

# Lindfield Parish Council

Minutes of the **PLANNING AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE** meeting held on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020** in the King Edward Hall, Lindfield.

The meeting commenced at **20.00**

**Present:**

Parish Councillors: Mr R Plass (Chair)  
Mrs L Grace  
Mrs A Matthews  
Mr J Stevens  
Mrs V Upton  
Mr W Blunden  
Mrs M Hersey  
Mr C Wood

**Also present:** Three members of the Public  
Cllr Andrew Lea, District Councillor WSCC and MSDC

**In attendance:** Mr D Parsons (Deputy Parish Clerk)

The Chair explained the emergency procedures.

**101. Apologies**

101.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Wilson and Leach. Further, Lindfield Preservation Society advised that they would be unable to attend this meeting but had no objections to either of the applications being considered.

**102. Declarations of Interest**

102.1 None.

**103. Approval of Minutes**

103.1 The Chairman noted he had agreed in draft the Minutes of the Planning and Traffic Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019 but that these had not been available for circulation prior to this meeting. Committee **agreed** for these to be circulated and agreed by email after the meeting and, subject to any comments, for the Chair to **sign** the Minutes as a true record of that meeting.

**104. Questions/comments from members of the public.**

104.1 The Chair noted the members of the public attending were particularly interested in item 107 and suggested that the two items be merged. The members of the public were happy with this approach and it was **agreed** by the Committee.

**105. Planning Applications and other matters referred to the Parish Council by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) for consideration**

For each application, the observations of the members who had specifically studied the plans were read out before any public comments and discussion by the Committee. For applications where LPS had no comments to make or their view was 'No objection' this is not individually noted against the applications considered.

**i. DM/19/5072 – Ewerby, 7 Denmans Close**

Demolition of existing 1980's single storey side and rear extensions and construction of a new two storey extension, together with a front porch extension and loft conversion with a rear dormer window.

**Lindfield Parish Council** has no objections subject to matching materials being used.

**ii. 20/1/20 DM/19/4830 – 1 Linden Grove**

Magnolia – Fell (Revised description 30/12/2019)

**Lindfield Parish Council** has no objections subject to a suitable replacement tree being planted.

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**106. To receive reports on any significant planning decisions** or issues made by MSDC and the Planning Inspectorate and to agree any further action which may need to be taken before the next meeting.

The Deputy Parish Clerk advised that:-

106.1 The Planning Inspectorate had dismissed the appeal in respect of DM/18/5035 Tachbrook, Lewes Road (...demolition of a bungalow and construction of two dwellings...).

**107. Developments (if any) re Proposed TRO on the Lewes Road** between Gravelly Lane and Lindfield High Street

107.1 Mr Turner summarised that the application was made on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and it was therefore almost a full calendar year that it had been at West Sussex County Council. He had made a formal complaint at its handling and that he and the Deputy Parish Clerk had met with the Head of WSCC Highways, Matt Davey and Richard Speller, Area Highways Manager, in December 2019. In Mr Turner's view, the Area Manager had sought to push the application into 'the long grass' and it was hoped that the meeting would allow progress.

107.2 Notwithstanding the tenor of the meeting, a letter had since been received from WSCC changing costs quoted and applying further hurdles. Mr Turner re-emphasised that the TRO had both LPS and LPC support, as well as ~1200 residents' signatures backing that. He further advised that he had sought Cabinet Member support but to date no engagement had been forthcoming from that quarter.

107.3 Mr Turner's analysis was that many hundreds of thousands of pounds were being held by the District and County Council and should be spent accordingly to the benefit of residents. Discussion with Councillors raised concerns that many may not be aware of the amount of funds held in this way nor of their availability to local communities. Mr Turner sought LPC's written support to access the £9.4k held under a S106 Agreement in respect of junction improvements at the Lewes Road / High Street junction, which he considered that the proposed TRO underpinned. Further that LPC support any shortfall in costs to implement the proposal.

107.4 The Chair asked whether there were any other hurdles that required to be addressed by WSCC. Mr Turner did not consider that there were any other significant issues.

107.5 Cllr Andrew Lea (District Councillor WSCC and MSDC) advised that the proposal had his full support and that he was happy to raise the issue in full council at WSCC.

107.6 Cllr Blunden was strongly in support of the TRO, noting WSCC had in previous years declined to support other proposals at this location. Mr Turner emphasised the cost effective nature of the TRO, with Cllr Blunden voicing his concern that WSCC was selective in its approach to schemes and noted the expenditure around Cuckfield and Queens Road in Haywards Heath, which were arguably less dangerous and pressing than the Lewes Road / Lindfield High Street junction. Cllr Stevens advised that he fully agreed with Cllr Blunden's comments and Cllr Grace flagged the County Local Committee discussions on the Queens Road TRO.

107.7 The Chair concluded that it was evident that all Councillors were in favour of the approach to implement the TRO and that approval should be sought from Full Council in line with Mr Turner's request. In response to a question from the Chair, the Deputy Parish Clerk noted that the latest response from WSCC included a requirement to undertake a consultation with residents likely to be affected by the proposed TRO.

107.8 The Chair suggested that the Council's Traffic Study Working Group considered the appropriate way forward as part of its wider deliberations and that Messrs Heath and Turner might like to be involved in that Working Group – both agreed. The Deputy Parish Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting within one month.

107.9 Committee **agreed** that Full Council be asked to support a request for the £9.4k identified S106 monies be utilised in support of the proposed TRO and that further reasonable costs be funded by the Parish Council.

**108. Budget 2020/2021**

108.1 The Deputy Parish Clerk advised that the proposals had not changed since last presented to Committee.

**109. Matters Arising** after the preparation of this Agenda, which the Chairman agrees to take as urgent.

109.1 None

The meeting concluded at 20.30 and the **next P&TC Meeting is set for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January.**