



Annual Report 2020

The Annual Parish Assembly has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Lingfield Parish Council

Report 2020

Chairman's Report

The year began with a change to our councillor line-up after elections were held on Thursday May 2. New councillors – Ron Coleman and Cath Hearnden – joined our existing line-up of myself, Camilla Downing, Liz Lockwood, Graham Marks and Andrea Watson.

We promised last year that we would support all efforts to stop development on Star Fields. Liz Lockwood represented the Parish Council at the Inspector's hearing on Tandridge's local plan. We are still anxiously waiting for news on the Inspector's decision.

Keeping the village as smart and tidy as we can has been a priority. The refurbished twinning sign has been reinstated in Vicarage Road. Come May (Coronavirus permitting) you will see a return of the hanging baskets which were so attractive last year, and this year we will have additional flower 'cubes' to look at.

Ron Coleman has been busy refurbishing the benches in the village – for which we are profoundly grateful as this involves a lot of hard work and skill.

I said last year that another key priority was recruiting a litter warden, and I am delighted we were able to recruit Peter Homewood in July who has been making a real difference to the state of the village. Another person who makes a major difference to the village is Rita Russell, and we would like to thank her for looking after the plants around the pond and the planters in the village.

Parking enforcement remains a major challenge. We are hoping that the new agency who are in charge of parking enforcement will prove to be more effective than their predecessors, and we have asked them to focus on outside the Co-op, the slip road to Newchapel Road and outside the school.

We renewed our commitment to Fairtrade in September and we supported Lingfield Day at

Christmas with a contribution to the Christmas lights.

We committed ourselves this year to trying to save the Children's Centre which has been operating at Young Epilepsy. Tandridge District Council has decided to switch the location of the Centre to the Victoria Sport and Social Club, and we have set money aside to support the Centre when it opens.

Sadly we decided this year that we could not run Lingfest, for two reasons. Firstly, we had cash pressures elsewhere – notably from the Children's Centre – but also a number of our key volunteers wanted to take a break this year. After a lot of debate, we decided to rest Lingfest this year with the ambition that we will be returning next year. In the event, we would have had to cancel anyway – let us all hope we can return, better than ever, next year.

Improving the pond has become an important topic this year. We decided we needed to investigate the leaks and remove the silt. We were going to start the work in February, but we realised we weren't ready largely due to problems associated with disposing of the silt. But we are committed to doing the work, and it will be on the agenda for action either later this year or next.

Another issue which arose this year was the state of the skate ramps in Jenner's Field, which were closed off due to damage and therefore unable to be used. We were pleased to join with campaigning resident Jacqui O'Sullivan to press Tandridge District Council to do something about the problem. We're waiting to hear how Coronavirus affects things, but just before the crisis started we understood that repairs were due to be carried out and that later this year consultation would begin with the local skate ramp community prior to commissioning a new skate ramp. We will find out in due course how Coronavirus affects the plan.

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At the time of writing, Coronavirus is on everyone's mind. Alas it means that two wonderful events we were due to sponsor at the Community Centre to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day cannot go ahead. The first event was a jazz evening at the Community Centre on the evening of Friday May 8 (the Bank Holiday) and the second was a special day on Sunday May 10 when the Flix in the Stix team were going to show two different WW2-themed films and serve tea between the two showings. We very much hope that these events can be reconvened later in the year.

I would like to thank my fellow parish councillors for their hard work and support. Thanks also go to our Parish Clerk, Fay Elwood, who works so hard to keep things moving and to keep us all in line!

*Vivien Hepworth
Lingfield Parish Council Chairman*



Finance

A precept of £55,000 was raised from Tandridge District Council for the financial year 2019/20. The precept for 2020/21 has been increased to £60,000.

