



Lindfield Parish Council Newsletter

Parish Office: 6 Denmans Lane, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2LB

Telephone: 01444 484115 Fax: 01444 484918

Email: clerks@lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk Web site: www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Christmas Festival Night Tuesday 7th December



PREPARATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

Festival Night are already under way.

We've changed the day to Tuesday this year so that the United Reformed Church can be made ready without conflicting with other room bookings in the hall.

PLEASE NOTE – THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE WILL NOT BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN THE AFTERNOON OF TUESDAY

7 DECEMBER as we'll all be busy preparing for the evening.

Father Christmas is expected at the United Reformed Church at 6.00 p.m. (a little bit earlier than previous years, for sake of the younger children)

The High Street will be closed from 5.30 - 9.30 p.m., with diversions in place and the festivities will go on from 6.00 p.m. and finish by 9.00 p.m.

We hope plenty of people will take stalls – letters will have gone out to regular stall holders but please contact Pieter Hemsley at the Parish Office if you have not received a letter and would like to book a stall – 01444 484115 clerks@lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk. The charge for stalls will be £5 for charities and £10 for commercial stalls and there will be no refunds unless the event is cancelled by the Parish Council.

We would like to remind any organisations thinking about selling beverages containing alcohol that you will need to apply for a Temporary Event Notice from the Safety & Licensing Team at Mid Sussex District Council - telephone 01444 477294.

Stall holders will have to bring their own tables and chairs and, as the High Street is pretty dark in places, we suggest bringing some battery operated lighting for their stalls.

HIGH STREET GRASS CUTTING

THANK YOU to all 62 of you who returned the slips in our last newsletter and sent emails and letters telling us your views about bringing forward the first cut of the High Street grass verges, which has always been delayed until the last week in May, to allow the crocus foliage to feed the bulbs. There were some very strongly held views both in favour and against cutting the grass earlier and the result was 46 against and 16 in support of cutting the grass at the beginning of May, if there was a risk of losing the display of croci the following Spring. The Parish Council will be considering this when we review the grass cutting contract early next year.

Meanwhile, the grass is now being cut fortnightly by Haywards Heath Town Council's groundsmen, under contract to the Parish Council. They are using box mowers and collecting the cuttings each time. Despite the dry weather in July, we hope that over time the verges will start to look better cared for.

VILLAGE ORDERLY

THE PARISH COUNCIL is delighted to welcome Paul Frost back to Lindfield as our new Village Orderly. Paul will be employed by the Parish Council on a part time basis and his duties will include litter picking to supplement the service provided by Mid Sussex District Council through their contractors, SERCO. Unfortunately there is a limit to what the Parish Council is permitted to do on the Highway and we regret that he will not be sweeping the road gutters but we believe there is plenty for him to do to make the village look tidier. We have to be careful not to interfere with the SERCO arrangements though, so Paul will be concentrating on areas that are not cleaned frequently by SERCO.



Winter Management Plan

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL has issued a very welcome guidance booklet on preparing a local Winter Management Plan. The experience of last winter has highlighted the importance of co-operation between the various agencies and the value of the Parish Councils' roles within their communities. We are currently looking at what we can do to help the principal authorities with their plan and what we can put in place so that we are in a better position to help ourselves.

It is worth reading the following quotation from the guidance which should dispel fears of litigation: "In a recent letter sent by the Ministry of Justice it stated that 'The prospects of a person who volunteers to clear snow from a pavement being successfully sued for damages by a person who subsequently slips on the cleared area and is injured are very small'. A snow-clearer does have a duty to clear with reasonable care so as not to create a new and worse risk". The guidance goes on to list the do's and don'ts which should be observed:

Do:

- move snow to a porous surface such as a grass verge or garden;
- spread salt/grit evenly and at appropriate rates (see below);
- clear any excess salt or grit once the snow / ice has melted

Don't:

- use water to melt snow and ice if there is a risk it will refreeze;
- move snow to another location where it will create another risk, such as another part of the pavement, road or where people are likely to walk;
- use excessive salt, grit or other materials so as to create a new or worse risk once the snow / ice has melted.

We are advised that over-salting is damaging to the environment and a waste of a limited resource. The recommended spread rate for hand salting is approximately 20 grams of salt/grit per metre square, which is a surprisingly small amount but apparently all that is needed to be effective.

When our Winter Management Plan has been drawn up it will become part of the Parish Council's Emergency Plan which we are also bringing out shortly and we will be publishing relevant information in due course, including keyholders for the salt bins.

The salt in our bins is provided by West Sussex County Council on the understanding that it is kept for use on the public pavements, not on private property. Last winter one of our bins was broken into and a large quantity of salt was taken, with little evidence of it having been used in the vicinity. If we'd had another period of ice and snow we would not have had enough left to treat the pavements in the High Street, which we tried to keep clear. We have ordered some extra salt bins and WSCC will be filling them in October but they will not refill the bins if they believe the contents are being misappropriated.

We would like to build into our Plan a list of volunteers who can be called on to help clear snow if need be, particularly along the main routes to the shops and the surgery. A number of us from the Parish Council can say with all honesty, when we tried to keep the High Street clear last winter, that this is no mean task - so the more people who can share it the better. If you would like to offer your help with this please give your name, address and telephone number to the Clerks at the Parish Office so that we can co-ordinate our efforts.



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LIME TREE SAPPLINGS

THERE HAS BEEN some discussion over the last few months about the hybrid lime saplings that were planted in the High Street by WSCC in 2008, when a proposal was under consideration for a phased replacement of all the trees. That proposal was finally rejected and the existing trees were subsequently pollarded. Views differ about whether the saplings should be left in or taken out - on the one hand, there are strongly held opinions that the mature pollarded limes have a long life expectancy so they should be the only trees in the High Street verges and that the saplings would be detrimental to the health of the older trees and interfere with their growth. On the other hand, there is also a view, supported by professional arboricultural specialists, that in a highway situation the life expectancy is shorter and that young trees should be planted from time to time to ensure a succession of trees in the High Street; if they are regularly pollarded they should not interfere with each others' development. WSCC's arboriculturist has advised that if the saplings are to be moved, this year would be the best time to do this.

We had a site meeting on 7 July with representatives of WSCC and the Lindfield Preservation Society at which the position of each sapling was considered in relation to the other trees. The Parish Council, at the meeting on 26 August, agreed to support the recommendation to remove seven of the young trees which were close to mature ones. Of the three that will remain, the saplings outside 67 and 76 High Street were considered to be well spaced. Until last year, the older tree to the north of Abbots Chemist had never been pollarded and had grown very tall. It has responded well to pollarding so far but, to bring it in line with the average height of the other trees, it will have to be severely pollarded again next time. The sapling next to it will be left in place in case further pollarding of the mature tree is unsuccessful.

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 on Thursday 30 September 10 - 11.30 am, Tuesday 26 October 1 - 2.30 pm, Friday 19 November 10 - 11.30 am and Thursday 23 December 10 - 11.30 am.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

LAST CHRISTMAS we had something of a challenge over the Christmas Lights, as the trees had been pollarded and we had to make sure the lights and electric cabling were high enough from the ground to meet safety requirements. We achieved this by stretching catenary wire between the trees and attaching the cable to them using cable ties. There has been some concern that the nails might be detrimental to the trees, so WSCC's arboriculturist has suggested an alternative, using tension brackets to secure the wire and battens to the trees instead of nails and the Parish Council has agreed that when the lights go up this year we will get contractors to fit these brackets. When the trees are next due to be pollarded we will have to reconsider the Christmas lights.

The Parish Council has also agreed to brighten up the Pond for the Christmas period by putting pea lights in the tree on the island.

AMENITY FREIGHTER

THE FREIGHTERS will be in the Tollgate car park on Sundays 14th November 2010 and 16 January 2011, between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon. 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.

Parish Council Meetings Oct to Dec 2010

Thursday	7 October	Environment and Amenities Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	19 October	Planning and Traffic Committee (Full)	8.00 p.m.
Monday	8 November	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	11 November	Full Council	7:30 p.m.
Thursday	25 November	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	30 November	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	9 December	Environment and Amenities Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	21 December	Planning and Traffic Committee (Full)	8.00 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.

MEMBERS OF LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL:

Cllr. William Blunden (Chairman)	Cllr. Margaret Hersey
Cllr. Margaret Nicolle (Vice Chairman)	Cllr. Mike Leach
Cllr. Mike Allen	Cllr. Roger Pickett
Cllr. Michael Davies	Cllr. Christopher Snowling
Cllr. Alan Gomme	Cllr. Valerie Upton
Cllr. Stephen Henton	Cllr. Steve Willcox

They can all be contacted, in the first instance, via the Parish Office or by reference to the Lindfield Village Directory and Year Book, which contains details of individual contact numbers.

Parish Clerk:	Mrs. Christine Irwin
Deputy Parish Clerk:	Mr. Pieter Hemsley
Responsible Financial Officer:	Mrs. Sue Kolien

PARISH OFFICE

Lindfield Parish Council Office is open on Tuesdays 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. – 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.

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