

LINDFIELD PARISH MEETING

The annual **LINDFIELD PARISH MEETING** was held at King Edward Hall on **WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2026**, chaired by the Chair of Lindfield Parish Council, Mr Trevor Webster.

In attendance:

Cllr T Webster	Cllr D Lowman
Cllr A Beecroft	Cllr W Blunden
Cllr I Burns	Cllr L Grace
Cllr V Upton	Cllr C Wood (LPC, WSCC & MSDC)
Cllr D Woolley	Cllr AM Cooke (MSDC)
The Deputy Lord Lieutenant John Barclay	
Andrew Funnell (Parish Clerk)	Tracy Cruickshank (Deputy Parish Clerk)
Tracy Ely (RFO)	Andrei Hadimbu (Village Orderly)
40 members of the public	

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m.

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CLLR'S TREVOR WEBSTER & DUNCAN LOWMAN.**

In accordance with the statutory duties under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraphs 15 (1) and 11 (1), the Chair of the Parish Council, T Webster, had called the meeting and now presided at the meeting. The notice and agenda had been displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard and were also available on the Parish Council's website.

At this point in the meeting the Deputy Lord Lieutenant presented a Special Recognition Award to George Le Vinge. George is only 6 years old and loves to go litter picking with his Mum. He saved his own pocket money to buy a litter picker so that he can help maintain the local environment. George was congratulated on his community spirit and presented with the award.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 2025**

The Chairman called for approval of the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 7 MAY 2025. These were **AGREED** and the Chair **SIGNED** the Minutes as being a true record of that meeting.

3. **LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL REPORT BY CLLR TREVOR WEBSTER.**

A presentation was shared.

Cllr Webster spoke about the:

- The year in the life of Lindfield Parish Council and the projects and events over the past 12 months, including;
- Attending Village Day, engaging with residents.
- Meeting our MP in August to discuss village priorities such the pond bollards, the 20mph proposals and district plan.
- VE & VJ Remembrance event. Highlights were John Masons wonderful poem; it was noted how the event showcased the great work of our village archivists.
- Autumn Clean in October, cleaning up the weeds and litter, thanks were given to all those who volunteered.
- Christmas Festival night, Cllr Webster reminded the attendees that the event was arranged by the Parish Council & although the weather was against us the council had a stand on the night and had encouraged residents to discuss the 20-mph scheme, the wilderness field and environmental issues.
- The launch of the 20mph Community Highways Scheme proposal in January. Every household in the village received a consultation document through their door. The consultation received 802 responses with over 75% in favour of the scheme. Cllr Webster announced he will be submitting a report to council recommending that a Community Highways Scheme application is submitted to WSCC before the 31st July deadline.
- Spring Clean in April. Particularly pleased with the work around the village pond.
- Cllr Webster also spoke about Plan 23-27, the document where the Council set their aspirations. There are 58 actions within the plan. He noted how privileged we are in Lindfield to have so many

LINDFIELD PARISH MEETING

charity and community groups and how the council will continue to grow its links with the community going forward.

Cllr Webster then highlighted just some of the other work the council has done over the past 12 months

- Took ownership of the red phone kiosk in the High Street with a view to refurbishment.
- Undertook a village wide 20 mph consultation, receiving 802 responses.
- Managed the Denmans Lane Allotments & Public Toilets
- Agreed to proceed with a new website
- Attended Village Day & Eastern Road Nature Reserve Anniversary event
- Reviewed 163 planning applications & held 37 Council & Committee meetings
- Solar panels on Clock Tower House
- Maintained the Lindfield Archive
- Provided over £2500 of community grants
- Contributed £5000 towards a piece of play equipment
- Managed street furniture
- Met regularly with ward representatives

Cllr Webster then thanked all 12 council members for their commitment and hard work to make Lindfield a great place to live.

He also thanked the staff for their commitment to the council and for always going the extra mile to achieve our projects and business as usual

He thanked the volunteer archivists for keeping our heritage records safe.

He also made note of the recent Sunday Times article which showed Lindfield as the best place to live in the South East.

Plan 27-31, the survey will be launched at Village Day, and all residents are encouraged to participate in shaping the work of the council over the next four years.

4. PRESENTATION FROM THE LINDFIELD SOCIETY

Presentation by Richard Tibbott.

