

Lingfield Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2013 AT 8PM AT LINGFIELD AND DORMANSLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present:

Chris D'Avray – in the chair
Lisa Bangs
Valerie Millar
Graham Marks (part of meeting)
John Cole
Sonia Perkins
Mary Edwards

In attendance:-

Mrs Fay Elwood, Parish Clerk

District Councillor Brian Perkins
District Councillor Lesley Steeds

One member of the press

Two members of the public

Report from District Councillor for Felcourt, Lesley Steeds

Lesley asked how the meeting went with Andrew Perkins, Chief Executive of Lingfield Park Resort. The Chairman reported that he was very keen to work with the community and was open to the possibility of co-operating on the matter of a footpath from Felcourt to Lingfield. He requested plans of the exact location before commenting further. If all landowners are in agreement, an application will need to be made to Surrey County Council. There was no indication that LPR would be expecting anything in return, although Andrew Perkins did state that the new owners are very commercially minded. Lesley will email Paul Kaye to let him know that we have made contact and established a good rapport.

There have been three accidents at Felcourt during the past week, one of which resulted in a fatality. The Felbridge Against Speeding Traffic (FAST) group have taken the opportunity to raise the profile of their campaign. Members of FAST took part in an interview with Meridian Radio and were pleased with the outcome. They have asked Lesley to express their appreciation of the response of local councillors. Lesley is aiming to speak to the Managing Director of Charters Towers to ask for a donation towards traffic calming measures as a community gesture.

Residents in Felcourt are very concerned about receiving a Housing Needs Survey from Foxley Tagg indicating that they are seeking to build on Green Belt land. Lack of infrastructure is a particular concern.

Report from District Councillor, Brian Perkins

The budget has been approved and there is no change in the District element of the Council Tax, although there is a 1.99% increase from Surrey County Council.

Referring to the Housing Needs Survey, Brian reported that he has spoken to Piers Mason, Director of Planning at Tandridge District Council and they were not aware of this survey. Piers confirmed that affordable housing can be built in the Green Belt but their policy does not cover a situation where there is a mix of private and social properties. TDC welcomes applications which have the support of the community (as in Tatsfield) but cannot stop a developer from submitting an application.

The Chairman has contacted Caroline Smith at Surrey Council Council, concerning the moving of the entrance at land on Godstone Road. Caroline confirmed that permission was given on the basis of an agricultural access which would not necessarily be suitable for a housing development.

Report from Lisa Bangs, District Councillor

Lisa reported that she has spoken to Piers Mason today and he was able to confirm that Foxley Tagg is trying to gauge interest in a self-build scheme for affordable homes. They have experience in other districts of linking self-build into rural exception schemes.

There is concern about the poor state of the highway at Charters Towers and she has contacted TDC to report that the contractor is not adhering to the conditions of the permission, which states that the highway must be kept free of mud.

Lisa has made an FOI request to Surrey County Council requesting copies of invoices to Asprey Homes to cover officer time spent on the implementation of the traffic calming scheme. All costs associated with the scheme must be met by the developer.

Public Questions

Pam Erskine asked if Michael Sydney is still intending to contact her regarding proposals to protect her property from passing traffic. As Michael was not present, the clerk was asked to contact him on Pam's behalf.

Pam also expressed concern about the Housing Needs Survey being conducted by Foxley Tagg. The Chairman said that he has received several emails from people concerned and Mary Edwards said she is convinced that it is just another way for developers to make money at the expense of our residents.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Michael Sydney.

1.2 Declaration of Interests

None.

1.3 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 29th January 2013

These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

1.5 Correspondence

All correspondence is to be dealt with as agenda items.

1.6 Outstanding Actions

Village emblem – Chris is pursuing design with Lord Lingfield.

Widening of Town Hill footpath – Chairman is pursuing other options.

Maintenance of benches – waiting for better weather.

Drivers Mead – a petition is being presented to Tandridge Local Area Committee. Tandridge District Council is awaiting the response before deciding what action it can take.