Full accounts have not yet been finalised but the list below gives a broad outline of how the money has been spent:-

Administration £31,214
Grants £9,760
Centenary Fields and Nature Reserves £4296
Environment and Parish Property £3565
Gun Pond and surrounding area £3523
Neighbourhood Plan £9212.80 (mostly from Government Grant funding and not from the precept)
Allotments £2320
Lingfest £22466 (net cost to parish council was £5029)

Grants

The following grants were awarded in 2019/20:-

£3500 St Peter and St Paul's Church towards maintenance of the churchyard
£2000 Lingfield Nature Reserves towards maintenance costs
£1000 Christmas Lights
£800 Meals on Wheels
£800 Community News
£700 Lingfield Scouts
£300 Lingfield Sports Association
£200 St Catherine's Hospice
£200 Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign
£159.80 Lingfield Library
£100 RH7 History Group

Full accounts will be available after 31st May.



Allotments

We have two allotment sites, one at Centenary Fields and one in Newchapel Road. At the time of writing there are 2 vacancies at Centenary Fields and 3 vacancies at The Pollards. We remain grateful to the owners of The Pollards for letting us use the land to provide allotments to residents of Lingfield and Dormansland.

Planning

Lingfield Parish Council Planning Committee meets every fortnight to provide comments about planning applications submitted to Tandridge Council. Whilst our comments are not considered "statutory" like the Highways and Environment Agency submissions, the planning officers are increasingly recognising the important local knowledge that the parish council can share and making decisions that reflect this.

There have been 77 planning applications for the Parish Council to consider over the last year. No new houses have been given permission in the Parish, although one

longstanding mobile home has been allowed to remain. Tandridge Council has refused applications for 17 mobile homes on Newchapel Road and has also refused permission for 6 flats instead of the one house at the Old Hare and Hounds, 6 additional homes on site of the Baguette Bar and a couple of tiny homes squeezed into tiny sites. In total, 30 dwellings have been refused in the Parish.

Extensions accounted for 36 planning applications; some of these were for Certificates of Lawfulness for permitted development, which allows a simple process to put small extensions onto homes without the same rules as full planning permission and were largely acceptable to the planning department. The Parish Council was able to suggest that some applications didn't meet the criteria of the Lingfield Village Design Statement and were refused accordingly. The Lingfield Neighbourhood Plan is currently working on updating this Design Statement to ensure future development, including extensions and commercial proposals, harmonise with the range of architectural styles in the village and the extensive Conservation Area.

This Conservation Area provides protection for a huge number of trees in the village within its boundaries. Individual trees and groups of trees have also been given additional protection in Tree Preservation Orders, which require any work undertaken on them to have approval from the District's Tree Officer. There were 12 approvals for works to TPO trees over the last year.

Two issues dominated planning last year. Firstly, the progress of the hotly debated Tandridge Local Plan through an Examination, including public hearings. The one site allocated for Lingfield, The Star Fields, generated huge interest and the Parish Council along with many others and the Star Fields Action Group (STAG) were very vocal in its opposition to this allocation. As of today, we are still awaiting the result of the

Inspector's Report on the Local Plan and the future of the Star Fields.

The other issue in the Parish which creates additional and costly work for the planning department, is the proliferation of unauthorised development or the removal of protected trees without permission. When landowners put up buildings (or trailers) without permission or do not actually build to the plans they have been given permission for, the Parish Council will strongly oppose this, especially where this has a negative impact on the character of the village or the openness of the beautiful Green Belt countryside that surrounds us.

Liz Lockwood 01342 834282



This year the Reserves are 25 years old. There is a lot to celebrate; our wonderful group of volunteers who turn up once a month whatever the weather, the sharing of their wide and varied knowledge by some of our enthusiastic volunteers, the number of butterflies, some quite rare, or seen for the first time, that visit our designated Butterfly garden and our wild flower meadows.

Actions & Achievements

Our two ponds and two scrapes continue to attract a variety of wildlife including Great Crested Newts and various winged insects, snails, snakes and small fish. Unfortunately, due to the recent heavy rainfall at the beginning of the year our main pond is too full and overflowing so it is hard to determine what is happening in the pond at the moment. As a result of this we are unable for the time being to offer our pond-dipping sessions.

One of the main aims of the Reserves is to encourage as much wildlife as possible. We are doing this by revitalising the meadow

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parts of the Reserves (97% of meadows throughout the UK have been lost) so this regeneration is very important. Our quiet garden has been re-sown with wild flower seeds and the spoil from the new pond has been sown.

