



MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD AT LINGFIELD AND DORMANSLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 9TH APRIL 2018 STARTING AT 7PM

Present:

Michael Sydney, Sandra Silvester, Martin Cundey, Chris Vasey, Paul Pirie, Mark Ridge, Bob and Rita Russell, Tim and Felicity Pool, Graham Tebbutt, Chris D'Avray, Mary Ayres, Liz McLellan, Selina Springbett, Peter and Heather Francis, John Madden, Sue Quelch

County Councillor Lesley Steeds

District Councillors:

Brian Perkins, Liz Lockwood and Maureen Young

Parish Councillors

Andrea Watson, John Cole and Graham Marks

In attendance: Mrs Fay Elwood, Clerk

1 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

The chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He thanked parish councillors for their hard work throughout the year. He referred to the passing of Ron Palmer and Valerie Millar who have previously been on the parish council. He encouraged people to call into the parish office if they have any problems. He thanked Sandra Silvester for writing the walk leaflets which the parish council has funded. His full report is available in the Report to the Parish Assembly.

2 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Brian Perkins, Tandridge District Councillor:-

This time last year we were talking about the local plan and in the meantime the District Council is getting on with the Caterham Masterplan which is quite impressive. In addition, in Oxted the council is tackling the dismantling of the gas holder as part of the regeneration of Oxted. Ellice Road car park will be enlarged. The District Council has also been building some council housing around the district. They are contemplating forming a company to manage them. He said he has been trying to get the district council to divert some of its energy to Lingfield. Brian then read out some statistics showing TDC in a favourable light when compared to other district councils in Surrey. This will be Brian's last presentation to a parish assembly as he will not be standing in the forthcoming election. Mark Ridge will be standing for the Conservatives in Lingfield. He thanked everyone for their support, especially in his chairmanship year. He hopes residents feel he has represented them well.

Lesley Steeds, Surrey County Council:-

Explained that the area she covers is quite large and more than she has been used to. She has tried to tackle the things we have been concerned about:- the broken VAS in Newchapel Road has now been removed; some disabled bays have been created; the rusting pole in the High Street has been removed. She referred to the application to install a footbridge at Lingfield Station and explained that the Local Area Committee refused permission and we are waiting to see if Network Rail will be going to Judicial Review. She has arranged to meet Colin Kemp to see if anything can be done about the pinch points. He agreed that the first pinch point could be taken away if funding is available. The Police do not want the pinch points removed but they may agree to some alterations,

such as removing one and replacing it with a speed table. As with anything else, funding is a big part of the issue. Lesley is disappointed with the size of the increase in the Council Tax but unfortunately this is a trend which is likely to continue unless the government increases the amount of money it gives to principal authorities.

3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Q.Sandra Silvester - were you able to ask SCC about the broken road surface in Lingfield High Street?

A. Lesley Steeds -Surrey receives the least amount of money compared to other adjoining county councils. Pot hole repairs are being prioritised. The criteria for mending pot holes has changed and to qualify for repair the pothole needs to be more than the size of a football.

Q. Chris D'Avray asked about the broken road edge outside Nos 3-7 Saxbys Lane.

A. Lesley Steeds - The engineers have done temporary repairs. John Cole, Lesley Steeds and Colin Kemp inspected the area recently. The drains under the roads belong to the houses. SCC will not repair the drains because they are private. Colin Kemp said he would contact the Environment Agency to see if they can help with repairs to the drain. Lesley will persist.

Q. Heather Francis - Do you get compensation if you damage your car on a pothole?

A. Lesley Steeds - More chance of a payout if the pothole has been reported but not fixed.

Q. Rita Russell -Vicarage Road was top dressed badly. Since then there are piles of shingle accumulating.

A. Lesley asked Rita to email the parish clerk and Lesley will take it up on her behalf. Or email Lesley direct.

Q. Mary Ayres - Much of the damage is caused by utilities works and repairs not being done properly. Does SCC claim against the utilities companies?

A. Lesley Steeds - The repair has to fail within a year in order for SCC to be able to make a claim.

Q. Rita Russell - was surprised to hear that the police do not want the pinch points removed.

A. Lesley Steeds - Chris Cannon was the person who advised not to get involved in trying to get pinch points removed.

Q. Heather Francis - asked if they can have a VAS at the bottom of Town Hill.

A. John Cole - replied that we are undertaking a speed survey with the aim of reducing the speed limit through the centre of the village to 20 mph. Brian Perkins referred to Speedwatch and it being too dangerous to perform it at this site.

Graham Tebbutt – There is a considerable amount of speeding in the village, particularly Newchapel Road. Speeding is less prevalent in the High street because of inconsiderate parking.

Liz Lockwood pointed out that the developers of the properties being built at Pond Farm have provided some money to Surrey County Council to improve the footpaths in the vicinity of Pond Farm.

The Chairman explained that Richard Ford, the road sweeper will be coming back on a part time basis in the near future.

Paul Pirie referred to Lingfest and asked for it to be minuted that Lingfield Parish Council should take full credit for backing this event.

Q. Paul Pirie asked for an update about the proposals for a Garden Village?

A. Liz Lockwood said that an announcement would soon be made about which of the locations is preferred.

Q. Chris D'Avray – mentioned that older residents in Lincolns Mead are struggling to cross Godstone Road to get to the Post Office.

A. John Cole explained that we have rejected the proposal to install a pedestrian refuge because the only place it could be sited would cause difficulties for large vehicles but we are asking SCC to consider a pelican crossing.

Sandra Silvester asked about the properties on the corner of Godstone Road and Headland Way and whether the area is to be redeveloped. No-one is aware of such plans.

4 LINGFIELD NATURE RESERVES

Liz McLellan gave a short presentation about the photography project. She came up with the idea of including the whole community and decided to set up a competition. The project has been set up to try to include everyone, including children. Three judges select the best six pictures each month. The aim is to produce a calendar and a family organizer for 2019. The project will hopefully make some money to invest back into the nature reserves. Between 40 and 60 entries are coming in each month. Some of the entries are from children.

John Madden gave a short presentation about the Nature Reserves. Not only do the Reserves look good but they are constantly surprising us. Some of the species of insects are quite rare and difficult to see. It is a challenge to not have experts running the reserves as sometimes the aims cause minor conflicts. We are trying to come up with a management plan but even this is challenging as people have different views about how to address the three aims of Education, Amenity and Wildlife. He thanked the parish council and the district council for their support. He also thanked the loyal volunteers who turn up every month to help with the work. However, as people get older and some move away we need to recruit new volunteers. We will carry on trying to balance the aims. The vandalism seems to have abated. He invited feedback about the Reserves, either this evening or in the future. It is one of the best sites in East Surrey for Great Crested Newts and the development of a second pond is essential to protect these numbers.

Andrea Watson asked about plans for the Butterfly Garden. John said that they are collecting plants which specifically attract butterflies. The previous set up was too shady. Due to limited funds they are only going to do half the area in the first instance and this will also allow them to see how it develops.

Heather Francis has saved some plants. She asked when they can be planted. He thanked Heather and said that if everyone did this, the area would be planted in no time.

5 COMMUNITY AWARDS

The chairman presented community awards to Chris D'Avray and Mary Ayres in recognition of their tremendous contribution to the community during their time in Lingfield. We wish them all the best for their forthcoming move to the West Country.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm