historic Towns and Villages: approx. £35.00.

§ Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils: £10

§ Action in Rural Sussex (formerly Sussex Rural Community Council): approx. £40.00

§ Society of Local Council Clerks: NOTED that SLCC had confirmed that the former Deputy Clerk's membership could be transferred to her replacement when appointed. £293.00 for both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk (pro rata by salary).

§ The Open Spaces Society: approx. £30.00

§ Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE): approx. £28.00

§ West Sussex Archives Society. £13.00.

§ Local Council Advisory Service (LCAS). approx. £85.00 plus VAT

272.2 Two further suggestions were considered and AGREED:

§ Associate membership of the Ramblers Association, on a recommendation from the Environment and Amenities Committee. The Association was represented at many Local Council conferences and assisted with rights of way and improvement plans: £36 a year.

§ British Toilets Association – primarily an organisation that campaigned for better public toilets but they also provided consultancy and information services to members and a forum for public toilet providers, contractors, suppliers and users to share concerns and ideas and to communicate best practices. The Association had already provided some advice relating to the Denmans Lane toilets but access to their advice was limited to members. £50 a year plus VAT

273. TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS NECESSARY TO REVIEW THE PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF THE PARISH CLERK, THE DEPUTY PARISH CLERK AND THE RFO

273.1 RESOLVED that this issue be delegated to the Finance and General Purposes Committee

274. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 2009

274.1 The Chairman called for approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 March 2009, including the Confidential Minutes. These were AGREED and the Chairman signed the Minutes and the Confidential Minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

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275. MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD JOINTLY WITH LINDFIELD RURAL PARISH COUNCIL ON 22 APRIL 2009

275.1 Minutes of this meeting were not yet available.

276. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

276.1 Deputy Parish Clerk. The Chairman regretfully reported that the Deputy Parish Clerk, Vera Grainger, was shortly to leave the Council and took the opportunity to thank her for the service she had given over the preceding year. She had made an impact on the Council with her knowledge and enthusiasm and she would be missed.

276.2 Civic Service The Chairman reported on his attendance at the recent Haywards Heath Town Council Civic Service which had been excellent and well attended. He had had the opportunity to meet the new High Sheriff of West Sussex. Members were reminded that the Parish Council's Civic Service was to take place the following Sunday at All Saints Church. A donation of £50 to the Church from Chairman's Fund was AGREED. It was noted that Cllr. Mrs. Johnson would be reading at the Civic Service for the last time as West Sussex County Councillor for Lindfield.

276.3 Spring Clean Over 30 people had taken part in this event and the Chairman expressed thanks to all the volunteers, including children from Blackthorns School, with their parents, who had done a splendid job cleaning posts on the Common and by the Pond. Thanks were also recorded to the Clerks for organising the event and providing refreshments, and to the Highway Rangers who had cleaned the gates at the northern end of the village, the Lindfield signs at the Scamps Hill and West Common entrances and other street furniture. Other jobs that had been done that morning included litter picking, when about 24 bags of rubbish had been collected, and trimming epicormic growth on the High Street trees. SERCO were thanked for providing gloves, bags and bins on the Common to dispose of the rubbish collected and for ordering new litter pickers on behalf of the Parish Council. The Spring Clean had been a good and worth while community effort.

277. ACTION LIST

277.1 Council Minute 252.4 – Parking restrictions. NOTED that the formal consultation document had been received and the consultation period would end on 30 May. The plans for Lindfield remained unchanged from those submitted for informal consultation earlier in the year. AGREED that this should be added to the Agenda for the next meeting of the Planning and Traffic Committee, at which members of the public would be given an opportunity to speak when the item came up on the Agenda.

278. CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

278.1 Other than the ongoing consultations associated with the Local Development Framework and the WSCC Consultation on Parking Restrictions referred to in Minute 277.1, no further consultation documents had been received.

279. REPORTS BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Mrs. M. Johnson reported as follows:

279.1 Swine flu. WSCC's Planning Team, headed by the Head of Emergency Management, had been working with the Sussex Resilience Forum, which comprised all the Council's health organisations and the emergency services. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson had been very closely involved in this. A lot of work was being put in hand and Cllr. Johnson was confident that it would be possible to maintain critical services in the event of a local outbreak of the virus.