The new pond in the Butterfly garden has been made possible by a grant given to us by Councillor Lesley Steeds for which we are very grateful. The coppiced area of Cold Harbour has been sown with woodland seeds and we have sown bluebell seeds throughout the Reserves. We have had the best year yet for Common Spotted Orchids, we have planted several disease resistant Elm trees, thanks to a particular volunteer, and a group of Goat Willows which are attractive to the Purple Emperor Butterfly. Our Butterfly garden has been successfully replanted; it now has a large bed of insect-friendly plants, chalk and rubble beds and the above mentioned new pond. Julian Clarke, a local moth expert did another survey and recorded several species.

The Reserves have been used by Lingfield Primary School for tree surveys, pond dipping and a treasure hunt and Little Chums pre-school use it regularly for Forest School.

Funding

Natural England's conditions are satisfied and we continue to receive funding from them. We also receive funding from Lingfield Parish Council towards the cost of mowing, path clearance and hedges. This year we are in line to receive monies from the Co-op in Lingfield and also Jeremy Pursehouse, Chairman of Tandridge District Council as he chose the Reserves as one of the two charities he is supporting during his Year of Office, so we will receive monies from his events which will help fund our future projects.

Future Projects

Apart from the upkeep of the Reserves we have one or two projects in mind for 2020. We hope to plant many more trees, especially the Goat Willows, an avenue of trees in

Jenners Field and a new hedge and ditch in Bloomers.

Finally, we as a committee would like to thank the Lingfield Parish Council for their continued support for this important and special place in our lovely village.

Sue McDonald



A couple of major obstacles are blocking the progress of the first draft of the Lingfield Neighbourhood Plan (LNP). Firstly, the Examination of the Tandridge Local Plan and now the Coronavirus.

The small team of volunteers working on the LNP has managed to secure direct Government help to produce some of the technical documents which will ensure the Plan is compliant with current legislation and will stand up to its own examination by a planning inspector.

Until the outcome of the Tandridge Local Plan examination is known, the fate of the Star Fields hangs in the balance and the team felt there was little point having any public engagement with the first draft of the plan, until that is decided. However, the work on the final elements of the Neighbourhood Plan has continued and, as soon as it is appropriate to have a public consultation on the contents, you will all be notified. In the meantime, work on the plan is progressing.

To date these tasks have been completed:

- An evidence base and issues identified through public engagement; this will be updated once the Local Plan is decided on as this was collected from 2015 onwards.
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report has been sent to the regulatory bodies for

consultation; this will be needed if the village chooses its own sites for housing, instead of the one chosen by Tandridge District Council.

- A Heritage and Character Assessment of the Parish Area.
- An impartial assessment of all the potential sites in the parish so that residents can make an informed choice, should they decide to allocate sites for the housing that they want, for the people they want to have them and what they are going to look like.
- An updated Design Statement based on the current Lingfield Village Design Statement.

The agreement is in place for the LNP to have a professional check-up to ensure the planning elements are correct. Once these are pulled together, they will be shared with everyone. We will update the website and let everyone know. You can sign up for the Lingfield Neighbourhood Plan newsletters on the website <https://www.lingfield.info/> if you haven't already done so.

Cath Hearnden, Chairman



Lingfield Community Library Annual Report 2019/20

Lingfield Community Library was launched on 25 June 2016 and is now run by about 40 volunteers with support from the Surrey County Library Service.

Lingfield Library offers a traditional range of services, including:

- Loan of books and other materials eg DVDs
- A children's library
- Reference material including national and local newspapers
- Reservations for individual readers and book clubs
- Access to computers
- Rhymetime for toddlers and Story Time for 4-7 year olds
- Summer Reading Challenge

Since the launch, we have continued to offer these services and introduced new activities. We have been heartened by the interest in and support shown to the Community Library by local residents. The Library also houses the Hayward History Centre.

Management of the Library

Following the successful establishment of the Library, we have examined the role of the Steering Committee and decided that it should be responsible for strategic oversight. We have established a Library Operations Group, which deals with the day to day running of the Library, including the book stock, volunteer affairs, publicity and events. These remits complement each other and are operating successfully.