The presentation covered the following:

- The work of the Society over the past 12 months, including;
- 2025 Survey
- Playground Support
- Annual Conservation & Design
- Series of talks
- Contribution to the pond bollards
- Vigilance of Planning Application & Planning Consultations
- Involvement on Mid Sussex Planning Strategy
- Lorries on the high street

Upcoming projects;

- Supporting the Parish Councils 20mph campaign
- Ardingly events traffic
- Contribution to the Pond Bollards
- Working with local schools
- Funding a defibrillator
- Continuing a series of talks
- Celebrating Lindfield's creative community
- Love Lindfield campaign

LINDFIELD PARISH MEETING

5. PRESENTATION FROM THE LINDFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

Presentation by Mark and Sarah Tampion-Lacey which covered the following;

- Who are the Lindfield Bonfire Society? They are a traditional Bonfire Society formed in 1894
- All monies raised on the night are for children's charities
- All the members are volunteers, and they work throughout the year to raise funds.
- The cost of last year's event was just over £14,000, that was just for November the 5th.
- The calendar of events over a 12-month period was shared including;
- Remembrance Sunday
- The LBS Christmas Craft fair
- Lindfield Late night shopping
- The Sussex Bonfire & Carnival Societies Christmas Carol Service
- Denmans Lane Dash on Boxing Day
- The first Bonfire of the year taking place on the last Tuesday in January
- Vintage fair in March
- Annual Society dinner
- Lindfield Village Day
- Sussex day in June
- The Lindfield Village Run
- Torch making, where they make 500 torches out of coffee sacks donated from Lindfield Coffee Works and bits of roof baton.
- Helping with the Village Clean
- Badge night, first Tuesday in September.
- The big night on the 5th November

6. REPORT FROM SUSSEX POLICE

PCSO Gon spoke to the attendees.

- He explained his background which led him to become a PSCO.
- He advised that although the village of Lindfield has some incidents of anti-social behaviour, crime in the area is low.
- He detailed the resources that the police have in the area and encouraged residents to report incidents to the control room.
- He asked for questions from the audience and there were none.

7. REPORT FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT CLLR CAVAN WOOD

Cllr Lowman introduced Cllr Anne Marie Cooke & Cllr Cavan Wood.

Cllr Wood reported as follows:

- He explained that he is currently, along with Cllr Anne Marie Cooke, MSDC representative, joining in May 2023 with their term ending around March 2028 which is slightly longer than usual due to the formation of the new Unitary Council.
- Since the elections at WSCC no one political party has overall control, the first meeting is taking place on 22 May where a decision on the council administration will be agreed.
- The new MSDC 1,2,3 Waste Collection service, although there were some initial teething problems, it has been a real success bringing 36 new jobs to the area.
- He encouraged residents to contact him for any concerns covered by WSCC such as SEND provisions which is has a personal interest in.

8. COMMUNITY AWARDS

Cllr Lowman invited the Deputy Lord Lieutenant to present the award.

The Deputy Lord Lieutenant was thrilled to present the 2026 Lindfield Parish Council Community Award to Friends of Eastern Road Nature reserve.

Friends of Eastern Road Nature Reserve is a welcoming volunteer group based in and around Lindfield, dedicated to protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of the Eastern Road Nature

LINDFIELD PARISH MEETING

Reserve. Working closely with local organisations, government agencies, and Mid Sussex District Council, they carry out a wide range of conservation activities, from habitat creation and path maintenance to wildlife surveying and litter-picking. The group also plays an important role in engaging the community through educational events and fundraising for environmental projects, meeting regularly to care for and improve this valuable local green space.

In recent years, the group has worked tirelessly to ensure that the site is regenerated after the loss of significant numbers of trees infected with ash dieback. The volunteers are a true credit to our local community.

The Deputy Lord Lieutenant asked Alex Le Seelleur and her colleague to join him to receive the award. He explained they have had a team of 135 volunteers over the past two years. He congratulated them for their great community spirit and all the work they have done.

Alex gave a short speech highlighting the work the group does and encouraged others to go along to join the group. She thanked the other volunteers for their contribution, saying they were the real winners. The group meets every second Sunday of the month. Amongst their work they have found protected species and raised an amazing £30,000.

The Deputy Lord Lieutenant commented on how proud the group should be of the effort they put in and the money raised and he thanked the group.

9. OPEN FORUM

Cllr Lowman invited residents to raise questions/make comments.

Cllr Wood thanked previous WSCC ward member Gary Wall for his service to the village of Lindfield over the past 4 years.

A member of the public asked if the duck house on the village pond was going to be replaced. Cllr Webster said that although the pond is under the remit of the District Council the Parish Council will add this to a future council agenda for discussion.

10. CHAIR'S CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their contributions. Especially to the special guest the Deputy Lord Lieutenant.

The Chair thanked the Clerk and his team for organising the event.

Attendees were invited to remain for refreshments and to take the opportunity to speak with members of the Council and community groups in attendance.

The final thought of the evening was that we have the power to influence what happens in our local area and community, and to make a meaningful difference.

The meeting finished at 20:10pm.

Groups and Organisations in attendance

Lindfield Society

Lindfield Bonfire Society

Greener Lindfield

Friends of Eastern Nature Reserve

Mid Sussex Older Peoples Council

Lindfield Branch of the Royal British Legion

Village Archive

WSCC Waste Prevention

Co-op

Sussex Police

Fairer World Lindfield

LINDFIELD PARISH MEETING

Lindfield Life

The presentation shared on the evening is available upon request from the Parish Council.

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL AT THE 2026 PARISH MEETING

DISCLAIMER

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

DRAFT