

LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 2009 at the King Edward Hall, Lindfield.

Present: Mr. W. Blunden (Chairman)
Rev. M. Davies
Mr. A. Gomme
Mr. S. Henton
Mr. M. Leach
Mr C. Snowling
Mr. S. Willcox

Also present: Mr. P. Hemsley (Deputy Parish Clerk)
Mrs. C. Fuller, representing Lindfield Arts Festival (first 4 items only)
Mrs. L. Le May, representing Lindfield Arts Festival (first 4 items only)

3 Members of the public (1 for the first 4 items only)

In attendance: Mrs. C. Irwin (Parish Clerk)

The meeting began at 7.30 p.m.

314. WELCOME AND EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS.

314.1 The Chairman welcomed those present and announced the emergency procedure for the King Edward Hall.

314.2 The Chairman commented on the sad loss of Major Jimmy Barnes whose funeral had taken place recently. Major Barnes had been Chairman of the Parish Council from its inception in 1987 until 1996. The Chairman wished to record appreciation for all that Major Barnes had done for Lindfield: not only for the fabric of the Village but particularly for its people.

315. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

315.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Hersey, Nicolle, Pickett and Upton and the reasons accepted.

316. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

316.1 Agenda item 12 (ii) Councillor Snowling made the following statement: "I wish to advise that any comments I may make at this meeting regarding possible future development sites in the Parish or in Lindfield Rural Parish, must be regarded as open to amendment by me when the Core Strategy is brought to the District Council for determination, at which time I will take into consideration the advice of the Council's officers and the views of members of the public and my fellow Councillors".

317. PROPOSED LINDFIELD ARTS FESTIVAL (MAY 2010): PRESENTATION BY MRS C. FULLER

317.1 The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Claire Fuller and Mrs. Leesa Le May to the meeting and invited Mrs. Fuller to explain their proposals.

- Mrs. Fuller explained for clarification that she and Mrs. Le May were not representatives of the Chestnut Tree Foundation as stated on the Agenda, but two enthusiastic individuals who wanted to organise this event. However they would be nominating charities to benefit from any profits made and Chestnut Tree House was likely to be one of them.

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- The idea of the Arts Festival had been conceived by Mrs. Le May, a local artist who taught both adults and children. Initially it would be a whole day of creative arts on 15 May 2010, but it was hoped this would evolve in future years into an annual event over a weekend or even a week and link up with other activities. There would be a rolling set of art exhibits, including sculpture, ceramics and textiles as well as painting and photography and there would be live performances from musicians, singers, poets, actors and authors. The hub would be the King Edward Hall, although it was intended to involve shops, pubs and cafes and it was hoped that use could be made of the Common and the Pond for larger exhibits. The festival would appeal to people of all ages with an interest in creative arts and it would be free with the exception of the workshops for which there would be a small charge.
- The estimated cost of the Festival was £4,500 - £5,000 and a number of ways of raising funds would be pursued: corporate sponsorship and grants from public bodies (including MSDC). However the organisers would not be eligible without a constitution and financial history, so they were looking to the Parish Council for support for their funding applications and also to act as fund administrators. A registration fee was to be charged to exhibitors (except the local schools) to secure space and workshop teachers would receive a proportion of the fees. Profits would be donated to charities.

Members considered this proposal later on the Agenda.

318. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. (MAX 15 MINUTES).

318.1 Standing Orders – Quorum. Mr. Kerslake stated that he had written to NALC to challenge the fact that their Model Standing Orders showed that the quorum for meetings of Parish Councils must be a third of the total membership or three. The Parish Council's Standing Orders adopted in October 2008 had followed the Model Standing Orders in this respect. The reply to Mr. Kerslake from NALC had stated that this was not entirely correct and that the Model Standing Orders currently being revised would reflect this.

318.2 General Reserve. Mr. Kerslake commented on the decision of the Finance and General Purposes Committee not to follow the recommendation of the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to increase the General Reserve. Mr. Kerslake stated that there should be a paper from the F&GP Committee setting out the policy for reserves and that this should be put to Council prior to budget setting as the level of the General Reserve had an implication for the precept.