Opening Hours

We have altered our opening hours on Saturday in the light of problems recruiting volunteers to cover the afternoon shift and are now open between 10.00am and 2.00pm. This move, which was widely advertised, has not attracted any adverse comment.

Tesco Bags of Help

Following the opening of a Tesco Express in the village, the Library applied successfully for funding from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. We have received £2,000 towards the funding of activities with children, which we have used as follows:

- Purchase of 200 books for the children's library with appropriate shelving

- Acquisition of outdoor bean bags, groundsheets and storage so that we can make more use of the garden in the summer
- Purchase of craft materials for events with children.

We hope to post photos of the acquisition on the Library's website.

New Signage

We have installed a new sign by the entrance to the Library which will also allow us to advertise events in addition to opening hours and regular activities. We are grateful to the Trustees of the Guest House, Lingfield and Dormansland Parish Councils for their generous grants towards this.

Events

We have organised the following events:

- Visits by Father Christmas, who distributed presents to young borrowers and children from local playgroups and nurseries
- Decorations in the Library for Christmas.
- 'Author of the Month' displays which have proved popular with borrowers.
- Exhibitions by local craftspeople and groups
- Sunflowers in the garden in collaboration with Dormansland Primary School
- A monthly feature for local organisations to publicise their activities, including the Running Club and Lingfield Nature Reserve.
- Craft events including sessions for children.

Children's Library

- Rhymetime: We have continued to offer Rhymetime for the under 5s every week during term time. Following feedback from parents and carers, Rhymetime now starts at an earlier time which fits in better with children's timetables and numbers attending have increased.

- Summer Reading Challenge: this ran again in 2019 with more interest from local children than in some other areas of the county.
- Volunteers have worked with staff at local schools and hosted visits from Lingfield Primary School and Lingfield College to the Library.
- Story time after school for 4-7 year olds after school
- Short story and poetry competitions with the results displayed in the Library and published in Community News.

Volunteers

The number of volunteers has remained constant. We have established a small group to have oversight of issues relating to volunteers, including production of the rota and training. The group has drawn up a new Training and Induction Programme which has been successfully trialled with recent volunteers.

We also offered training to volunteers on SPARK, the new library management system, introduced by Surrey. This has extended the range of activities which volunteers can undertake, and we hope to have the facilities to join new borrowers shortly. Following further budget cuts by Surrey CC, volunteers have taken on additional activities over the past year.

New Website

The Library's website has been hosted by Surrey Community Information. Funding for this network ceases on 31 March 2020. We have found a new host and our new address is www.lingfieldlibrary.org.uk.

Proposals for 2020/21

We hope to continue to offer our existing facilities and to introduce some new activities, to include:

- Visits from local schools and nursery schools
- Celebration of World Poetry Day and World Book Day
- A range of Craft activities

- Monthly exhibitions and features on chosen authors
- Reorganise the Children's Library

The Guest House Trustees

Surrey County Council rented space for the Library from the Trustees for 7 years in 2018. One of the Trustees is a member of the Steering Committee to facilitate cooperation.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the members of the Lingfield Library Steering Committee, the Library Operations Group and all our volunteers for their commitment and support over the past year. This has enabled us to run Lingfield Community Library successfully and extend the range of activities which we offer to the communities in Lingfield and Dormansland. Lingfield Community Library is also grateful to Lingfield and Dormansland Parish Councils for their financial and other support.

*Selina Springbett, Chair
Lingfield Community Library Steering Committee
March 2020*



As I write this, the Community Centre stands closed and silent. Looking back at the records of our meetings, I see that in February we had no mention of Coronavirus and were planning events for summer and autumn of 2020. Within a month, we had moved to complete closure, with no clarity about when we shall reopen our doors. We are, however, clear that we shall do so and that we will once again have a lively Community Centre providing entertainment and the venue for many activities that people enjoy.