279.2 Finger posts. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson had been disappointed with the paper that had been issued on the subject of finger posts. Unless Parish Councils or community groups took on the maintenance of the traditional finger posts, it was likely that they would disappear. WSCC's Highways budget was under extreme pressure and WSCC would not be able to afford to maintain them.

279.3 Play Areas. WSCC had £1 million for the development of play spaces which Parishes should be aware of.

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- 279.4 Parking Proposals the latest consultation on waiting restrictions contained very little that concerned Lindfield.
- 279.5 CLC Funding. There was funding available for community initiatives through the County Local Committees. £4,000 was allocated to each Member for their area. An application for funding for the King Edward Hall was to be considered at the next meeting.
- 279.6 Sussex Community Foundation. This was a good source of funding for community projects, with grass-root funding from Central Government and would consider proposals that would improve the quality of life for people in Sussex. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson was a member of this foundation independent of her Council membership.
- 279.7 Four Parishes, Three Tiers Group. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson had been very pleased to be involved in the series of meetings looking at potential housing sites and explained that this group had formed after meetings of a two tier group comprising the County and District Council Members, had also included Haywards Heath Town Council, but not the neighbouring Parish Councils, and at its meetings the reference to "Greater Haywards Heath" had become commonplace. The County representatives had obtained the support of Planning Officers at MSDC to provide balance. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson expressed disappointment that the Lindfield District Ward Members had been unable to attend meetings of the Four Parishes, Three Tiers group
- 279.8 Proposed Development at Lyoth Lane/Gravelye Lane. WSCC had been consulted on the application to build 65 new dwellings at this location and were still studying this in the context of other development proposed. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson had been disappointed that the Parish Council had not objected to this application.
- 279.9 The Chairman expressed deep gratitude to Cllr. Mrs. Johnson on behalf of the Parish Council and Lindfield. Mrs. Johnson had represented Lindfield at the County Council since 1981 and she had been Chairman of WSCC between 2001 and 2008, which he described as no mean feat and said that it showed what a committed person she was. She always answered questions straight away or persisted until she had an answer to give. Her reports to the Parish Council were always very fulsome and informative and the Parish Council was very grateful for all her hard work and commitment. As a small token of appreciation, the Chairman presented Cllr. Mrs. Johnson with a floral basket. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson stated that it had been a joy to represent Lindfield and she had served as a member of Lindfield Rural Parish Council before becoming a County Councillor. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson thanked all Members of the Parish Council, recognising that Parishes were at the sharp end of local government.

Councillor Mr. C. Snowling reported as follows:

- 279.10 Swine flu. MSDC had done everything possible to plan for a possible epidemic and all staff at the leisure centres had been properly trained.
- 279.11 Annual Meeting of MSDC. This was due to take place the following day.
280. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
- 280.1 Statements of account/budget progress and bank reconciliation for the period 01.03.09 to 31.03.09 and 01.04.09 to 30.04.09 and quarterly receipts and payments summary. The Bank Statements for April had only just been received so the Statements of Account/budget progress and bank reconciliation for April 09 would be brought to the next Council meeting. RESOLVED to approve the statements of account and bank reconciliation for the period 01.03.09 to 31.03.09.
- 280.2 List of cheques for approval. AGREED the list of cheques for the period 27 March 2009 to 12 May 2009, cheques numbered 104182, to 104226, totalling £14,779.81. NOTED that the Petty Cash balance was £109.77 as at 12.05.09 and that no payments had been made under Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972. CONFIRMED:
- Purchase of 3 chairs for use at Denmans Court, from the sale of the office fittings at Lindfield Honda: £25 each plus VAT.
 - Purchase of Risk Assessment software package designed for Parish Councils: £89.92 incl VAT.
 - Order of the new edition of Local Council Administration by Charles Arnold Baker: £53.60 at the discounted rate

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The Chairman signed the list of cheques, which is attached to the signed Minutes of this meeting as Appendix 'A'.

Cllr. Davies reported as follows:

- 280.3 Councillors allowances and mileage rates. The Report of the Independent Panel on the Review of Members' Allowances 2009/10 had been circulated with the Agenda papers. The recommended Basic Allowance for Councillors of Parishes with an electorate of 2501 and above was £543 p.a. The recommended Chairman's Enhanced Basic Allowance was £814 p.a. The report also contained a schedule of travelling and subsistence allowances but since receiving the report the NJC circular had been circulated, giving new rates for Car Allowances effective from 1 April 2009. The District Council's Member Administration Officer had advised that: "the scheme of travelling and subsistence allowances is in line with the scheme applicable to local government officers and also recommended for Mid Sussex District Councillors. Therefore when the rates increase for local government officers, as set out in the NJC circular, they also increase for District Councillors, and Parish and Town Councillors. That is the recommendation of the Panel. We are applying the increase to District Councillors as agreed at Council in December 2008. If your Parish Council has adopted this recommendation of the Panel, then they have already agreed to these allowances being in line with the NJC circular".

AGREED to adopt the recommendations of the Independent Panel.

It was also noted that Members may elect to forgo all or part of their entitlement to the allowance and according to the Regulations (Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003) they should put this in writing to the Clerk. Cllr. Davies wished it to be noted that he took grave exception to this as he had never agreed to the allowance policy, had not been present when it had been agreed and would simply like to be able to claim reimbursement of his general expenses. He did not propose to write to the Clerk when he had never asked to take an allowance in the first place. Cllr. Allen wished it to be noted that some Councillors did claim their allowance, but nowhere near the maximum allocated.

- 280.4 Emergency Plan: report on progress. Cllrs. Allen and Willcox had put together several pages. AGREED that a draft should be put before the next meeting of the Finance and general Purposes Committee on 28 May.

281. ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Environment and Amenities Committee Meeting of 7 April 2009

Councillor Blunden reported as follows:

- 281.1 Resurfacing of Common Car Park (Backwoods Lane) Mark Hayler of MSDC had asked for the Council's comments views on the resurfacing of the Common car park on Backwoods Lane with the same materials as the Bowls Club car park. He had given assurance that there would be no risk to the trees. AGREED to support this action.
- 281.2 Denmans Lane Public toilets – cleaning/maintenance contracts (E&A Minute 233.1) The Clerk reported urgent action taken to enter into a contract with a contractor (Calabash) to deal with sharps, nappy and sanitary waste, which could not be dealt with by the regular cleaning contractors (ISS) as they did not hold the necessary licence for handling and disposing of bio hazardous waste. The E&A Committee had given authorisation to negotiate a contract, but the cost had come out higher than anticipated. As the toilets could not have been reopened without first making provision for the removal of this waste, the Clerk had signed the three year contract. The total came to £1505 plus VAT for the year, for 2 lady care units (£150 each) and 3 nappy units (£295 each) serviced weekly, one sharps unit emptied twice a year and an additional 3 air fresh units, serviced quarterly (£80 each) as there was still an unpleasant smell from the drains. RESOLVED: to confirm approval for this action and that the options should be considered well in advance of the renewal date for the two contracts on the basis of quotations from contractors who were able to deal with both of these aspects of maintenance.
- 281.3 Bus Shelter – High Street (E&A Minute 225.1) E&A had deferred the decision on this proposal to allow for further consultation as there had been some negative feedback. Members of the public had expressed surprise that the bus shelter was being proposed for a position outside the Stand Up, whereas more people queued for buses on the other side of the road. It was noted that Mark Revill was strongly against a shelter outside his shop, where it would obscure

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his display board, and that the butchers' shop blind offered some shelter, which was the reasoning behind the suggestion to erect the shelter on the opposite side. The view was expressed that reconsideration by E&A of a shelter on the east side of the road would be welcome, although it was pointed out that it was unlikely to be approved by WSCC Highways Officer. It was AGREED not to proceed with the shelter outside the Stand Up.

281.4 Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee held on 7 April 2009. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee held on 7 April 2009 be received and their recommendations confirmed.

