

LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL ON 23TH JULY 2026

Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held on **THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2026**, at King Edward Hall, Lindfield.

The meeting commenced at 19:45

Parish Councillors:	Mrs. A. Beecroft	Mr D.Lowman *	Mr. I. Wilson
	Mr. W. Blunden	Mrs. A. Matthews	Mr. T. Webster
	Mrs. I. Burns	Mr. S. Nisbett	Mr. C. Wood
	Mrs. L. Grace	Mrs. V. Upton *	Mr. D. Woolley

(*) Denotes absence

In attendance: Mr. A. Funnell (Parish Clerk)

342. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE.

342.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Upton and Lowman.

343. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PECUNIARY INTEREST

343.1 There were three declarations:

- Cllr Beecroft declared a personal interest in the Lindfield Cricket Club Second Square Application as she has family who are members of Lindfield Cricket Club.
- Cllr Matthews declared a personal interest in the Lindfield Cricket Club Second Square Application as she is a member of the Friends of Lindfield Common group.
- Cllr Wood declared an interest in the Community Highways Application as he is the WSCC member for Lindfield Ward.

344. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14 MAY 2026.

344.1 The Chair called for approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 May 2026. It was agreed that the Chair would sign the minutes as being a true record of that meeting with one minor amendment.

345. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

345.1 Two members of Friends of Lindfield Common spoke against the application for a proposed second cricket square. Items raised included:

- The suggested historic use of the southern part of the Common as a rubbish dump between 1956 and 1959.
- The scope of stakeholder consultation on the proposals.
- The land has been common land for over 800 years.
- The application process.
- The character of the common.

346. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

346.1 The Chair made the following comments:

- Parish Meeting – The event was a success, and staff were thanked for organising it.
- Village Day – The council's stall was a great success and saw the launch of the residents and stakeholders survey.
- Liaison with the Lindfield Society – A meeting was held on 28th April to cover several matters.

347. EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT AND CERTIFICATE 2024/25

347.1 Members **noted** the comments of the external auditor on the External Auditor Report and Certificate 2024/25.

348. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2025/26

348.1 Members formally **noted** the report of the internal auditor for 2025/26. Members were also reminded of the Review of the Effectiveness of the System of Internal Audit, which had previously been formally considered by the Council at its meeting on 12 March 2026 (305.4).

349. ANNUAL RETURN 2025/26 SECTION 1: TO APPROVE BY RESOLUTION THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/26

349.1 It was **noted** that Members were required to acknowledge their responsibility for ensuring that there was in place a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. The Council had given due consideration to reports of the Internal Auditor (Minute 348.1 above) and the Review of the Effectiveness of the System of Internal Audit and Internal Control (Minute 348.1 above). The Chair took Members through each of the statements listed in Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement). Members considered their responses and confirmed the statements to the best of their knowledge and belief. It was **agreed** to enter **yes** to each of Statements 1 – 8 & 10 and N/A to Statement 9 (which related to trust funds).

349.2 It was **proposed, seconded and resolved**: to approve Section 1 of the Annual Return (Annual Governance Statement), duly completed, and that it should be signed by the Chair of Council and the Clerk.

350. ANNUAL RETURN 2025/26 SECTION 2 (ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS)

350.1 Members had received, in advance of this meeting, a copy of Section 2 and the supporting documentation.

- Section 2 of the Annual Return, the Supporting Notes and Balance Sheet, had been completed and signed by the Responsible Financial Officer before presenting the documents to the Council, as required.
- The Accounts were presented as Income and Expenditure.
- The Income and Expenditure recorded receipts of £ 309,474 and payments of £ 273,092.
- The closing bank – Cash & Investment Reconciliation as at 31 March 2025 was £245,087.68, represented by the following:

○ Barclays Current Account	£ 17,098.33
○ Barclays Premium Account	£ 14,720.53
○ Nationwide Building Society	£ 85,821.78
○ Unity Trust Current Account	£ 15,785.37
○ Unity Trust Savings Account	£ 25,850.21
○ Closing Balance	£ 245,087.68

350.2 There were no queries from Members on the accounts.

350.3 It was **proposed, seconded and resolved** to **approve** the Accounts for 2025/26 and that Section 2 of the Annual Return, together with the Supporting Notes for the Statement of Accounts and the Balance Sheet, should be **signed** by the Chair of Council and the Responsible Financial Officer.

351. THE SETTING OF THE DATE FOR THE EXERCISE OF ELECTORS' RIGHTS: TO CONFIRM THE DATES FOR THE PUBLIC INSPECTION PERIOD

351.1 It was **agreed** to set the date of announcement as Friday, 19th June 2026, and the inspection period as Monday, 22nd June to Friday, 31st July 2026 inclusive.

352. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2026/27

352.1 It was **agreed** to appoint Mulberry Local Authority Services as the internal auditors for the period 2026/27, 2027/28 & 2028/29.

353. LINDFIELD CRICKET CLUB SECOND SQUARE APPLICATION

353.1 It was **agreed** to move this matter from agenda item 12 to agenda item 6 due to members of the public attending for this specific item.

353.2 All members were given the opportunity to provide their comments on the application. Key points raised during the debate were:

- The impact the proposal would have on other users of the Common.
- The impact on other community events.
- The size of the area that would be roped off around the proposed cricket square.
- Environmental impact of a second pitch.
- Provision of sport for residents
- Lack of playing squares is Mid Sussex-wide rather than just a Lindfield issue.
- A desire to see other pitches developed in Mid Sussex.

353.3 A vote was held, and it was **agreed** by majority (8 opposed / 2 for) that the council opposed the application by Lindfield Cricket Club for a proposed second cricket square. This position would be communicated to Mid Sussex District Council.

354. COMMUNITY HIGHWAYS APPLICATION FOR A VILLAGE-WIDE 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT

354.1 The council **noted** the consultation results and the recommendation from the Planning, Transport and Traffic Committees that an application be submitted to West Sussex County Council by the 31 July deadline for a parish-wide 20mph Community Highways Scheme.

Members at the meeting were presented with two options

- Option 1 - That the Full Council agrees to submit an application to WSCC to have a 20-mph speed limit within the boundaries of the parish council, submitted before the WSCC 31st July 2026 deadline.
- Option 2 - That the Full Council rejects the proposal, resulting in no application being submitted before the WSCC 31st July 2026 deadline.

A vote was held, and it was unanimously agreed that the Council would submit an application to West Sussex County Council for a 20-mph speed limit within the parish council's boundaries, before the WSCC 31 July 2026 deadline.

355. MATTERS ARISING

355.1 The Clerk made members aware of a request from Mid Sussex District Council regarding community infrastructure and that the deadline for responses was 26 June 2026.

The meeting finished at: 20:46

The next meeting of the Council is on 23 July 2026

Approved.....Chair

Date

DISCLAIMER

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, statements and decisions recorded in these minutes, their status will remain that of a draft until they are confirmed as a correct record at the subsequent meeting.