We are grateful to all our staff for their work during the year. We have placed Claire, Karil, Shelly and Ray on furlough and have agreed to top up their pay from the 80% level that public funds will support. Our finance person,

Paula, remains on our books and is doing an excellent job of keeping on top of the figures and ensuring that we are registered for financial support.

The Centre had built up its reserves over the years. Whilst none of us expected this crisis, the reserves should help see us into the autumn and to a happier time when we can begin to reopen. We can thank those who decided to build up the reserves for the breathing space this gives us, together with the furlough arrangements.

We have a large number of users whose activities have had to stop. We rely on them for a large part of the income that makes the Centre viable. It will be a priority, when the time comes to reopen, to help them re-establish their businesses. They have our best wishes in this difficult time.

Let me now look back on the year before the crisis emerged. It was, ironically, the year in which we returned to financial stability, after the previous two years when our revenues had declined and costs increased. Thanks to careful financial management, successful marketing and some increases in prices, we were expecting to achieve financial balance and even a modest surplus.

In addition to the regular activities at the Centre, we hosted a two-night run of "Who Killed the Vicar", a murder mystery in which the genuine vicar of St Peter and St Paul's, Katherine Percival, played the part of the vicar. There is no connection between Katherine's absence from Lingfield and her fate in the play. Thanks to Christine Tebbutt for managing the play and to all those who took part. It was well-supported and Christine is currently planning the next event.

We were able to present La Boheme, performed by Opera Holloway. It was the fifth time we have welcomed Opera Holloway. Sadly, the increase in their charges and the limit on our capacity means that we are unlikely to do so again.

At Christmas, there were two performances of "The Twelve Days of Christmas", designed to appeal to both young and old.

During the year, we said a sad goodbye to two long-serving directors. Sally Cole had been at the heart of Flix in the Stix and Richard Holroyd had convinced us that operas and plays could successfully be staged in a village centre such as ours. We shall miss them both.

We were able to welcome Graham Tebbutt, husband of Christine, to the board: Graham has already proved to have many practical skills from which we benefit.

As always, we are grateful to the volunteers who support the Community Centre, in particular Robin Williams who has given a great deal of time recently keeping our IT systems in good shape.

So, in many ways a successful year but overshadowed by recent events. We look forward to reopening and hearing once again the noise of children at Little Chums, exhibitions, classes and all the other sights and sounds we miss.

Best wishes and wash your hands,

Ian Jones
Chairman Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre
April 2020



The number of meals we provide each day remain around 30. These clients are our regulars and we have always regarded them as the most vulnerable members of the community.

During the current crisis, the Meals on Wheels service is being run solely by the 8 committee members and 1 family member. This decision

was taken to reduce risk of contamination for our clients and ourselves.

The cooking 4 days a week is in the capable hands of our retired chef who is ably helped by her daughter, who also has catering experience and is not working at present. Vegetables are prepared the afternoon before by members working in isolation in the kitchen.

Our suppliers are not affected at present and our deliveries from the local fruit and veg man and butchers are working well.

Our deliveries to clients are split into 2 rounds and are made by 2 people, each working alone. They wear masks and gloves. They leave meals on the doorstep and give the clients space and time to collect them. They make sure they see the clients each day.

Payment is once a week by cheque. We are delighted that the Fish and Chip round continues on Fridays from the local shop.

Sara Watson

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 24TH MAY 2019 AT LINGFIELD AND DORMANSLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE STARTING AT 7PM

Present:

Anne Hardwick, Ian Quaipe, Chris and Margaret Vasey, Ian Jones, Peter and Heather Francis, John and Ann Ball, Sue Quelch, Sally and John Cole, Brian and Sonia Perkins, Pam Erskine

County Councillor:-

Lesley Steeds (also District Councillor for Dormansland and Felcourt)

District Councillors:-

Liz Lockwood (also Lingfield Parish Councillor)
Sir Nicholas White
Mark Ridge

Parish Councillors:-

Vivien Hepworth (Chairman)
Cath Hearnden (Vice chairman)
Graham Marks
Ron Coleman
Andrea Watson

In attendance: Fay Elwood, Parish Clerk

Apologies (only recorded for councillors)
Apologies were received from Camilla
Downing

1. Chairman's Report

The Chairman started by welcoming everyone to the Annual Parish Assembly and thanking them for attending. She then introduced herself (as the new chairman) and invited other members of the parish council to say a few words about themselves.

She urged people to read the annual report which not only explains the progress made by the parish council over the last year but also includes details about planning, Lingfield Nature Reserves, Lingfield Community Library, Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre and Lingfield United Trust. She then thanked John Cole who had been chairman for the past four years. He was an outstanding chairman, full of good sense plus a wonderful sense of humour which made for a very cheerful parish council. She wished him and Sally all the very best in their forthcoming move to the West Country.

The parish council has some significant issues to deal with, not least the proposed Star Fields development, which would significantly damage the character of our village. We're all up in arms about it, and that includes the parish council which was never consulted about the development before it was announced. She said that the parish council will do everything it can to continue the opposition to the development and to support the Star Fields Action Group.

Other key priorities on the agenda are keeping the area clean and we are in the process of recruiting a new litter warden and will be supplementing this with litter picks

around the village. Another key issue for the village is parking enforcement. Many people in the village currently know exactly when parking wardens come to the village – it's the same time every week – and this doesn't exactly help enforcement. We understand that there is to be a new regime on parking enforcement and we sincerely hope matters improve. We will do our best with the help of our county and district councillors to demand an improvement if it doesn't happen.

Vivien believes we should work closely with the Lingfield Chamber of Commerce to support local businesses. And we will certainly do our best to make the village pretty with more flowers and plants if possible.

There will be more aims and objectives coming out of our first parish council meeting as a new council which is to be held next Tuesday evening. We will be discussing what else we can aim to do at that meeting.

2. Report from County and District Councillors

Report from Lesley Steeds

Lesley said she has been the Surrey County Councillor for 2 years now and has been busy trying to get things done in her division despite budget restrictions. She has used most of her 'allowance' sorting out the wet spot in Saxbys Lane. The drainage situation has now been sorted but she is trying to get some tidying work done. She has made sure blocked drains in Station Road and Town Hill have been cleared; arranged for the installation of bollards outside the primary school and prioritised our High Street for resurfacing.

At the moment she is working to try to keep the Children's Centre open. She is still trying to get the pinch points removed but the police are determined they should stay. The cabinet member suggested taking the verge opposite Bay Trees back by 12 inches to improve the sight lines. However, if this were to happen, and one of the pinch points is removed, it would still require speed cushions. She acknowledged that the pinch

points are causing significant problems for the owner of the Thatched Cottage who is trying to get her roof repaired but it is not safe to attempt this without a road closure.

Report from Liz Lockwood

Liz said that she is pleased to be re-elected to Tandridge District Council (TDC). TDC has submitted its local plan which is likely to be inspected in September/October. She has been working hard on the inappropriate insertion of Star Fields to the local plan at the last minute.

TDC is going to provide new rubbish bins to residents in September.

The skate ramp in Jenners Field is out of action due to vandalism but it is evident that part of the structure is rotting. Liz will try to get them to refurbish the skate ramp as it is a valuable asset for young people in the village. Finally Liz advised that Jeremy Pursehouse has been elected as Chairman of TDC for the coming year and he has chosen Lingfield Nature Reserves as one of his charities for the year.

Report from Mark Ridge

Mark has been in office for a year and feels he has now settled into the role and recognises what is important to the community. He is taking up the issue of parking enforcement and advised that enforcement is moving from Reigate and Banstead to Sevenoaks in the near future.

He has been appointed as the representative on the Lingfield Nature Reserves committee and is looking forward to helping to preserve it.

He informed those present that both he and Lesley are on the Licensing Committee and will be considering the application from Lingfield Park to increase their opening hours.

Report from Sir Nicholas White

Tannery Gardens will be heavily affected by any change in Lingfield Park's opening hours. He is concerned about the effect on the village in general. He advised that he is trying to get involved in Gatwick Airport in the light of climate change concerns. Specifically, he is

concerned about increased use of the emergency runway.