282. PLANNING AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

Councillor Snowling reported as follows:

Planning and Traffic Committee meeting of 24 March 2009.

282.1 Planning application 09/00398/FUL (P&T Minute 256.8) Although the Committee had not found favour for the proposed chair lift to be fitted to the Lindfield Club fire escape he was pleased that MSDC had approved this as it would be of benefit to less able members using the premises.

Planning and Traffic Committee meeting of 14 April 2009.

282.2 Planning application 08/02532/OUT (P&T Minute 264). Further to the comment made by Cllr. Mrs. Johnson (279.8 above) Cllr. Snowling stated that there had seemed to be no planning grounds for objecting to the planning application for 65 dwellings at Gravelye Lane/Lyoth Lane.

282.3 Traffic Study Joint Working Party (P&T Minute 265). The views expressed by the Traffic Study Joint Working Party, following consideration of Roger Harper's paper on the mini roundabout proposed for the corner of Lewes Road and High Street, had been considered by the Committee and it had been agreed that this should be referred back to the Council. AGREED to refer this matter to the next meeting of the Council for full debate and that it would be appropriate to circulate a paper to all Members, which would be made available to members of the public, setting out the key issues of the situation.

282.4 Minutes of the Planning and Traffic Committee held on 24 March and 14 April 2009. RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Planning and Traffic Committee of 24 March and 14 April 2009 be received and their recommendations confirmed.

282.5 Minutes of the Planning and Traffic Committee meeting of 5 May 2009. These minutes were not yet available.

283. REFURBISHMENT OF DENMANS LANE PUBLIC TOILETS: REPORT OF "SNAGGING" MEETING

283.1 The Clerk reported on the recent meeting with representatives of Premier Hygienic Ltd, to discuss the "snagging" issues. The final stages of the work on the toilets had been hastily completed and some points noted had been brought to the attention of Premier workmen. However after they had left, it was possible to make a detailed inspection and a lot of snagging issues had been found, mainly relatively minor, which meant that the toilets could not be reopened until Premier had come back to deal with them. The Chairman and Steve Howe and the Clerk had had a very good meeting with Mike Williams, Premier's Managing Director, and Dave Knowles from the Operations Division the previous Wednesday. Premier's representatives had been very keen to co-operate and had agreed to attend to the remaining matters in the cubicles. One of the main issues had been that the Service Area had been left in an unsatisfactory state and could not be considered to be fit for purpose: the sink had not been replaced, the walls had been left with the old flaking paint and the floor surface would have been difficult to clean as there were rough concreted areas between the original tiles. The service area had not been addressed in the contract, but after some negotiation, Premier had offered to undertake remedial work in the service area for the sum of £2500, the amount originally set aside as a contingency in the event of additional work associated with drains proved necessary after the work started. After consultation with Cllr. Pickett and the Chairman, the Clerk had authorised Premier to undertake this work so that the toilets could be reopened. Workmen had been working on this today under the supervision of

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Premier's Managing Director. RESOLVED: to approve this action as it was within the budget. It was AGREED that there should be a formal re-opening of the toilets.

284. DENMANS COURT

284.1 Lease of the premises. The Council was awaiting determination of the terms of the lease by both Solicitors.

284.2 Arrangements for furnishing the premises as a Parish Office. It was noted that the premises at Denman's Court would need furnishing appropriately and equipment such as telephones installed. AGREED: to authorise the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and the Chairman of F&GP to make the necessary arrangements, reporting back to F&GP in due course, provided there was a budget for this purpose.

285. TRANSFER OF ASSETS

Cllr. Blunden reported on a series of meetings he had attended, following the release of information by Cuckfield Parish Council that other Town and Parish Councils had been in negotiation with MSDC regarding the transfer of assets under the Government's community empowerment initiatives. Lots of pockets of land in parishes had been transferred to District Councils, which could now be taken back. The Chairman and the Clerk had made no commitment whatever, but had attended meetings to gather facts. It was understood that the Parish Council could apply to the District Council for transfer of ownership of Hickmans Lane playing field, the Common and, at the appropriate time, the Wilderness field to be handed over to MSDC by developers of the Newton Road site. Cllr. Snowling urged caution, pointing out that this would require considerable thought as it was not the function of a Parish Council of the size of Lindfield, without the necessary resources, to take on land management, which was a big responsibility. It was AGREED that this should be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration with a paper detailing the running costs of the sites involved.