318.3 Denmans Court. Mr. Kerslake expressed concern about the length of time taken negotiating the lease for Denmans Court and that he would have expected a paper setting out the alternatives, including extending the existing Parish Office premises.

319. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 25 JUNE 2009

319.1 The Chairman called for approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 25 June 2009. These were AGREED and the Chairman SIGNED the Minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

320. TO CONFIRM COUNCILLOR HENTON'S COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.

320.1 It was AGREED that Councillor Henton should serve on the F&GP and the E&A Committees.

321. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

321.1 The Chairman had nothing to report other than on Agenda items.

322. ACTION LIST

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- 322.1 The Action list was tabled. There were few items as most tasks were being dealt with by the Committees.
- § Risk Management – Governance – the Clerk would be producing a list of yearly tasks which could be ticked when completed and the sheet signed off annually.
323. REPORTS BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.
- 323.1 Councillor Mrs. Field (WSCC) had given her apologies for this meeting but it was noted that she had given a report at the last Finance and General Purposes Committee which had been recorded in the Minute of that meeting.
- 323.2 Cllr. Snowling had nothing to report other than items he would raise under his report as Chairman of the Planning and Traffic Committee. Councillor Hersey had sent her apologies for this meeting.
324. ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE.
- 324.1 Minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee meeting of 4 June 2009. The Minutes had been received at the Council meeting held on 25 June, but this had not been noted in the Minutes. AGREED to record in the Minutes that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee held on 4 June 2009 had been received.
- 324.2 Minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee meeting held on 6 August 2009. These Minutes had been circulated by email the previous day. Before inviting the Council to receive the Minutes, the Chairman drew attention to the main decisions which required Council's approval.
- 324.3 Public toilets cleaning contract – to confirm new contractor (Monitor Cleaning Services Ltd). Members were aware that MSDC had written to the Parish Council at the end of July stating that the contract with ISS for cleaning public facilities was to be terminated on 10 August 2009 and that they had let the new contract to Monitor Cleaning Services to take effect from 10 August. There had been no prior notice or consultation about this and the Council had just one working week to decide whether to join in with the new contract for cleaning the Denmans Lane toilets and notify Monitor accordingly. The Clerk had consulted with the other Parishes with public toilets and they had all felt that there was no alternative but to enter into an arrangement with Monitor at least for the time being. The new contract would cost £800 a year more than previously, however the Clerk had met two representatives from Monitor who had indicated that they would provide a better service. The price had been calculated on the basis of square footage and the number of cleaning visits each day. Contracts were being prepared specifically for each parish, but had not yet been sent out. This had been noted at the last E&A meeting but there had not been enough notice to include this item on the agenda so a decision could not be recorded in the Minutes, confirming the new contractor. It was AGREED to confirm that Monitor Cleaning Services should be instructed to undertake the cleaning the Denmans Lane toilets and the Clerk was authorised to sign the contract when it had been received, provided the terms appeared to be reasonable.
- 324.4 Trees in Compton Road: to consider recommendation from E&A Committee to reverse the decision not to pollard the first two trees in Compton Road north. Council had agreed at the meeting held on 25 June 2009 that all the trees in Compton Road should be pollarded in late 2009, with the exception of the one outside Little Compton, which was understood not to be a lime, and the one opposite which would be left alone to balance it. Since then it had become clear that the Little Compton tree was in fact a lime and the Council had been asked by Mr. Tyler, who represented the Preservation Society at the meeting with Jonathan Ullmer in February, to support pollarding these two trees along with the others. Jonathan Ullmer had confirmed that he was happy with this proposal.

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Because the decision not to support pollarding these two trees had made by the Full Council within the last 6 months, the E&A Committee, in accordance with Standing Order 19a, was recommending that Council pass a resolution to reverse this decision.

The Chairman MOVED a Resolution that the Council should reverse the decision agreed at the Council meeting held on 25 June 2009 "that the tree outside Little Compton and the one opposite, at the entrance to Compton Road from Hickmans Lane, should be left as full size trees" and that WSCC should be informed that the two trees at the entrance to Compton Road from Hickmans Lane should be pollarded. This Resolution was SECONDED by Cllr. Davies and unanimously AGREED.