He supports Lesley in her effort to keep the Children's Centre Open and said that mothers with young children should not be expected to travel to Caterham for the support they need.

3. Public Questions

Ian Quaife – People are parking for long periods outside the convenience store in Newchapel Road which is causing problems with deliveries.

The fencing around the skatepark is down every morning. The northern end of the structure has a small hole which TDC has identified as a H & S issue.

Youngsters can be observed smoking weed and the police seem to be unconcerned.

Drivers on the school run are leaving their engines running which is causing pollution.

Could we approach Richard Ford to ask if he is interested in the Litter Warden role?

A developer interested in the field next to Wallis has said that if this area is developed the pinch points could go. Ian said he believes the pinch points are 'political'.

He is concerned about water in the lower churchyard and the knock on effect if Star Fields is developed. He suggested a water survey for Star Fields could be useful in the campaign to stop development.

Mark Ridge replied that all rainwater from houses in New Place Gardens is fed into a stream via a culvert under the road.

Mark said that he has complained to the police about graffiti on the skate ramp and was advised that a certain amount of graffiti is acceptable. Any graffiti which is offensive or racist is removed within 24 hours. He is concerned about the lack of police presence and the fact that low-level crime is ignored.

Vivien Hepworth said that at a recent meeting of the parish council, police representatives had requested that all crimes should be reported, however minor.

Ian Quaife said that a fight which broke out amongst drunken race goers at The Star Inn

on Good Friday had a huge impact on the village. The Police are not objecting to the increase in hours at the racecourse because they say there have been no problems in the past. Ian asked that everyone looks at the application and objects to the changes. Liz said she will publicise the application on social media.

Action: Liz Lockwood

Andrea Watson referred to a concert held at Lingfield Park two years ago, which caused gridlock in the village for several hours. The Racing Post had run a story on the event. She suggested contacting Racing Post to see if they are interested in running a story about the application for increased hours and its effects on the village. Vivien promised we will discuss the issue further at our PC meeting to be held on Tuesday 28th May.

Ian Jones suggested that direct contact with Lingfield Park in an effort to co-operate might be the best way forward.

Sue Quelch said she would be concerned about how people would travel home from the racecourse at 2am and suggested they may be more likely to drink and drive.

Brian Perkins said the racecourse re-sited their stage and speakers in response to a request from the parish council in the past, so they may be open to negotiation.

Margaret Vasey said that Town Hill has become dangerous for pedestrians. The pavement has become narrow due to the vegetation which has not been cut back. Pavements need widening. Vegetation needs clearing.

Sue Quelch asked if the ivy in the High Street twitten could be cut back?

Ann Ball wished to thank the person who looks after the area around the pond (Rita Russell). She also asked for a notice board dedicated to local events.

John Ball asked if the drain in Saxbys Lane has been sorted. Lesley explained that Surrey County Council had originally said it wasn't their problem. Lesley used her member allocation to pay for an inspection. This revealed that the ditch has gradually filled with earth which needed clearing. They renewed some piping and added a drain. Lesley has requested they install some kerbing and repatch the road.

Mark Ridge said that the drains in Vicarage Road and Bakers Lane are all blocked. Lesley said that SCC has now employed a new contractor and she urged people to report blocked drains online.

Sue Quelch explained why the flooding occurred in Bakers Lane. It was due to tree roots having broken the drains.

Ron Coleman said he intends to plot all blocked drains and pot holes on a map for forwarding to Surrey County Council.

Mark Ridge said that the drain infrastructure is gradually breaking down due to its age.

Ian Quaife suggested that the current contractors do not carry out a thorough job. He also referred to an issue with ducklings going missing from the village pond. Ron Coleman explained that he is organising a working party to make improvements to the pond.

4. Presentation of Community Award

The Community Award for 2019 goes to Hareh Naibheman (otherwise known as Harry). He has run the shop in Station Road for many years and here is what his proposer had to say about him:-

"For over 20 years Harry has run the shop in Station Road. He is our hero – shopkeeper and superstar, always going that extra mile and looking out for his customers and members of our community. He is the nicest, kindest and most generous man you could wish to know. Thank you Harry."

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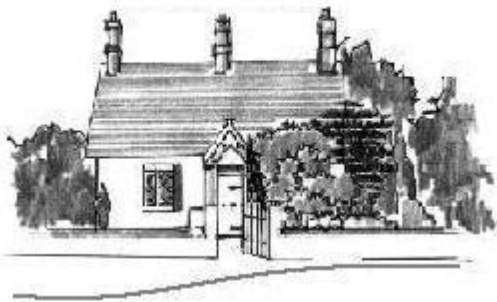
Harry was not able to attend this evening but we will make sure he receives his certificate and gift.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Your councillors for 2020 are:-

Vivien Hepworth – Chairman
Liz Lockwood - Chairman of Planning
Cath Hearnden – Vice chairman
Graham Marks
Andrea Watson
Camilla Downing
Ron Coleman

Clerk: Fay Elwood
Tel: 835557 email: lingfieldpc@gmail.com
www.lingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk



Lingfield United Trust

Background

The objects of the charity remain;

- The provision and maintenance of Almshouse Accommodation.
- The provision of Grants for assistance to those meeting the charity's criteria and resident within the parishes of Dormansland, Lingfield and Baldwins Hill. I set out below the works that Lingfield United Trust has carried out in these respects over the past year.

We continue to maintain our 2 Almshouses known as 'HoChee Cottages' in Plough Road, Dormansland. We have made representations to Surrey County Council with regards to their Notice of Intent to carry out traffic calming works adjacent to the cottages at the junction. Whilst we support traffic calming measures throughout Dormansland and especially at this junction where there have been several road traffic accidents in the last few years, we reiterate that we want a safe pathway provided for our residents from their front gate along Dormans Road to the pavement along Plough Road. The current proposals do not provide this and we are asking to meet with SCC officers.

At Christmas 2019, the Trustees of Lingfield United Trust were able to distribute 135 cheques to those residents who applied and were eligible in the parishes of Baldwins Hill, Dormansland and Lingfield. The amounts distributed are £65 per single person and £80 per couple.

We continue to pay grants for assistance to vulnerable and needy residents and families in Lingfield and Dormansland and gave several of these over the past year to assist with appliances and furniture.

We have acted on behalf of the local Cavendish House Trust and have been successful in obtaining for them a supplementary grant from the Henry Smith Trust, to contribute towards the running costs of the residential accommodation they provide, for the next three years.

At this current time of crisis due to the Coronavirus, we have sought ways in which to give grants to community initiatives working towards the alleviation of local hardship in these difficult times. To date we have given a grant to the Foodbank in East Grinstead, St Catherine's Hospice, and the Community Foundation for Surrey Coronavirus Response Fund. We have been in touch with Oxted Citizens Advice Bureau to make our presence known and we will continue to assist where it

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is appropriate to do so and respond to suitable approaches.

Our website was launched in 2015 and increases our transparency and accessibility in line with the Charity Commission's guidelines. It provides a list of useful links for those visiting the site and there is a map available which shows the boundary of the areas of the ancient parishes of Lingfield, Dormansland and Baldwins Hill which is the area throughout which the Charity operates.

<http://www.lingfieldunitedtrust.org/>

We continue to receive applications for the Christmas Distribution and for Grants for Assistance via the website, in addition to previous traditional means of contact. We continue to have extensive policies in place to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission and in compliance with Government guidelines. These cover Data Protection, Complaints Procedure, Equality and Diversity, and Safeguarding. All are available on the website or from the Clerk or Chairman.

Trustees

David Allonby stood down in July 2019 as a Trustee after many years of considerable support and generous involvement in the Charity. I speak for all the Trustees, when I say his kind and sensible advice and extraordinary local knowledge was held in great esteem. We also miss the valuable contribution that Rev Kathryn Percival gave to the Trust during her time as a Trustee with us. We await her successor and hope that they will join us once appointed. We wish her every good wish in her future role.

I attach a current updated list for your information.

As always the Annual Report and Financial Statement will be audited and sent to the Charity Commissioners in due course.

*Marion Wardell, Chairman
Lingfield United Trust*

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