286. LOCAL ACTION TEAM

286.1 Cllr. Nicolle had provided a copy of the Minutes of the last AGM and Annual Report and Cllr. Allen reported in her absence. The LAT had been set up to consider issues relating to crime and disorder and antisocial behaviour and two meetings were held each year. During the previous year there had been relatively little anti social behaviour: the Police representatives on the LAT had advised that the causes of problems went round in circles. The major street scene issue had been dog mess and unemptied litter bins. Neighbourhood Watch had been re-organised, with members all using email for communication. It was hoped that more members would be forthcoming. Police liaison worked well, with local surgeries at the Parish Office. A number of volunteers for Community Speed Watch had been trained. The future of the LAT had been discussed and a report would be made after the AGM on 15 June.

287. LINDFIELD VILLAGE PLAN JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

287.1 Cllr. Gomme reported that at the last meeting of the LVPJAC, members had indicated that they wished to wind the Committee up. The present Committee would be standing down after they had produced their Annual Report for the year and it was intended that a new group would be formed. Thanks were recorded for the sterling work carried out by the members of the LVPJAC and for driving along the implementation of the Lindfield Village Plan.

288. PARISH MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL 2009

288.1 Greening Campaign. The main item on the Agenda at the Parish Meeting had been the Greening Campaign presentation by Sara Grimes. Following the meeting, two people had approached her offering to take the Campaign forward in Lindfield.

288.2 Proposed merger with Lindfield Rural Parish Council.

The other matter which was discussed was the proposed merger with Lindfield Rural Parish Council. It had been noted that at the Lindfield Rural Parish Meeting this had been discussed and there had been no support for the merger, although no formal report had yet been issued by Lindfield Rural Parish Council. It had been noted that a

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boundary change might be another option for consideration. However this issue would have to be discussed as an agenda item at a future meeting of the Council.

289. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

289.1 No items were raised.

This part of the meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

There followed a further period for questions and comments from members of the public.

Transfer of Assets. Mr. Kerslake stated that although MSDC could transfer ownership of the Common, they would not be permitted under the Scheme of Management of the Common, to relinquish its management. The costs provided by MSDC would be apportioned and there would be a significant difference between this and the actual cost to the Parish Council for managing land. The Wilderness field was recognised as the buffer between the new housing development and the rest of Lindfield. Advice from experts would be needed if the Parish Council was to consider asking for this land to be transferred to the Parish Council.

Mini roundabout. Mr. Kerslake pointed out that Mr. Harper's paper had arrived at a late stage before the Traffic Study Joint Working Party and it was important that any paper to be considered by the Council in June should be available to all concerned, including members of the public, 7 clear days before the meeting.

Fingerposts. Mr. Kerslake reminded members that there was a traditional fingerpost at the junction of Summerhill Lane and Portsmouth Lane. Mr. Kerslake hoped that this would be maintained as well as the one on the High Street outside "Ryecroft".

The public forum ended at 9.05 p.m.

290. It was moved and RESOLVED under Standing Order no. 35(a) "that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw".

291. ISSUES RELATING TO THE LEASE OF DENMANS COURT

291.1 An alternative option that could be considered was suggested.

292. STAFFING; RECRUITMENT OF NEW DEPUTY PARISH CLERK

292.1 It was noted that application packs were being sent out further to the advertisement in the Mid Sussex Times the previous week. RESOLVED to authorise the interview panel to make an offer of appointment after the interviews had taken place and to report that action to the next meeting of Council on 25 June. Arrangements for short-listing and for the interviews would shortly be confirmed.

292.2 The Chairman reported that he had conducted an exit interview with the former Deputy Parish Clerk and would be reporting on this in due course.

The meeting concluded at 9.15 p.m.