- 324.5 Epicormic growth on High Street and Compton Road Trees. CONFIRMED: the decision of the Environment and Amenities Committee to use contractors to deal with epicormic growth in future year, as the Parish Council's insurance policy did not cover volunteers for such work on the highways, as the area was maintained by the County Council. The Clerk had obtained one quotation for budget purposes and two further quotations would be obtained from reputable contractors with the appropriate level of insurance. WSCC would be consulted prior to any order being placed. Members expressed dismay that willing volunteers should be prevented from undertaking work of this nature. It was noted that the Council would be seeking alternative quotations for insurance next year and quotations for this cover would be requested then.
- 324.6 Finches Lane. CONFIRMED: the decision of the Environment and Amenities Committee not to give financial assistance for the resurfacing of Finches Lane, as requested by the Residents' Association, on the grounds that the Parish Council was not the Highways Authority, WSCC had judged the Lane to be of a suitable standard for a right of way, there were no budgeted funds for road maintenance and because of the precedent that would be created.
- 324.7 Insuring volunteers. As recorded at Minute 324.5, limitations in the Council's insurance policy had recently been discovered. It had always been understood that volunteers were generally covered by the Council's Public Liability Insurance but it would appear that they were not covered unless they were engaged in activity in areas for which the Parish Council was responsible. It would not therefore be possible for the Parish Council to authorise volunteers who had recently offered to cut the High Street verges on behalf of the Parish Council, unless they could be covered by WSCC's own insurance. This would be raised at the next Liaison Meeting with WSCC: to find out what might be covered by WSCC's insurance and to raise awareness of this insurance issue, as the suggestion that volunteers should deal with epicormic growth had come from a WSCC Officer. Confirmation had been received that the Tree Wardens were covered by WSCC's insurance but clear advice about activities such as the annual Spring Clean would have to be sought.
- 324.8 Tree warden. NOTED: the appointment of another new Tree Warden, Ollie Swan.
- 324.9 Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee held on 4 June 2009. RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee held on 4 June 2009 be received and their recommendations confirmed.
325. PLANNING AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE.
- 325.1 Minutes of the Planning and Traffic Committee meetings of 16 June, 7 July, 28 July 2009 and 18 August 2009. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Traffic Committee held on 16 June, 7 July, 28 July and 18 August be received and their recommendations confirmed. Councillor Snowling reported as follows:
- 325.2 WSCC Consultation on waiting restrictions proposals – Denmans Lane. The consultation on the proposed waiting restrictions for Denmans Lane had been going on for some months. At the last meeting of the WSCC Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee (CLC), the impression had been received from Officers that the

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proposal for this present formal consultation would be for a complete prohibition on the section of Denmans Lane from the High Street, including outside the cottages, up to just beyond the junction with Compton Road and that there would be no restrictions beyond Compton Road to the barrier. However the drawings received for the formal consultation had shown that a length of the road outside the cottages was to remain unrestricted. The Parish Council had previously supported earlier plans showing restricted parking outside the cottages, although there had been objections to the proposal to introduce restrictions from Compton Road to the barrier. It was recognised that parked cars outside the cottages caused congestion and could prevent emergency vehicles from getting through. It was noted that County Councillor Mrs. Field had fully supported the Parish Council's views on this. It was AGREED that the Clerk should respond to the consultation, objecting in the strongest terms to the present proposal and continuing to support the previous proposal but without the restrictions beyond the Compton Road junction. It was noted during discussion that the condition of the road surface in this part of Denmans Lane was badly deteriorating, although it had not met WSCC's criteria for resurfacing at the last inspection.

- 325.3 Core Strategy / Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). Councillor Snowling stated that it was important to understand the timetable by which MSDC were to consider the Core Strategy document: at the meeting of the Better Environment Advisory Group, members were to be invited to consider a paper from officers on all matters in the core Strategy other than those relating to precise sites. On 6 October a further meeting of the Better Environment Advisory Group would be looking at proposals for which sites were to be allocated as suitable for housing development. The full District Council would receive the papers on 18 November and come to a conclusion. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment was not a Core Strategy document but a strategy for identifying sites – a different document for a different purpose. It was open to anyone to challenge the Officers' judgement on suitability of sites if it was considered that the the grounds Officers claimed to have been met had not in fact been met.

