

## LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** held on **THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2020** at the King Edward Hall, Lindfield.

The meeting commenced at 8.00 p.m.

Parish Councillors:

Mr. W. Blunden (Chair)

Mr. S. Henton

Mrs. A. Matthews

Mr. R. Pickett (Vice Chair)

Mr. R. Plass

Mr. J. Stevens

Mrs. V. Upton

Mr. I. Wilson

Mr. C. Wood

(\*) Denotes absence

**In attendance:** Three members of the public  
Mr. A. Funnell (Clerk)

### 81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

81.1 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Pickett and Stevens. The reasons for apologies were accepted.

### 82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

82.1 Councillor Blunden declared a personal interest in items relating to the Denmans Lane Allotments as he is a plot holder.

82.2 Councillor Matthews declared a personal interest in items relating to the Denmans Lane Allotments as she is a plot holder.

### 83 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

83.1 Climate Change – Chris Lea and Peter Desmond of Fair World Lindfield both spoke regarding Climate Change:  
Chris Lea delivered the following statement:

*"I'm a member of Fairer World Lindfield who over the past year has run several village events to raise awareness about our climate and ecological crisis and encourage people to think about making small changes to become more eco-friendly.*

*We've been working together with other local groups such as Lindfield in Bloom and Blackthorns School whose children came along to one of our events and spoke about what they are achieving at their eco school. We started some recycling with Paul the greengrocer and supported Cloughs on plastic free products.*

*A Local Eco Group is just starting up to be held every month at the Stand Up where people are coming together to share ideas about how they can do more with regard to climate change. There is also the beginnings of a borrowing group, where you can lend and borrow items through a Facebook group.*

*As a parish I would love to see us take up a project similar to Haddenham Parish Council in Bucks who under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 have taken the initiative to incorporate practical measures to increase the local wildlife and insect population.*

*These are some of their ideas which perhaps we could adopt:*

*Organic maintenance of the grass verges. Allowing wildflowers to seed before cutting and removing grass cuttings to promote new wild plants.*

*Zero tolerance on Pesticides and herbicides. I'm not sure why we are still using weed killers which include glyphosates which are banned in eight countries.*

*Introduction of bird and bee boxes around the Village would be wonderful and easy to set up. Maybe something residents could be involved with on the Lindfield Spring Clean. The city of Bristol have just*

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*declared an ecological emergency over loss of wildlife. I have just completed a RSPB watch of birds in my garden and I have to say there wasn't a great deal to observe. Which is really sad.*

*We could also plant more mixed seeds and bulbs around the village and trees where applicable. One thing might be parish council guidance encouraging people to plant more trees in their own gardens or do some wilding.*

*And lastly a big thank you for taking on this challenge on climate change and we want to let you know that we are here to help in anyway. Thank you."*

Peter Desmond commented as follows:

- The importance of the role of LPC in influencing other local authorities, as per part 4 of LPC's Climate Change policy, particularly relating to planning matters. Specifically, page 117 of The Mid Sussex Design Guide regarding sustainable buildings was referenced. Both Fairer World Lindfield and LPC needed to ensure that the requirements for sustainable building were heard.
- Fairer World Lindfield was now part of a new group called the Central Sussex Climate Network, which is a group of likeminded local climate action groups e.g. HKD Transition, and Scaynes Hill Sustainability Group. It also included representation at its meetings from local authority councillors and officers. The next meeting of the group is on the 19 April 2020. The reason for the existence of the group is to collectively make a bigger difference, such as lobbying our elected members of parliament.
- Further help to support the Council's Climate Change Working Group may be available through Action with Communities in Rural England, which do offer support to communities like ours.

83.2 Allotments - Peter Desmond advised that he was undertaking a photography project for Lindfield Life on the allotments through the year. Fairer World Lindfield supported the allotments.

83.3 Grass Verges - Margaret Pilkington queried who was responsible for cutting the grass verges. Leaving grass cuttings is detrimental to the growing of wildflowers. The importance of wildflowers to bees was stated. The Chairman advised that the council is not the responsible authority for cutting of grass verges. The responsibility lies with West Sussex County Council Highways. The Chairman noted that the Parish Council do pay Haywards Heath Town Council to carry out additional cutting on the High Street.

83.4 Lindfield Common - Margaret Pilkington observed that tree planting has taken place on the part of Lindfield Common by Blackhill on areas where Chamomile grows. Chamomile is a rare wild plant now which should be protected. The responsibility for the management of the Common was queried. The Chairman confirmed that Mid Sussex District Council were the owners and managers of Lindfield Common.

## 84 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2019.

84.1 The Chairman called for approval of the Minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee held on Thursday 28 November 2019. These were **AGREED**. The Chairman **SIGNED** the Minutes as being a true record of that meeting.

