



Lindfield Parish Council Newsletter

April 2011

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Village Spring Clean Saturday 9th April

Since 1999 the Parish Council has undertaken an annual Spring Clean of the Village, an initiative started by the Tidy Britain Group. A number of 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. In addition, street furniture, such as the posts around the Pond and the Common, has been washed down and vegetation in the footpaths has been clipped back. Encouraged by the good turn out the last two years, the Parish Council will be holding this year's Spring Clean on the morning of Saturday 9th April from 9.30 am until 1.00 pm and there will be free refreshments for all participants. Those who have taken part in the past will tell you that it is a very worthwhile exercise and we are always looking for new volunteers. Any children taking part must be supervised by an adult (parents or 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. 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.

Lindfield Parish Meeting - 14th April

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 Thursday 14 April at 8.00 p.m. 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).

Council Elections 5th May

Some of our current serving members are standing down after this term so we are hoping for a healthy crop of nominations at this year's elections to fill all of our 12 places. However if there is a shortfall we will arrange to co-opt members and details will be posted on the Parish Council's notice board in Denmans Lane.

The present Council's vision for the next few years is represented in a set of broad objectives, agreed at the Council meeting on 20 January this year, for the new Council to pick up or put down. Changes in Government policy are placing more emphasis on community action and there should be a great deal for an enthusiastic Parish Council to achieve for its residents. The present Council's greatest achievement has been taking over and renovating the public toilets in Denmans Lane. We have also negotiated a licence from WSCC enabling us to maintain the High Street grass verges and other similar opportunities may come our way in the years to come.

Our main objectives are to:

- Continue search for larger premises to incorporate Parish Office meeting room, public access to Village Archives.
- Build new toilets on Lindfield Common to replace those previously demolished by Mid Sussex District Council.
- Become a Quality Parish Council.
- Use the Power of Wellbeing. In particular to consider the feasibility of taking over some of the services carried out by the District and County Councils which they may no longer be able to afford to continue.
- Take over and manage the Wilderness Field.
- Continue to work towards a merger with Lindfield Rural Parish Council.
- Consider new corporate logo.
- Acquire additional land for allotments.
- Provide internet access for all.
- Continue to address issues at the Lewes Road/ High Street junction.
- Consider next steps following Village Plan

Members of Lindfield Parish Council:

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

Cllr. William Blunden
(Chairman)

Cllr. Margaret Nicolle
(Vice Chairman)

Cllr. Margaret Hersey

Cllr. Mike Leach

Cllr. Mike Allen

Cllr. Roger Pickett

Lindfield Parish Council Office is open on Tuesdays 1.00pm to 4.00pm, Thursdays and Fridays 10.00am to 1.00pm – when members of the public are welcome to come along to look at planning applications for Lindfield, apply for bus passes and obtain 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:
Mr. Pieter Hemsley

Responsible Financial
Officer: Mrs. Sue Koliien

Lindfield Civic Service

The annual Civic Service will be held on Sunday 15 May at 11.15 a.m. at All Saints Church. All are welcome. Coffee and biscuits will be available in the Tiger lounge after the Service.

Public Toilets on the Common

Thank you to the 583 residents of the Lindfield urban Parish who responded to the survey about provision of public toilets on the Common. 529 of the replies we received were in support of the proposal and there were some very good points made which we will take into consideration as we plan this project. The first hurdle is to get approval from the owners of the Common - Mid Sussex District Council. Without that we can go no further. We have written to the Chief Executive accordingly. If MSDC is happy for us to proceed we will move on to considering the location and having plans drawn up. This will be a lengthy process as we will have to get planning permission for the new building and then an application will have to go to the Secretary of State for permission under the Commons Act 2006. Look out for further consultations.

Police Surgeries

PC Geoff Bennett (Community Police Constable for Lindfield and four other parishes) and / or Police Community Support officers, Stuart Clough and Anika Arnold, continue to hold a surgery once a month in the Parish Office for residents to come along and raise any issues of concern. Their next surgeries will be advertised in the Parish Office and on the noticeboard.

Mobile Civic Amenity Collections

The refuse freighters will be in the Tollgate car park on Sundays 15 May and 10 July 2011, between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon, 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.

CRIME PREVENTION MORNING

Sat 9th April

Our local Neighbourhood Policing Team are holding a Crime Prevention Morning, kindly hosted by the United Reformed Church on Saturday 9th April from 10 am until 1 pm

This is an opportunity to speak to your local officers regarding crime prevention and you may also like to take the opportunity to join Farm Watch and take advantage of the free messaging service. They are also hoping the Fire Brigade will join in with this event.

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

Cllr. Michael
Davies

Cllr. Christopher
Snowling

Cllr. Alan
Gomme

Cllr. Valerie
Upton

Cllr. Stephen
Henton

Cllr. Steve
Willcox

Environment & Amenities

Streetlights Working Group

A small group of councillors assist the clerk with the management of the streetlights in Lindfield that are provided by the Parish Council and also assists her in other matters relating to the streetlights provided by MSDC or WSCC. The group reports to the Environment & Amenities Committee on a regular basis.

At present the Parish has 44 of its own lights spread around the village, these have been provided over the years as safety and security illumination for those locations where MSDC or WSCC do not provide them but the Parish Council considers lighting is required. This Council is of course responsible for paying for the energy these lights use and for their maintenance.

Recent activities of the Streetlights Working Group have included the annual survey of all our street lights, a survey of lights in the Welkin, consideration of requests from residents for new streetlights, a meeting with the representative of our current streetlight maintenance contractor, consideration of quotations for the streetlight maintenance contract for the next two years from 1st April and consideration of a quotation for having the Parish lights accrued into West Sussex County Council's Private Finance Initiative.

Current matters that the Working Group is handling include; service and cost issues with our current maintenance contractor, replacement WSCC lights in the High Street not being painted green, temporary replacement WSCC light outside the Co-op in the High Street needing to be replaced by a permanent swan neck type and a pair of lights in Chestnut Close that are on all the time.

The Council remains grateful to residents who report faults with streetlights in the village and would encourage anyone who notices a light is not working to report it to the Parish Office in the usual ways.

High Street verges

A survey was undertaken during February of the condition of the grass verges in the High Street with particular regard to the flowering this year of the croci. A full report and recommendations for remedial re-sowing of some patches of the verges where there is heavy wear from foot traffic across them and for a long term program of additional bulb planting in some sections of the verges will be made to the next meeting of the Environment & Amenities Committee.

Dog Fouling

Recent Ward reports by councillors to the Environment & Amenities Committee have again featured an escalating incidence of uncleared dog mess around the village. In one very embarrassing incident a councillor had to steer a visiting VIP around a real pile in the High Street. We would remind all dog owners that Mid Sussex District Council officers are now empowered to issue penalty notices to dog owners who do not clear up after their pets. Leaflets explaining the Dog Control Order Legislation, are being given out by the Park Rangers when they are on patrol and are also available from pet shops and veterinary surgeries or by emailing Rangers@midsussex.gov.uk. and more information is available at www.midsussex.gov.uk/dogfouling.



**No
Fouling**

Litter bins

The Environment & Amenities Committee has begun a program of replacing life-expired litter bins that are sited outside the Conservation Area with a new type of bin (as photographed in Hickmans Lane) and these seem to have met with general approval by our residents. The Committee is therefore considering whether these would be suitable as replacements for the open top wrought iron bins within the Conservation Area. Comments from residents about this idea would be welcomed by the Committee and can be made in the usual ways through the Parish Office.



Welcome to Lindfield signs

Three of the "Welcome signs" that adorn the gateways to the village have had to be replaced by the Parish Council recently, the old ones had been defaced by the removal of the WSCC crests and it has proved to be more cost effective to replace the complete signs rather than to attempt to replace just the previously stuck on crests. As the new signs are printed with the crest as part of the overall design during manufacture, it will not be possible for so called "collectors" to remove them in future.



Parish Council meetings

April to June 2011

Thursday	7 April	Environment and Amenities Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	12 April	Planning and Traffic Committee (Full)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	14 April	PARISH MEETING (not a Council meeting)	8.00 p.m.
Wednesday	4 May	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	12 May	Annual Meeting of the Council	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	19 May	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	24 May	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	9 June	Environment and Amenities Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	14 June	Planning and Traffic Committee (Full)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	23 June	Full Council	7.30 p.m.

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 and end 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 to speak, for a maximum of two minutes each, at the invitation of the Chairman.