Cllr. Snowling was aware of some concern that the SLAA report seemed to refer in an unqualified way to the housing figures in the South East Plan, but the Core Strategy Report would make it quite clear that the District Council did not accept the figures in the South East Plan as being correct. The Core Strategy was the important document and this was nowhere near adoption at this time. Once the submission document had been approved, there would be a further formal consultation before submitting the document to the Secretary of State in June 2010. It was quite open to anyone feeling strongly about any site to make representations to Officers and individual Members of the District Council. With reference to Minute 314.2 of the meeting of the P&T committee held on 18 August 2009, when Mr. Jesson of the Lindfield Preservation Society expressed his support for a tripartite arrangement of the two Lindfield Parish Councils and the Lindfield Preservation Society, it was suggested that there should be three representatives from Lindfield Parish Council and it was AGREED that the representatives should be Cllrs. Blunden, Snowling and Gomme. Lindfield Rural Parish Council should be contacted with a view to arranging an early meeting.

326. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE. REPORT TO INCLUDE:

- 326.1 Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 23 July 2009. These Minutes had been circulated by email the previous day. Before inviting Members to receive the Minutes, Councillor Davies, the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, drew attention to several items requiring the Council's approval.
- 326.2 To confirm the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the Annual Accounts for the 2008/09 Financial Year be approved and that the revised balance sheet be approved for signature by the Chairman of Council. The Accounts had been agreed at the last Full Council, but there had been a small discrepancy of £9.20 on the Income and Expenditure Account, which appeared to have arisen from a

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previous VAT return and had been shown as an adjustment until such time as the discrepancy could be identified. The Internal Auditor had been aware of this discrepancy and had pointed out that that this did not need to be included on the Balance Sheet, which balanced correctly when the £9.20 was omitted. The original Balance Sheet had been signed in order to meet the deadline for submission of the Accounts to the External Auditor. AGREED to record for the Minutes that Council APPROVED the signing of the revised Balance Sheet.

- 326.3 Statements of Account / Budget Progress and Bank Reconciliation for the period 01.06.09 to 30.06.09 and 01.07.09 to 31.07.09. Cllrs. Davies and Willcox continued to conduct periodic internal control checks of the books, which had been in order at the last inspection. RESOLVED to approve the statements of account / budget progress and bank reconciliation for the periods 01.06.09 – 30.06.09 and 01.07.09 – 31.07.09.
- 326.4 List of cheques for approval. NOTED several large sums paid out: £1003.09 for the Notice Board; £1637.03 for the new website; £3,769.48 for the new street light on the Common and payments totalling £5,691.29 for the public toilets maintenance contract and for the final payment for the refurbishment of the toilets (the 2.5% retention). AGREED the list of cheques for the period 26 June to 27 August.2009, totalling £23,678.58. NOTED that the Petty Cash balance stood at £158.90 and that no payments had been made under Section 137. The Chairman of Council signed the list of cheques.
- 326.5 Allocation of funds. Cllr. Davies stated that Local Council accounting was totally different from the commercial and charities sector, however it was generally accepted that organisations should have enough funds to cover at least three months' expenditure. Cllr. Davies continued to maintain that this was good basic policy. The guidance to local councils recommended 3 – 12 months gross expenditure to be held in General Reserve and the F&GP Committee had agreed in September 2008 that the General Reserve should be in the order of £27,500.00. However the RFO had produced a paper pointing out that it currently stood at just £3,837.27 because of changes made after the current year's budget had been finalised. The RFO's paper asked the Council to consider the re-allocation of funds under the headings of outstanding projects and reserves, thereby increasing the General Reserve to comply with official guidance. The F&GP Committee on 23 July 2009 had agreed to defer the decision on the adjustment of reserves until the next meeting by which time the second instalment of the precept would have been paid into the Council's account. However Cllr. Davies had since discussed this matter at length with the RFO and was recommending that Council should agree to the reallocation of funds to raise the General Reserve to £23,837.27.

