

# *Lingfield Parish Council*

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## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL** **HELD ON TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012 AT 8PM** **AT LINGFIELD AND DORMANSLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

### **Present:**

Chris D'Avray – in the chair

Valerie Millar

Lisa Bangs

John Cole

Sonia Perkins

Mary Edwards

County Councillor Michael Sydney

One member of the press

Two members of the public

### **In attendance:-**

Mrs Fay Elwood, Parish Clerk

### **Report from Angie Austin, Inspector, Surrey Police**

Angie attended the meeting in response to an invitation from the chairman. She reported that there is a 20% drop in crimes in Lingfield this year with 16% of the crimes reported being classified as 'high level'. Reports of anti social behaviour are also slightly down at roughly 6 per month. Of the 356 reported crimes, 98 have suspects linked to them and there has been particular success with drug offences. Most criminals are not from this area but there are a couple of repeat offenders within our community. There has been one ASBO issued in Lingfield. The Police are aware of recent catapult attacks but it is difficult to collect enough evidence to charge the culprits. She confirmed that the Police will be carrying out their usual drink-drive campaign during December.

### **Report from County Cllr Michael Sydney**

In relation to Highways the general picture is that work being done at the moment is improving, although there are still some potholes to be repaired. Preparations for winter are the same as last year and more farmers have signed up to help with gritting if required. SCC has set up a task force to look at relationships with other agencies and they are looking at the permit scheme which operates in Kent. This would ensure that work is done to a better standard and is completed on time. Referring to the cost of school transport to Oxted, there is another year's reprieve to give time for the whole policy to be reviewed. Michael will now reconvene the working group. On the subject of Lingfield Library, SCC has lodged a request with the Charity Commission to transfer the trust to local people. In the meantime, planning

permission has been granted for work to update the maisonette. Finally, Michael asked if the Parish Council is aware that we may lose our post office. The Chairman said that the Postmaster is required to give three months notice and if this happens LPC will consider if it is able to offer any help to ensure that Lingfield retains this facility.

### **Report from District Councillor Lisa Bangs**

Lisa is currently liaising with the health services about household disposal of clinical waste. Otherwise nothing else to report at the moment.

### **Issues raised by members of the public**

Rita Russell said that the police have collected CCTV footage from the Library to try to find out who carried out the recent catapult attack on the windows of the building. Some of the stained glass has been damaged and Surrey County Council will be making an insurance claim. The Church has also suffered some vandalism.

Gilbert Reed raised the problem of rural crime and said that although recorded crime rates may be low in Lingfield, farmers and businessmen regularly suffer loss of equipment. People need to be encouraged to report every incident to give a true picture (even if no action is taken by the Police).

## **1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

### **1.1 Apologies for Absence**

None.

### **1.2 Declaration of Interests**

None.

### **1.3 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

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

### **1.4 Correspondence**

Correspondence received between 25<sup>th</sup> October and 25<sup>th</sup> November was noted.

### **1.5 Outstanding Actions**

<b>Issue</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>
Footpath from Felcourt to Lingfield	Waiting for new MD at Lingfield Park to agree to a meeting	Clerk
Widening Town Hill pavement to provide safer access to the village	Waiting for new resident to move into Meredith House before making an approach	Chairman
Village Signs	Waiting for Surrey County Council to respond	Chairman

Letter Heading	Waiting for Lord Lingfield to come up with suggestions for emblem	John Cole
Maintenance to benches etc	Waiting for weather to improve	Chairman
Maintenance to trees around pond	Waiting for alternative quotes	Clerk
Grant to Community Care Association	Sonia has looked at their finances and the grant can now be paid	Clerk
Vandalised bench	Quotes to be sought for replacement	Clerk

## 2 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

### 2.1 Financial Report

**Members approved** the Financial Report and noted that cash in the bank as at 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 was £35,683.28. The following cheques were approved for payment:

Date	Cheque	Payee	Amount £
30/10/2012	2005	Lingfield Horticultural - Planters	94.49
30/10/2012	2006	SLCC - CiLCA Update for Section 7	20.00
15/11/2012	2007	Surrey Pension Fund	267.46
15/11/2012	2008	Hm Revenue and Customs	174.96
15/11/2012	2009	F. Elwood - November Salary	886.22
15/11/2012	2010	A. Heaton – November Salary	115.20
06/11/2012	2011	Royal British Legion – Poppy Wreath	25.00
13/11/2012	2012	Wrap-tastic - road closure warnings	20.00
13/11/2012	2013	F. Elwood - Remembrance Day Gratuities (breakfasts for volunteers)	40.00
18/11/2012	2014	Glasdon Manufacturing – Grit Bins	525.97
18/11/2012	2015	BT Payment Services - Hub	42.98
21/11/2012	2016	Clark Ground Care - Hub	2,940.00
21/12/2012	2017	Clark Ground Care - Hub	2,940.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>8,092.28</b>

## 2.2 Chairman's Report

8th November: Attended TVSC commissioning meeting with Surrey doctors at Hurst Green. Felt we were not being allowed to ask questions that mattered. The voluntary groups who attended could not gain confirmation that grants from the old PCT would be continued. Hard times forecast ahead for National Health.