2 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Financial Report

Members approved the Financial Report and noted that cash in the bank as at 31st December 2012 was £20,147.02. The following cheques were approved for payment:

Date	Cheque	Details	Amount £
29/01/2013	2047	Clark Ground Care	8,820.00
07/02/2013	2048	Benjamin Tankel - Legal advice	600.00
07/02/2013	2049	R.V. Deller	320.00
14/02/2013	2050	F. Elwood - Salary	886.02
14/02/2013	2051	A. Heaton - Salary	43.20
14/02/2013	2052	Hm Revenue and Customs	157.16
14/02/2013	2053	Surrey Pension Fund	267.46
19/02/2013	2054	BT - Hub	41.16
19/02/2013	2055	Foxhole Farm - Grit	189.00
18/02/2013	2056	SCAPTC - LCR Sub	32.00
		Total	11,356

2.2 Chairman's Report

30th Jan - Meeting with Adam Halpin, PC Barry Reece, Ken Harwood & Geoff Ledden, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for South Tandridge to establish hub communication.

31st Jan - Meeting with Caroline Smith, Michael Sydney, Lisa Bangs & Fay Elwood to discuss monitoring congestion at the Godstone Rd traffic calming scheme.

31st Jan Met police including property services to look to expanding police post at LDCC & incorporate a shower. LDCC will apply to the Parish Council to amend the property.

7th Feb - Met members of FAST together with Michael Sydney, John Cole and Peter J-T. Discussed ways to address speed along Felcourt Rd.

12th Feb - Following planning held informal talks with colleagues to agree a Business Plan for the forthcoming 2 years

13th Feb - 2nd complaint on Godstone Road logged and accepted by SCC.

19th Feb - Met Andrew Perkins, c.e.o at Lingfield Pk with Fay. Discussed following issues:

Footpath from Felcourt to Lingfield

Overgrown Hedge in Blackberry Lane

Possibility of land for 2nd football pitch south of Talbot Rd Rec

Invites to the Winter Derby on 16th March

Lighting for Marriott hotel sign

Bonfire night

Race and Music nights in relation to sound

Residents' Race Day

23rd Feb - Attended SALC chairman's training day at Reigate

25th Feb - Meet with Richard Young to discuss Talbot road proposals.

27th Feb - Due with Mary to meet Gilbert Reed at Pond Farm to look at his potential ideas

2.3 Annual Parish Assembly

Members agreed that Louise Round, Chief Executive of Tandridge District Council, will be invited to give a short talk to residents. The evening will begin at 7pm with wine offered at the end of the evening. It was agreed that an annual update would be prepared in writing to allow more time to discuss issues raised by residents. Ken Harwood will be invited to give an update on Gatwick Airport. As in previous years, local organisations will be invited to provide written reports. The Chairman asked that the clerk from Limpsfield be invited.

2.4 Risk Assessments

Members noted that risk assessments are due by 20th March for approval at the March PC meeting. **Action: Members**

2.5 Budget Virement

Members approved virement of £740 from 'Youth Worker' budget to 'Talbot Road' budget to cover the cost of our Sport and Recreation Assistant.

2.6 Lingfield Youth Club

Members agreed that Lingfield Parish Council is prepared to employ the youth worker on behalf of Lingfield Youth Club.

2.7 Aims and Objectives

Members agreed the amendments to the Business Plan as set out in the Notes of a meeting held on 12th February with the following amendment:-

Crowhurst Road pavement – we will contact SCC to ask if this has been added to their list of future highways work.

Press policy – the first half of the second sentence will be removed. The press policy will now be:-

The clerk should be the first point of contact for press enquiries, who may then consult members if they can provide more comprehensive information. Any comments from individuals should include the caveat that this is a personal view and not necessarily the view of the council as a whole.

3 GRANTS

No grant applications have been received this month.

4 PARISH FACILITIES

4.1 Gun Pond

Members agreed to expenditure of £2405 for chemical treatment to reduce the silt levels in the pond, subject to confirmation that the work is guaranteed. This money will be taken from reserves. The clerk will submit a grant application to iGas to cover the cost of a replanting scheme around the pond. **Action: Clerk**

4.2 Talbot Road Pavilion

Pre-planning advice from Tandridge District Council indicates that a dual purpose pavilion incorporating a nursery school is unlikely to be approved due to the increased traffic movements in Talbot Road. In addition, it is unlikely permission would be achieved for a car park. **Members agreed** to proceed with a planning application for a replacement pavilion (without nursery school provision). If planning permission is obtained, residents will be consulted to see if there is support for submitting an application to the Public Works Loan Board to fund the

project. Other options to raise capital will also be explored. The clerk will arrange a meeting of the Talbot Road Working Group. **Action: Clerk**