A breakdown of allocated and unallocated funds as at 31 July 2009 was tabled: cash in hand stood at £93,359.17 and this was allocated to two different sets of reserves: £22,441.10 for outstanding projects, of which £19,899.60 had now been spent leaving £2,541.50 remaining, and designated reserves of £51,232.39 of which £46,312.19 remained unspent. The remaining sums of £48,853.69, added to £3,837.27 gave a total of £52,690.96 currently allocated to reserves, which when subtracted from £93,359.17 cash in hand, left £40,668.21 unallocated funds for the revenue part of the budget. The RFO had estimated that the Council would be spending around £18,000.00 before the end of September by which time the second payment of the precept - £79,123.00 - would have been received. That would give the Council about £100,000.00 for the final six months of the year. At the current estimate, £60,000.00 would be spent by the end of the year, leaving £40,000.00 in the general fund.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to ask the RFO to reallocate a portion of the £40,668.21 shown as "unallocated funds in hand" in order to raise the General Reserve by £20,000.00 to £23,837.27.

- 326.6 Appointment of the Internal Auditor for 2009/10. AGREED the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to reappoint Mrs. G. Pritchitt as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor for 2009/10 at an annual fee of £475 to include 2 inspections with mileage costs at 40p a mile.
- 326.7 Report of the Internal Auditor. Mrs. Pritchitt had set out her comments under four headings:

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- § Long term debtors/creditors (VAT) - Mrs. Pritchitt had recommended that VAT should be reclaimed more frequently. The Chairman of the F&GP Committee would be discussing this with the RFO
 - § Books not balanced at time of visit - this had been due to the date for publishing the accounts having been brought forward and the minor discrepancy outstanding at the time of the Auditor's visit. Mrs. Pritchitt had since reviewed the finalised accounts and completed her section of the Annual Return which had gone off to the External Auditor.
 - § Audit trails - Mrs. Pritchitt had recommended that minute numbers be written on vouchers for payment to show when expenditure was agreed. This was good policy and was now being done where there was a specific resolution to that effect.
 - § Bookkeeping - noted that this referred to the discrepancy of £9.20
- 326.8 Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 23 July 2009. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 23 July be received and their recommendations confirmed.
327. DENMANS COURT: LEASE OF THE PREMISES
- 327.1 A group of Councillors and the Clerk had seen the "travelling draft" provided by the Council's Solicitor but there were still several unresolved matters. A fair copy of the draft was awaited.
328. LINDFIELD VILLAGE PLAN JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT AND TO CONSIDER ANY ISSUES RAISED BY THE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
- 328.1 Cllr. Gomme reported that the Advisory Committee had decided to stand down and it had been understood that this was unanimous, however there was some indication that an invitation to all the members to join the new group might have a positive result. Members of the Advisory Group had been disappointed that more had not been achieved but Members of the Council acknowledged that a lot had in fact been achieved.
- The Clerk had circulated an annotated copy of the report by email on 29 June and a hard copy was tabled. The Clerk's comments were AGREED. It was AGREED to write to Mr. Higgins and the other members of the Advisory Committee making these points, stating that a lot of the objectives had been met, thanking them for their work and commitment in producing annual reports and inviting them to join the new group which was to replace the existing Advisory Group.
329. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE LINDFIELD LOCAL ACTION TEAM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 15 JUNE 2009.
- 329.1 Councillor Nicolle, as Chairman of the LLAT had asked that the minutes of the last meeting be noted. The LAT had concluded that the original purpose of the group had been fulfilled as there was now a better liaison with the police and other bodies were very much involved with the general issues of anti social behaviour. Public support for the group had diminished and it had been decided to terminate the LLAT. The minutes stated that, as the Parish Council had paid for hall hire for the meetings, this should be repaid and the balance of funds sent to Streetmate, assuming this was acceptable to Sussex Police who had contributed financially to the formation of LLAT. However the LLAT Chairman had consulted the Parish Clerk and RFO and had asked for the following statement to be brought to Full Council. "As I am unable to attend the Council meeting on Thursday I would be grateful if you would draw the attention of Councillors to the following proposal which I fully support both as a Councillor and former Chairman of LLAT, notwithstanding the proposal in the LLAT Minutes to reimburse the Council for the cost of room charges. On reflection, the LLAT was formed under the umbrella of the Council so reimbursement would not seem appropriate and I

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would suggest that the remaining funds (approx £500) should be given to Streetmate, subject to Police approval, the Police being the original donors of the money. This view has the support of Val Upton, Michael Davies and Richard Bryant, former members of LLAT".