## 85 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

85.1 The Chairman advised that he had received an invite to Haywards Heath Town Council's VE Day 75 event. The Chairman and Cllr Upton spoke about events that were taking place in the village to mark the occasion. The Chairman also suggested that the Parish Council should consider putting up bunting in parts of the High Street to mark the event. Cllr Plass also suggested that local businesses should be encouraged to mark the event.

## 86 ACTION LIST.

86.1 The action list was **NOTED**.

## 87 ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE BUDGET PROGRESS 2019/20.

87.1 The figures for October had been previously circulated. It was **NOTED** that as at 31 December 2019:

- £47,608.86 had been spent from the E&A budget of £79,400.00.
- From the reserves £2,263.94 had been spent.

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### 88 CLIMATE CHANGE

88.1 It was reported that the Climate Change Working Group would be meeting on 12 February 2020. Cllr Wood **REPORTED** that the members of the group were undertaking research to see what actions are taking place on a national, regional, and local level. The group would then consider the available opportunities and present a list of recommended projects. It was hoped that these recommendations would be in time for consideration at the start of the new financial year.

### 89 REPORT ON CURRENT MAINTENANCE.

89.1 The Chairman **REPORTED** that there was nothing to note that had not already been covered under other agenda items.

### 90 DENMANS LANE TOILETS

90.1 The Chairman **REPORTED** that the replacement disabled toilet door was fitted on the 21 January. The Village Orderly has treated the door with wood stain to protect it. A fault has been found with the digital valve flush system on both the male and disabled toilet. Orders had been placed for their repair.

### 91 DENMANS LANE ALLOTMENTS

91.1 General update – The waiting list has increased to approximately 25 people.

91.2 Administration - The Clerk and Deputy Clerk having reviewed the risk assessments for the allotments have made several changes to the agreements form and covering letter. Nothing fundamental has been changed the objective of the exercise has been to ensure that both documents state the same information.

### 92 VILLAGE ORDERLY

92.1 Update on work undertaken

Members were advised of the work the Village Orderly had undertaken since the last meeting.

### 93 LINDFIELD IN BLOOM

93.1 Cllr Stevens has advised the Parish Office that he attended the last meeting of the group, which had been its AGM. The group would soon meet to carry out works on the flowerbeds by Lindfield Medical Centre.

### 94 WILDERNESS FIELD

94.1 The Chairman **REPORTED** that Wilderness Field was now in the ownership of Lindfield Parish Council. A report had been previously circulated to members to modify the remit of the existing Working Group and to decide on the arrangements for day to day management of the site. As per the recommendation of the report it was **AGREED** that:

1) The membership of the Wilderness Field Working Group be confirmed as follows:

- Cllr Blunden
- Cllr Henton
- Cllr Picket
- Cllr Upton
- Clerk

2) The groups terms of reference are:

The Working Group shall implement, continuously review, and monitor the following documents for the Wilderness Field:

- Action plan,
- Risk assessment,
- Management plan.

The group will undertake any task/responsibilities as set out in in the above documents. The group shall report it's activities to the E&A Committee.

3) The day to day management of the site be undertaken by the staff of the Parish Council.

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4) The Committee is asked to confirm the Parish Office shall keep a log of expenditure relating to the site.

### **94 WINTER MANAGEMENT**

94.1 It was **NOTED** that Cllr Plass had undertaken a review of the Winter Management Risk Assessment.

### **95 HICKMANS LANE PLAYGROUND – UPDATE ON NEW PIECE OF EQUIPMENT**

95.1 Members were advised that, subject to weather conditions, the new piece of equipment should be installed in the playground in March 2020.

### **96 SPRING CLEAN 2020**

96.1 The Chairman advised that he would be contacting Lindfield Primary Academy to promote the event. Members also suggested various other organisations that could be contacted. Members were asked by the Chairman to confirm whether they would be able to help at the event.

### **97 RISK MANAGEMENT**

97.1 It was **REPORTED** that the Deputy Clerk would be undertaking a review of the risk assessments for streetlights.

### **98 CLERK'S REPORT**

98.1 The Clerk **REPORTED** the following:

Query relating to the condition of the mini roundabout by Blackthorns School. Members were advised that the legal responsibility for the site was with West Sussex County Council Highways. Members were advised that WSCC Highways due to a reduced maintenance budget, has no budget to maintain planted areas within the public highway. The only work that is undertaken is for safety reasons, for example if the vegetation was overgrown and causing a safety hazard for pedestrians or vehicles, it would then be cut back or removed. WSCC are therefore unable to offer any solution to the problem of maintaining the planting on the roundabout, except that it would be possible for the local community to take on the maintenance of the roundabout, as part of West Sussex improving local places and spaces, community action.

Streetlighting. Members were advised that the order for the replacement lighting column in the All Saints car park / Francis Road area had been placed. It was hoped that the application for permission for the lighting column on Lindfield Common (and for additional grit bins, and display boards) would soon be progressed by Mid Sussex District Council.

### **99 MATTERS ARISING**

99.1 There were items raised that were covered by the Committee's terms of reference.

The meeting concluded at 20:34 pm