

LINDFIELD PARISH MEETING

The annual **LINDFIELD PARISH MEETING** was held at King Edward Hall, Lindfield on **TUESDAY, 28 May 2019**, chaired by the Chairman of Lindfield Parish Council, Mr William Blunden.

Present: Lindfield Parish Councillors:

Mr W Blunden (Chairman),
Mr. S. Henton,
Mr. R. Plass
Mr. J. Stevens
Mr. I. Wilson

Mrs. L. Grace
Mrs. M. Hersey
Mr. R. Pickett,
Mrs. V. Upton. (Vice Chairman)

County and District Councillors:
Councillor Mr. A. Lea (WSCC & MSDC)
Councillor Mr. J. Ash-Edwards (MSDC)
Councillor Mrs. A. Lea (MSDC)

Sussex Police:
PCSO Nathan Lux

Approximately 20 members of the public

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

The meeting commenced at 8.00 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, duly signed by the Chairman and dated 5 April 2018 had been displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard since 5 April and had also been available on the Parish Council's website since that date.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 2018.**

2.1 The Chairman called for approval of the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 19 April 2018. These were **AGREED** and the Chairman **SIGNED** the Minutes as being a true record of that meeting.

3. **REPORT BY SUSSEX POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER**

PCSO Nathan Lux provided an update on police activities in Lindfield:

- The most common incidents are neighbour disputes
- In the last 3 months there has been 1 burglary and 1 attempted burglary
- The catapult incidents seemed to have stopped
- Drain covers have also been stolen
- In March 2019 there were only 44 incidents in Lindfield

Members of the public raised questions relating to the powers of a PCSO, proportion of time spent in Lindfield, and fraud / scams. Answer to the questions raised were provided by PCSO Nathan Lux.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Nathan Lux for his report.

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4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: COUNCILLOR MR. ANDREW LEA.

Councillor Lea outlined his role in the County Council and reported as follows:

- Budgets are tight, including Highways which has been reduced
- The recent report relating to children's services was of very deep concern
- He is keen to promote sustainable transport including cycle routes
- Love West Sussex is the best place to report potholes

Members of the public asked questions relating to:

- The state of footpaths in the village, this challenges the wellbeing of the elderly.
- Maintain footpaths being more of a priority than proposed cycle routes
- Installing a crossing point from the Common to the pond.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Lea and asked that he refer resident's comments onto Richard Speller of West Sussex County Council Highways Department.

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: COUNCILLORS MR. ANDREW LEA & MR. JONATHAN ASH-EDWARDS

Councillor Ash-Edwards outlined the role that he and Councillors Anthea and Andrew Lea undertake for the District Council. Relating to Lindfield specifically he reported that:

- Two electric charging points would be installed in the Denmans Lane car park
- Two Lindfield businesses had successfully obtained funding from the Micro Business Grants Scheme.

It was also noted that facilities at the Dolphin Leisure Centre in Haywards Heath would be receiving a £0.5 million upgrade by the end of this year.

Members of the public asked questions relating to Haywards Heath Golf Course (Asset of Community Value, Haywards Heath College (re-opening), and Councillor Ash-Edwards reasons behind his objections to the Penland Farm development.

Councillor Andrew Lea answered a question relating to the status of the proposed traffic regulation order for Lewes Road. The Chairman reminded everyone that the County Local Committee is useful way of engaging with the local West Sussex representative.

6. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT: COUNCILLOR MR. WILLIAM BLUNDEN.

Councillor Blunden reported as follows:

Once again this has been an interesting and busy year for your Parish Council. Developers continue with their quest to build on the green fields that surround our village creating problems for our residents. The Parish Council works closely with our colleagues on the Rural Parish Council and the Lindfield Preservation Society when considering large applications.

During June, we held a public consultation on the proposed replacement public toilets on the Common. This resulted in the Parish Council applying for planning permission which was approved on 29th March 2019. The Parish Council will do all that it can to complete this project as quickly as possible but there is a due process that it must follow.

We were sorry to lose two of our Councillors during the year, Simon Hodgson and Matt Damsell, both due to work commitments. I would like to record the Councils appreciation for the contribution they both made during their time as Councillors and wish them both well for

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the future. However, on the plus side we gained one new Councillor when Ian Wilson was elected.

During the year we appointed a new member of staff; John Cunningham is now our Village Orderly. John quickly proved to be a great asset to the Council and village in minimising the effects of disbanding of the CIC group.

Following on from the Road Traffic Study the Parish Council purchased two SIDS (speed indicator devices). The Village Orderly, under the supervision of the Clerk, has been deploying the SIDS in different locations in the village which has 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.

Wilderness Field: the Parish Council have instructed a solicitor to assist them with the transfer of the land from MSDC to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed to maintain the same level of precept in 2019/20 as the previous year (£156,000)

In December 2018 the Parish Council launched its new website which is easier to use and will provide our residents with more information.

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 work load.

The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is Stephen Henton with Ron Plass 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 stand in Chairman for the Planning and Traffic is Ron Plass. 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.

The committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for 2019/20 will be confirmed at meetings over the next couple of weeks.

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

Planning and Traffic Committee

As mentioned in my introduction the Traffic Study consultation showed that a number of residents feel very passionately about issues relating to traffic within the village. All the data has now been collated and the report has now been submitted to WSCC Highways for review, we are hoping our WSCC Cllr Andrew Lea will do everything in his power to bring some of the recommendations to fulfilment. The Parish Council decided to purchase two SIDS which has had an immediate impact to the benefit of the residents.

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The Committee has continued to review applications in the village fulfilling its role as a statutory consultee. In the 2018/19 financial year the Council has reviewed 148 applications. Additionally, the Council has also considered, and opposed, large scale applications within the Lindfield Rural Parish Council boundary.

Within our own Parish the Committee has recently raised objections to the proposed development on the former Tavistock and Summerhill School site.

The Parish Council agreed to back a residents TRO application for Lewes Road.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

A total of £2,350.00 in grants has been awarded during the 2018/19 financial year, to support organisations whose work has benefits to the local community.

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 2019/20 in January. The budget is £238,000 and the Precept of £156,000.

We are still pursuing the project to reinstate toilets on the Common and held a public consultation in June 2018, following the results of the consultation a planning application was made and received approval on 29th March 2019. We will be keeping the public advised of the progress of this project via our website.

We sent out a questionnaire with the Lindfield Directory and Year Book following the decision by Lindfield Rural Parish Council not to provide them for their residents. After studying the feedback it was agreed to continue with the Directory and Year Book.

The Clerk has been studying and working on his CiLCA qualification with the aim being that the Council can exercise the general power of competence.

We are very fortunate to have Mrs Tracy Ely as our RFO who has proven to be very efficient in the handling of the Council's finances.

Environment and Amenities Committee.

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

We have where possible upgraded the Parish Council owned lighting columns to LED bulbs.

The service area in the Denmans Lane public toilets has been upgraded.

The Council successfully applied to MSDC for a grant in order to purchase a remembrance beacon which was lit on the 11th November as part of the National Remembrance event. The event was very moving and well attended.

Additional crocuses were purchased and planted in the High Street verges.

Replacement litter bins have been purchased and installed around the village.

Christmas Festival Night was a huge success thanks to the work of our Clerk, Deputy Clerk and the Working Group.

Arranged six refuse freighter visits to the Tollgate car park.

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We continue to organise the Village Spring Clean which has been much better supported over the last couple of years - 20 people turned out for this year's Spring Clean.

The only downside was sadly we were advised by MSDC that we are no longer able to undertake any work on the pond, therefore our two pond wardens found themselves redundant. I would like to record the Council's thanks to Richard Powell and Brodie Brand for keeping the pond in such good order.

7. OPEN FORUM

Climate Change

After providing some background information a member of the electorate tabled the following resolution:

Lindfield Residents note that humans have caused climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity. To reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that all countries should reduce our carbon equivalent (CO2eq) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible. Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this.

Lindfield Residents believes that all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Mid Sussex and the UK that counties, districts, cities, towns and villages commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.

The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be a number one priority, and bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).

Lindfield Residents seek that the Council:

- (1) Declare a 'Climate Emergency' and show leadership in Lindfield to combat this climate crisis by raising awareness of the issues and ways in which residents and businesses can contribute to mitigate climate change;*
- (2) Pledge to attempt to make Lindfield carbon neutral by 2030, considering both production and consumption emissions;*
- (3) Call on policy makers to provide Lindfield Parish Council with the resources to make the 2030 target possible;*
- (4) Work with other councils and stakeholders to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;*

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- (5) *Set up a Group to investigate in greater detail the climate change crisis and practical actions that Lindfield Parish Council can undertake;*
- (6) *Consider whether it would be advisable to consider climate change impacts, when considering planning applications, or taking part in consultations, commenting on reports, plans and reviews put to the Council; and*
- (7) *Report within the next six months the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.*

The resolution was passed by those present. The resolution will therefore be considered at the next Lindfield Parish Council Full Council meeting.

Pond Wardens

Comments were made by a member of the public regarding why the pond wardens are no longer able to work on within the pond boundaries.

Haywards Heath Golf Course

A member of a local action group opposed to the potential development of Haywards Heath Golf Course advised those present about his concerns.

CiLCA

The former Clerk congratulated the current clerk on passing CiLCA.

8. CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The Chairman noted the good attendance at the meeting.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the former councillors who had decided not to stand in May's elections for the service they had given to the local community.

The Chairman noted the recent passing of Lindfield resident Neil Kerlake. His passion for the village was reported.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21.16.pm and invited everyone present to join him for refreshments. Fairtrade Lindfield were thanked for the bottle of wine they had donated.

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL AT 2020 PARISH MEETING