It was AGREED to inform the LLAT that the Parish Council would not be seeking reimbursement for the hall hire payments.

330. COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES

330.1 A letter from Judith Morgan, Members' Administration Officer at MSDC was tabled. Members were being asked for their views on allowances received to ensure that the amounts set were appropriate. Councillors were asked to reply individually.

331. APPROVAL OF MEETING DATES 2010.

331.1 The draft list of meeting dates for 2010 was APPROVED.

332. TO NOTE ANY CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS RECEIVED.

332.1 Comments had been invited on three consultation documents and would be considered by the Consultation Panel in consultation with the Clerk.

- School Safety Zone – Blackthorns School and Oathall Community College – response by 9 September – Councillors Blunden, Nicolle and Snowling
- Mid Sussex Affordable Warmth Strategy 2009-12. Replies to be in by 30 September. Cllrs. Blunden, Nicolle and Upton
- Mid Sussex District Council draft Statement of Licensing Policy - Gambling Act 2005. Responses due by 25 October. Cllrs. Blunden, Nicolle and Henton.

333. LINDFIELD ARTS FESTIVAL (MAY 2010).

333.1 As the organisers were to hire the King Edward Hall for the proposed Festival, Councillor Snowling, as a trustee, and Councillors Leach and Blunden, as members of the KEH Management Committee, declared personal interest in this item.

333.2 Members discussed the proposals as outlined by Mrs. Fuller in her presentation at the beginning of the meeting and were impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment of the organisers. However it was recognised that the Council had to be cautious about its involvement. There were concerns regarding the request for the Parish Council to manage the funds and this would have to be investigated. It was appreciated that the organisers might have difficulty securing funding without a financial history and a constitution. If the Parish Council found that it was unable to act as an umbrella organisation, it should try to identify a group that could provide effective backing. It was suggested that the Chairman and one other member could liaise with the organisers.

334. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

334.1 No items of other business were raised.

This part of the meeting concluded at 9.10 p.m. There followed a second period for questions / comments from members of the public.

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Parking restrictions – Denmans Lane. Mr. D. Macmillan, on behalf of Lindfield Preservation Society, stated that the Council must consider the problems of the residents who had so far enjoyed unrestricted parking in Denmans Lane and asked whether MSDC would be making space for them elsewhere. Emergency access must also be addressed. Mr. Macmillan applauded the Parish Council for displaying the proposal maps on the notice board.

Volunteers. Mr. D. Macmillan was amazed and disgusted that volunteers would appear to be prevented from helping because they could not be covered by the Parish Council's insurance. Mr. N. Kerslake added that it was the cardinal tenet of insurance that Insurers would only insure the client's own property. When the Council had been considering taking adverse possession of the Spring in Spring Lane, Zurich had advised that this could not be insured and the liability would be totally on the Parish Council.

Toll House. Mr. Macmillan asked what action was being taken by the Parish Council and MSDC regarding the deteriorating condition of the Toll House.

Public Toilets. Mr. Macmillan expressed gratitude to the Parish Council for taking on the Denmans Lane public toilets. He suggested that if joining in with the MSDC maintenance contract did not make economic sense, the Parish Council should consider independent arrangements.

Planning Committee / MSDC Core Strategy Policy. Mr. Macmillan stated that opinions had been expressed within the Lindfield Preservation Society that the usual declarations made by MSDC Members who also sat on the Parish Council were unnecessary on matters of great concern. What they expressed in Parish Council and its Committee meetings should be what they expressed at MSDC meetings.

Budget. Mr. N. Kerslake stated that the budget process was simple but felt that the Parish Council had run a risk by its decision made at this meeting because expenditure did not occur on the basis of a regular amount each month. If most of the expenditure occurred within the next few months it would be necessary to take from the designated reserves. The Council may be back loading the budget.

335. The following item related to staff matters and therefore it was MOVED and RESOLVED under Standing Order 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".

The confidential part of the meeting began at 9.25 p.m.

336. STAFFING MATTERS: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME.

336.1 A statutory resolution was passed in respect of admission of a new member to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The meeting ended at 9.27 p.m.