

LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL ON 12TH MARCH 2026

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL** held on **THURSDAY, 22 JANUARY 2026**, at King Edward Hall, Lindfield.

The meeting commenced at 19:45

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

(*) Denotes absence

In attendance: Mr. A. Funnell (Parish Clerk)
1 Member of the public

Before the start of the agenda items, members watched a short video on Data Protection. The first agenda item started at 19:57.

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

296.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Upton.

297. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PECUNIARY INTEREST

297.1 Cllr Beecroft declared an interest in item 306.3 as she is a director of Friends of Lindfield Playgrounds. Cllr Beecroft did not take part in this item.

298. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2025.

298.1 The Chair called for approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 November 2025. It was agreed that the Chair would sign the minutes as being a true record of that meeting.

299. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

299.1 There were no questions.

300. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

300.1 The Chair had provided members with a written report that addressed the following points:

301. COUNTY & DISTRICT REPORTS

301.1 West Sussex District Council
Cllr Wall was not in attendance.

301.2 Mid Sussex District Council
Cllr Cooke had sent her apologies.

Cllr Wood provided an update on the following:

- Clair Hall – Cabinet would meet on 2nd February to consider the future of the venue, including a bid by a community interest company.
- S106 Funding – Cllr Wood was looking at what funding could support local proposals.
- District Plan – Hearing dates had been scheduled for February & March.
- School Parking – There were ongoing issues regarding parking at the school.
- Mobile Phone signals - Concerns had been raised about the mobile phone signal in the area.

302. CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

302.1 Revised National Planning Policy Framework. It was **agreed** to delegate any response to the Planning, Transport & Traffic Committee.

303. COMMITTEES – MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

303.1 Environment and Amenities (E&A).

It was **resolved** that the Minutes of the E&A Committee meeting dated 27 November 2025 be received and their recommendations confirmed.

Cllr Blunden reported that the Committee last met on the 27th November 2025. At that meeting, the following was considered:

- The committee's budget for 2026/27.
- Events planned for 2026.

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- It was agreed to approve the risk assessments for Street Lighting and Village Festival Night
- It was agreed to recommend to Full Council a £5,000 contribution to Friends of Lindfield Playgrounds towards a piece of inclusive play equipment.

303.2 Planning, Traffic and Transport (PT&T).

It was **resolved** that the Minutes of the meetings dated 25th November 2025, 16 December 2025 & 6th January of the PT&T Committee be received, and their recommendations confirmed.

Cllr Webster **reported** that since the last Full Council meeting, the committee has met on three occasions: 25th November with 13 applications, 16th December with 10 applications and 6th January with 6 applications.

Of the 29 applications:

- 13 were Household Applications.
- 2 were Listed Building Consents.
- 3 were Trees in a Conservation Area.
- 10 were Tree Surgery.
- 1 was a variation of conditions

The response of 'No objection or defer to officer' was submitted in all but one case.

The Council submitted the following response regarding DM/25/2980- 26B Pelham Road, Lindfield Parish Council objects to the height of the proposed 1.9-meter fence. This fence is contrary to the open frontage of the street scene on Pelham Road, as well as to the surrounding roads. Should this fence have been approved, it would have radically changed the perception of the street's width. The Parish Council has no objections to the proposed changes relating to the driveway hardstanding.'

In addition to reviewing planning applications, the committee has received reports from the 20 mph working group, noted updates to the MSDC Parking Strategy and received Lindfield Cricket Club's report proposing a second cricket square on the common, where the report was noted, and it was agreed that it was appropriate to await a formal application to MSDC before considering any response from LPC. Once an application is received from MSDC, this will be discussed at Full Council.

303.3 Finance and General Purposes (F&GP).

It was **resolved** that the Minutes of the meetings of the F&GP Committee dated 6th November be received, and that their recommendations be confirmed. The minutes of the meeting dated 8th January 2026 were not yet available.

Cllr Beecroft **reported** that the Committee last met on 8th January 2026. At that meeting, we considered the following:

- To award a grant of £500 to St Peter and St James Hospice.
- The proposed council budget for 2026/27.
- The following were considered and will be reviewed at this meeting:
 - Interim Internal Audit Report
 - Bank Arrangements
 - Internal Transfers.