11th November: Remembrance Day (need to get new volunteers to man road closure in 2013)

13th November: Discussed parking options for Station Road with Mary Edwards and John Cole prior to inviting Michael Sydney and the appropriate Highways officer to implement said suggestions.

14th November: Checked plans and Godstone Road before meeting Pam Erskine. Road being narrowed to west of pinch-points to enable site lines for egress from the Bays development. Lorries more likely now to clash or hit The Thatched Cottage.

17th November: Talked to Andrew Saunders. I had assumed he had capitulated over the 7ft of wall that SCC required to enable the agreement to go ahead on Godstone Rd. He told me he hadn't altered his mind and that SCC has changed the requirement to take this 7ft of wall. How can this be??

22nd November: To meet Michael and David Curl with Mary and John to discuss Station Road proposals.

## 2.3 General Power of Competence

**Members confirmed** that Lingfield Parish Council meets the eligibility criteria to use the General Power of Competence and noted that this eligibility remains in place until the first Annual Meeting following an election. This means that LPC can do anything that an individual can lawfully do and whilst the eligibility is in place, there is no need to consider whether a specific power exists.

## 2.4 Grit bins

**Members approved** extra expenditure of £38.31 for the grit bins because prices had increased by the time the order was placed. The total cost for three bins was £438.31. Members noted thanks from the Guest House Committee for the grit bin provided for the Library.

## 2.5 Budget 2013/14

**Members approved** the budget for 2013/14 and agreed to make a precept request for £44,000 (£2000 increase on 2012/13). The reason for the increase is to provide a budget for the Talbot Road Pavilion improvements (if the project has the support of parishioners). If parish councils are to be capped as a result of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, and our proposed increase is deemed to be

‘excessive’, members will amend the budget prior to submitting the precept request.

## **2.6 Parish Office – Christmas Closure 2012**

The Parish Office will be closed to the public from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 inclusive.

## **3 GRANTS**

### **3.1 The Haven**

**Members approved** a grant of £225 for The Haven to provide funding for social events.

## **4 PARISH FACILITIES**

### **4.1 Centenary Fields Allotments**

**Members approved** an increase in rent from £22 to £25 effective from 2014. This increase is necessary to help fund the cost of employing a contractor to cut the paths.

### **4.2 The Pollards Allotments**

Members noted receipt of the final report following a complaint by Mr & Mrs Barnett to Surrey County Council on the issue of tree removal from the boundary of the allotment site in Newchapel Road. Surrey County Council has agreed to reimburse the cost of installing emergency fencing but has recommended that the fence be moved back behind the boundary line. Mr & Mrs Barnett (who own the land) do not want the fence to be moved. **Members agreed** that LPC has fulfilled its obligation to secure the allotments and that the dispute over whether to move the fence is between Surrey County Council and the land owner. The clerk will invoice SCC for £250. **Action: Clerk**

## **5 TRAFFIC AND PARKING**

### **5.1 Station Road**

Representatives from LPC met David Curl (Surrey County Council Highways Division) to discuss suggestions for improving the traffic flow and parking in Station Road. After visiting the site, David agreed that something needs to be done and he will send us a provisional plan to allow us to discuss the detail with residents before it is agreed. Extra lines at the bus stops can be implemented quite quickly but the process for the other proposals could take as long as 18 months

## **6 HUB PROJECT**

### **6.1 Monthly payments to contractor**

**Members approved** the monthly payments to the contractor for November and December 2012.

## **7 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT**

### **7.1 Surrey County Council's offer to Parish and Town Councils**

Members asked the clerk to arrange a meeting with the seven parishes in the Lingfield Division in early January. The purpose of the meeting is to consider SCC's offer to devolve some services to the local level.

**Action: Clerk**

## **8 TRAINING AND MEETINGS**

### **8.1 Surrey Association of Local Councils**

Update event to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012 – Chairman and clerk to attend.

## **9 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Nothing to report.

## **10 CURRENT CONSULTATIONS**

### **10.1 Council Tax Support Consultation**

Members will pass comments to the clerk if they wish to make a response. Comments due by 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

## **11 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Members approved** minutes of meetings of the Planning Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

## **12 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA**

### **12.1 The Guest House**

John Cole reported that all the necessary consents for improvements to the maisonette have now been received, and Surrey County Council has offered to provide the trust with £50,000 to help towards the costs.

### **12.2 Lingfield Fire Station**

This should be placed on agenda for January.

### **12.3 Gatwick Airport – Proposed investigation into 2<sup>nd</sup> runway**

Members noted receipt of a letter from Gatwick Airport dated 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

### **12.4 Footpath from Felcourt to Lingfield**

Could we have a progress report at the next meeting.

**13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Part I of the meeting closed at 9.17pm

**Members agreed** that by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item under Section 1 of the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended.