

# LINDFIELD PARISH MEETING

The annual **LINDFIELD PARISH MEETING** was held via Microsoft Teams, on **TUESDAY, 27 April 2021**, chaired by the Chairman of Lindfield Parish Council, Mr William Blunden.

**Present:** Lindfield Parish Councillors:

Mr W Blunden (Chairman),	Mrs. L. Grace,
Mr. S. Henton,	Mrs. M. Hersey,
Mr. R. Plass,	Mrs. A. Matthews,
Mrs. V. Upton. (Vice Chairman)	Mr. C. Wood,

West Sussex County Council Volunteer Waster Prevention advisor: Colin McFarlin

**In attendance:** Mr A. Funnell (Clerk, Lindfield Parish Council)

5 Members of the public

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR MR WILLIAM BLUNDEN.**

In accordance with the statutory duties under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraphs 15 (1) and 11 (1), the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. W. Blunden had called the meeting and now presided at the meeting. The notice and agenda, had been displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard and had also been available on the Parish Council's website.

The Chairman reminded advised that as we are within an election period any attempt by a member(s) of the public to promote a political party or candidate would not be permitted. MSDC electoral services have confirmed that candidates my attend but only as members of the public (i.e. they are attending in a non-political capacity).

**2. MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 28 MAY 2019.**

The Chairman called for approval of the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 28 May 2019. These were **AGREED** and the Chairman **SIGNED** the Minutes as being a true record of that meeting.

**3. REPORT BY COLIN MCFARLIN**

Colin McFarlin introduced himself and explained that he was a volunteer waste prevention advisor for West Sussex County Council (WSSCC). The voluntary roles were set up about 10 years ago. The purpose of the scheme was to train individuals who could promote recycling. The role involves passing a course at Brighton University and undertaking update training every six months.

History of recycling – Litter collection goes back to 1875 when then was a Public Health Act. This was during the industrial revolution and they realised that litter was a big problem. The Public Health Act included a requirement that every house in the country would have its bins collected once a week. The Public Health Act made it the responsibility of County Councils or the equivalent to collect the waste. County Councils have the responsibility for collecting the rubbish and they now work with the District Councils in this capacity. This system has led to each County Council deciding which rubbish is to be collected and what can be recycled. This means across the country recycling can be very different. In the UK there are

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341 collection authorities and between them, they have over 57 different ways of recycling rubbish.

What can be recycled in West Sussex:

- Paper
- Terracycle packs
- Plastics – bottles, tubs, trays
- Aluminium foil, cans
- Glass

Everything that can go into your recycling bin is recycled. We think of recycling as resold as all these items can be sold. Anything that can be recycled has value. All these items are therefore sold and used to create other products. It is important to put the correct items in the recycling bin. Contamination of items also is an issue (currently running at approximately 9% through West Sussex and 6% in Mid Sussex).

Items recycled need to be clean dry and loose. For an item to be clean it should not contaminate any other items when collected. For example, half-full tins of food will contaminate and or damage other items. Dry means that any item is not wet/damp. Loose means not putting items within other items. Items must be put into the bin separately. Items can be squashed. Bottle tops must be removed. Metal tops can be recycled. Small plastic bottle lids cannot be recycled as they get caught in the sorting machinery. Plastic tops need to be jam jar size or above to go in the recycling. Smaller plastic tops should go into the black bin.

All the recycling items go to the plant at Ford. This plant serves the entire county and sorts the recycling.

Black bin waste - There is a large recycling plant in Horsham that takes all black bin waste for sorting. This plant extracts various groups of items to ensure they do not end up in the landfill. From your black bin, 75% of the contents can be extracted and recycled. Some items at present though cannot be recycled and so have to be landfilled. All black bin waste received at the plant is put through an industrial shredder. The shredding then goes on a conveyor belt. Paper, cardboard, and plastic are removed. These are turned into refuse-derived fuel. This fuel is sold to industry and used in place of coal. The largest group of items in black bins in West Sussex is food (40%). The waste food is extracted and put in an anaerobic digester. The digester turns the food into energy and generates electricity that powers approximately 10,000 every day. The waste product from this process is low-grade compost. This is then used by the WSCC on its open spaces and sold commercially.

Councils are keen to avoid sending items to landfill as there is a landfill tax. One bin collection lorry of landfill will cost the local authority £1,000 in tax. The cost of maintaining landfill sites and collecting the waste adds another £500 to the total. This is money that could otherwise be spent on improving the recycling services. Last year there was a 2.7% reduction in volume sent to landfill.

Initiatives for the future – In Mid-Sussex the small electrical items collections have launched. Food collections will be launched by the end of next year. In addition, clothing collections will also start. Trials on the schemes are already in progress, for example, food waste in Arun District Council. These new services are required as there will be a tax on councils that do not offer them.

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There are also several other ways of recycling such as charity shops, & supermarket carrier bag bins. One supermarket has been working on a scheme to turn carrier bags into a material that can fill potholes. The supermarket has used this material to resurface one of their car parks. Online stores are now also using parcels that are more suitable for the size of the contents. In addition, rather than using plastic inside cardboard or paper is being used. These can all be recycled. Paper tape is now used instead of plastic to aid recycling.

The Chairman thanked Colin McFarlin for his informative talk.

A question was asked regarding the appropriate disposal of nappies / clinical waste. Colin confirmed that nappies are processed in the same way as food (in the anaerobic digester). There are plans that by the end of next year that there will be a nappy/sanitary products collection. If these are collected separately this will help increase the recycling rate.

#### **4. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT: COUNCILLOR MR. WILLIAM BLUNDEN.**

Councillor Blunden reported as follows:

This has been a very interesting and challenging year for your Parish Council. Due to Covid-19 the Council like all other businesses and local authorities has had to adapt to a different way of working. We have continued to work and hold meetings throughout the pandemic. Virtual meetings have taken place by using Microsoft Teams.

The pandemic, unfortunately, resulted in the cancellation of the Spring Clean (both 2020 & 2021) and the Christmas Festival Night.

As 2019 was an election year in May that year we said farewell to former Councillors Mike Allen, Judy Durrant, Sarah Richmond and Chris Snowling. We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all of them for their service to the community and their contribution to the work of the council and the wellbeing of the village. On a more positive note, we welcomed Linda Grace, John Stevens, Amanda Mathews, Mike Leach and Cavan Wood onto the Parish Council.

The council now exercises the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011) and continues to invest in training its staff and members.

The parish council provided the money for the new play equipment installed on the Hickmans Lane playground.

The Village Orderly under the supervision of the Clerk has been deploying the SIDS (speed indicator devices) in different locations in the village which have resulted in the lowering of the speed of most cars. The data recorded by the devices has been very useful and is shared with West Sussex County Council. Residents can view the data gained on the Parish Councils website.

The parish council have now taken ownership of the Wilderness Field and look forward to maintaining this green lung for the benefit of all of our residents.

We have also paid out more than £4,760 in grants to local groups and charities since the financial year 2019/20.

We passed a Climate Change resolution, and have appointed a working group to produce a plan for the council to consider.

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Progress albeit slow is being made on the proposed reinstatement of toilets on Lindfield Common.

As with most other local government bodies, the real work of the parish council is done in standing committees, of which we have three. I would now like to introduce the current chairmen of these committees who shoulder much of the workload.

The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is Stephen Henton with Roger Pickett as his Vice-Chairman. This Committee's main purpose is to keep the council in a sound financial state, together with the Responsible Financial Officer.

The Chairman of the Planning and Traffic is Ron Plass with Margaret Hersey as his Vice-Chairman. This committee is a particularly busy one, meeting every three weeks to meet MSDC's deadlines for comments on planning applications

The present team is completed by myself as chairman of the Environment and Amenities Committee assisted by Roger Pickett as my Vice Chairman and finally Val Upton - who is the Vice Chairman of the council.

Despite the challenges and frustrations, several achievements can be reported.

## Planning and Traffic Committee

The Committee has continued to review applications in the village fulfilling its role as a statutory consultee. In the 2020/21 financial year, the council has reviewed 146 applications. Within our Parish, the Committee has recently continued to raise objections to the proposed development on the former Tavistock and Summerhill School site.

The parish council agreed to back a resident's TRO application for Lewes Road.

## Finance and General Purposes Committee

A total of £2,260.00 in grants has been awarded during the 2020/21 financial year, to support organisations whose work has benefits to the local community.

Toilets on the Common – MSDC have offered a draft agreement for owners and managers consent to install toilets on the Common. We are now in the process of applying to the Planning Inspectorate for Commons Act Consent.

The F&GP Committee has thoroughly reviewed the budget and reserves over the last year and the council agreed its recommendations on the Budget and Precept for 2021/22 in January. The budget is £226,300 and the Precept of £172,000.

The Deputy Clerk has also acquired his CiLCA qualification so now the council has two Officers with this qualification. This allows us to exercise the General Power of Competence.

In mid-January, the council donated two computers which were surplus to requirements to Computers For Kids to help children and families access computers for homeschooling.

The council continues to invest in its staff and Cllr training.

We are very fortunate to have Mrs Tracy Ely as our RFO who continues to be very efficient in the handling of the council finances.

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Environment and Amenities Committee. This Committee has achieved several objectives for the benefit of the village, the main items being:

Taken ownership of the Wilderness Field for the benefit of all our residents and managed this important well used community asset safely during Covid, LPC have:

- Improved access to the field by the Brushes Lane entrance.
- Installed new fencing and gate.
- Installed bollards (albeit they are continually vandalised).
- Commissioned a tree survey.
- Obtained advice on land management from a local ecologist.

Climate Change, LPC have:

- Installed bird, bee, and insect boxes on council-owned land.
- Agreed to launch a Climate Change award scheme.
- Engaged with members and staff of other local authorities (MSDC, HHTC, LRPC).
- Regular articles in Lindfield Life to promote good practice and updates on the Councils progress.

Keep Lindfield Tidy - The council launched a Keep Lindfield Tidy Campaign in March. We are working with local stakeholders (MSDC, coffee shops, Colin McFarlin and volunteers) to help address the litter issues on the Common and High Street. This resulted in the Council posting its first video on Facebook. The council hopes to tackle the litter issue from an education campaign.

The Denmans Lane public toilets have benefited from a replacement door to the disabled toilet and tile floor in one of the cubicles. New hand-washer driers, electronic door locks, baby changing tables and LED lighting were installed in all of the cubicles.

Denmans Lane Allotments:

- 6 new trees have been planted.
- New water tank has been installed.
- A tree survey has been carried out.

The Village has benefited from the work of our Village Orderly (John Cunningham) who been topping up the service to the village street scene. He can often be seen weeding alongside the pond fence, litter clearance, removing the pavement creep, cutting back the growth on the High Street lime trees, leaf blowing, deploying the SIDs and working on the Wilderness Field the list of his tasks is endless.

## 5. OPEN FORUM

Note due to GDPR we do not record the names of the individuals speaking in the open forum.

Two questions members of the public made comments/suggestions.

Item 1 - A member of Fairer World Lindfield introduced their group and explained the work they had undertaken. They advised that three years ago they achieved Fairtrade accreditation for Lindfield. A year later the group focused on climate and environmental issues and became Fairer World Lindfield. The group have held in-person events in their first year but this year have held virtual events such as the monthly Climate Cafes. These look at topics that have included divesting of pensions, growing your vegetables, using fewer chemicals in household products. The next Climate Café on Monday looks at wildlife in your garden. The meeting in June will look at the circular economy. In July we are looking to do

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something a bit different by inviting local people/groups to attend and talk about what environmental changes they have made in their lives. Fairer World Lindfield would like to invite the council to attend the Climate Café on July 12<sup>th</sup> to share the Climate Action Plan.

In September, the group is looking to take part in the Great Big Green Week (18<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>). This is a national event; the schedule has not yet been confirmed and it is anticipated that many of the events will be taking place online. Fairer World Lindfield was keen to involve local businesses and groups in the event. The group invited the council to take part in the event perhaps by hold a virtual talk.

Fairer World Lindfield will also be talking to the West Sussex County Youth Cabinet and see how they can support the voices of young people.

The Chairman thanked the Fairer World Lindfield member and believed that some members would be interested in looking into attending the events.

Item 2 – A resident noted West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy and detailed their own personal circumstances. The resident advised that they had raised the topic with Fairer World Lindfield, Mims Davis MP, and the local schools. The benefits of increasing schemes could be measured in health, economic, and environmental impact. The government aims to double cycling by 2025, reduce each year the rates of cyclist killed on roads, reverse the decline in walking activity, and increase the percentage of children aged 5-10 who usually walk to school. West Sussex County Council has similar aims and strategies and lists these in the West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy. The document specifically lists ID number 213 the route connecting Scaynes Hill and Lindfield. There is no pavement on this route currently making it very unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians. Comments were made on the data shown by the Council Speed Indicator Devices for the Lewes Road. The West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy also notes potential schemes will be further prioritised when certain criteria are met (segregated inter-community routes that connect places and are designed primarily for utility journeys). Scaynes Hill Sustainability Group have published a report, which had been shared with the council, which on face value make compelling reading but does not highlight the benefits the scheme could bring for Lindfield as well as it could. Connecting communities by cycling/walking routes is a boost for all involved and should be part of a post-Covid green recovery. The route would help promote Lindfield as a rural shopping hub. The resident then requested to put a series of questions to the council.

The Chairman advised that due to the elections that the meeting could not hear or discuss any questions that relate to or involve West Sussex County Council.

The Clerk advised the member of the public that the office would contact them to obtain their questions so that they could be considered.

## 6. CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Finally, I would like to thank you all for attending tonight's meeting and for your contribution during it. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their support over the past year, we have had to adapt to a new way of working to continue serving our community. Special thanks must go to our Clerk, Deputy Clerk, RFO and Village Orderly for the help, patience, guidance, dedication, and support that they have given over the challenging past year.

The meeting finished at 7.54 pm

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DRAFT FOR APPROVAL AT 2022 PARISH MEETING