304. FINANCIAL REPORTING & MONITORING

a) Members **noted** the Responsible Financial Officer's comments on the October 2025 figures.

b) Members **noted** the October 2025 budget progress reports:

Committee / Activity / Reserve	Expenditure	Budget
F&GP	£ 105,645	£ 199,791
E&A	£ 23,156	£ 74,505
Allotments	£ 1,073	£ 3,000
PT&T	Nil	£ 400
General Reserve	£ 2,165	
Total	£ 101,032	£ 305,668

Income	£
Precept	£ 290,668
Interest	£ 1,606
Grants Received	£ 357
Rental	£ 5,656
Service Charge	£ 344
Licence Fee	£ 152
Christmas Festival Night	£ 830
Allotment Rental	£ 1,260
Total	£ 150,879

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c) Members **noted** the General Reserve Expenditure for October 2025:

Account	Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
Toilets on the Common	£ 67,807.50	£ -	£ 67,807.50
Wilderness Field S106 Maintenance	£ 8,465.38	£ 800.00	£ 7,807.38
Council Elections	£ 2,700.00	£ 150.00	£ 2,550.00
Plan 23-27	£ 5,000.00	£ -	£ 5,000.00
Planning Reserve	£ 4,000.00	£ -	£ 4,000.00
SID Replacement	£ 3,500.00	£ -	£ 3,500.00
F&GP Plan 23-27	£ 15,000.00	£ -	£ 15,000.00
Rolling Asset Management	£ 20,000.00	£ -	£ 20,000.00
	£126,472.88	£ 950.00	£ 125,522.88

d) Members **noted** the bank reconciliation statement and accompanying bank statements. It was **agreed** to sign the bank reconciliation statement for October 2025:

Description	£
Barclays Current Account	£ 17,122.05
Business Premium Account	£ 69,448.90
Nationwide Building Society	£ 85,299.13
Unity Trust Current Account	£ 12,518.86
Unity Trust Savings Account	£ 100,396.55
Hinckley&Rugby Building Soc.	£ 85,000.00
Lloyds Bank Charge Card	£ -150.00
Closing Balance	£ 369,635.10

e) Members **noted** the list of receipts and payments for October 2025.

f) To note and ratify the list of payments.

The list of payments drawn since the last Full Council meeting on 13 November had been tabled. Full Council was asked to note the payments totalling £117,917.47, including £3,508.28 of VAT, and to note that there were payments of £440 under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was **resolved** to approve the list of payments totalling £117,917.47, including £ 3,508.28 of VAT. Cllr Webster would sign a copy of the payment list.

It was **agreed** that the list of direct debit and debit card payments for November 2025 would be signed by Cllrs Beecroft and Webster.

305. DECISION REPORTS

305.1 Budget 2026/27.

Cllr Beecroft talked members through the proposed budget. It was confirmed that the proposed budget did not include any deficit. The budget for 2026/27 would be:

	£
F&GP Committee	221,402.81
E&A Committee	64,000.00
PT&T Committee	400.00
	285,802.81

A total budget requirement of £322,000 would be required, which was represented by the following:

Expenditure:	£	£
Budget expenditure E&A Committee	64,000.00	
Budget Expenditure F&GP Committee	221,402.81	
Budget Expenditure PTT&T Committee	400.00	
New Earmarked Reserve	1,000.00	
Top-Up to Existing Earmarked Reserves	31,000.00	
Additional General Reserve funding	4,197.19	322,000.00

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307.4 Officer Updates

The Clerk advised that the festive lighting was due to be taken down at the end of the month. An update on the proposed WSCC posts-and-railings work was provided.

308. MATTERS ARISING

308.1 Cllr Grace advised that before the meeting, she had attended an MSALC meeting. Police Inspector Derrick gave a presentation on key crime statistics. He emphasised that Mid Sussex is a very safe place to live in. Other matters: Car park charges to be introduced in May in Lindfield. WSALC is in discussions with neighbouring associations about setting up an umbrella association to liaise with the Mayor, when elected, at a strategic level.

The meeting finished at 20:54

The next meeting of the Council is on 12 March 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.