4.3 Lingfield Guest House Trust

Members received a copy of the complaint submitted to the Charity Commission concerning Surrey County Council's management of the Lingfield Guest House Trust. We have also written to Surrey County Council to express concern about the composition of the proposed trust when it is transferred to local people. We have been advised that nominations will be invited from Surrey County Council, Tandridge District Council, Lingfield Parish Council and Dormansland Parish Council but it has not been made clear what the total number of trustees will be. Concern was expressed that some nominations have already been made without any reference or involvement of the members of the Lingfield Guest House Advisory Committee.

THE MEETING WAS SUSPENDED TO TAKE COMMENTS FROM LESLEY STEEDS

Lesley reported that Tandridge District Council may not be prepared to appoint anyone to be a trustee of the Guest House. It depends whether they will be adequately insured by the trust. Lesley further reported that those nominated will require necessary skills and Michael Sydney has already identified some residents. No-one from the existing committee has been included and it is feared the loss of their expertise will have a detrimental effect on the new arrangements. Lisa will obtain a copy of TDC's response to SCC's suggestion and she added that Lesley's comments endorse her concerns.

John Cole reported that there is no date fixed for a future meeting of the Guest House Committee. The work to improve the maisonette is due to start on 27th February.

5 TRAFFIC AND PARKING

5.1 Godstone Road Traffic Calming Scheme

Members received notes from a meeting with Surrey County Council held on 31st January 2013. The Chairman advised that we will be working alongside Surrey County Council to monitor the traffic calming scheme. Official monitoring of the scheme cannot begin until the anti skid surface has been applied. Lisa asked why SCC has been able to apply anti skid surface in Oxted but not in Lingfield. At the meeting with SCC, concerns were raised about the width of the carriageway at the centre of the build out which should be a minimum of 5.5 metres. Chris and Lisa measured the road after the meeting, finding it to be 5.1 metres. However, SCC measured the road by digging into the bank and are still claiming the road measures in excess of 5.5 metres. **Members agreed** to ask TDC to provide a planning officer to take an independent measurement of the carriageway.

Discussion took place because some members are unhappy about continuing to challenge SCC on every detail of the scheme. They felt enough has been done for now and we should wait until the results of the monitoring are known. The Chairman reported the details of a conversation he had with the planning advisor for SSALC who agreed (from the information he was given) that a line on a plan without annotation is not sufficient detail for planning purposes. The extension of the pavement is not explicitly mentioned in the Section 278 agreement. Lisa believes that we shouldn't take a back seat on something as important as this which has obviously been a case of maladministration. Lisa proposed that LPC takes the matter to the ombudsman. It was pointed out that the ombudsman will only get involved when all other avenues of complaint have been exhausted. After much discussion, **members agreed** to get the road measured by an independent person and then write to SCC to challenge their claim.

5.2 Parking in Station Road

Members received a copy of plans received from David Curl. **Members agreed** to produce an A5 information sheet to residents in Station Road and invite them to the Parish Assembly to discuss their response to the suggestions.

Action: CD

5.3 Village Signs

The Chairman and Clerk will be meeting a representative from SCC Highways Department to discuss design and location of the village signs. The Co-Op has provided some funds to help with the cost but a condition of the donation is that their logo is included on the signs. SCC does not permit this as it represents advertising on the highway. It was intended to include the new village emblem on the signs but this cannot be added after installation due to the materials being used.

6 HUB PROJECT

Nothing to report.

7 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

Nothing to report.

8 TRAINING AND MEETINGS

Nothing to report.

9 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

10 CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

None.

11 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Members approved minutes of meetings of the Planning Committee held on 29th January and 12th February 2013.

12 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

12.1 Notice board at Felcourt

The clerk reported that the notice board at Felcourt has been demolished as a result of a road traffic accident. Members asked the clerk to contact the Police to pursue a claim against the motorist's insurance. **Action: Clerk**

12.2 Lingfield Primary School

A request has been received from Lingfield Primary School for access to the village cage as the children are studying the village this term. **Members agreed** to this request but children must be closely supervised at all times. Lisa or Chris will be in attendance.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 26th March 2013

Meeting closed at 9.50pm