

Lingfield Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY 2012 AT 9.45AM AT LINGFIELD AND DORMANSLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present:

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

District Councillor Brian Perkins
District Councillor for Felcourt Lesley Steeds

Eight members of the public

In attendance:-

Mrs Fay Elwood, Parish Clerk

Report from Surrey County Councillor – Michael Sydney

Michael provided a written report in his absence.

Council Tax – There has been much publicity about the fact that the Council is considering an increase of 2.99% in 2012/3 while also foregoing the Coalition offer of a matched 2.5% if Council Tax is frozen. The argument is complex and a detailed explanation can be found on the Surrey County Council website. It is important to note that .49% is money which will be ring fenced for use at District and Borough level for, among other things, a more rapid approach to reducing the backlog of road

repairs. The money will be managed by the Local Committees which means there will be closer control over what it is spent on.

Highways Repairs – in view of the above it is not clear what the full scope of the programme in Lingfield will be but it will include surface dressing of Racecourse Road and a widening of the footway on Town Hill. Parish Councils are invited to come up with a wish list of repairs by Monday 13th.

Community Fund – details of a community fund have been passed to the chairman and clerk for consideration about suitable projects.

Felcourt to Lingfield Footpath

Michael has had discussion with two of the land owners involved and signs are encouraging. He is waiting for nomination of a spokesman for the Felcourt residents and it was agreed that the Parish Council can take this role.

Village Signs – This is on the agenda for a Highways Meeting to be held on 3rd February.

Commuter Parking _

Dormansland Parish Councillors met this week to discuss their approach to commuter parking at Dormans Station. They are considering a plan to consult with residents. He would be happy to attend an informal meeting with Lingfield Parish Council. This arises from SCC's decision to delegate on street paid parking measures to the Local Area Committee. Lisa said she felt it could be problematic to have parishes making decisions about parking because of the knock-on effect. The Tandridge District Council Parking Policy should be taken into consideration. Chris D'Avray reported that LPC is still pursuing a solution to the problem of commuter parking using land owned by Arena Leisure. Lisa suggested another approach to Network Rail, although it was noted that they did not reply to our last letter. Graham said they should make sure that bus and train times were such that people were encouraged to use public transport. It was agreed that Chris would set up a meeting to discuss transport. Graham suggested the Police may be able to provide information about where commuters are coming from.

Action: CD

Report from District Councillor Brian Perkins

Brian has spoken to John Lawlor supporting the request for village signs on the approaches to the village. Chris reported that Lingfield Fairtrade Group (of which he is a member) may be prepared to consider a contribution towards the cost if there is a shortfall. The signs would read 'Welcome to the Fairtrade village of Lingfield'. Graham Marks suggested that the signs could include a reference to the fact they are installed in Diamond Jubilee year.

Report from District Councillor, Lisa Bangs

Lisa reported that the changes to the Waste and Recycling contract have now been approved and come into effect in October 2012. Vulnerable residents will be given help to understand what is required and the scheme will be publicised widely.

The Community Services budget will increase by 5% but there is concern that a predicted increase of £10,000 in penalty charge notices will mean that parking wardens are issued with quotas.

Report from Lesley Steeds, District Councillor for Felcourt

Lesley attended the meeting to talk about the lack of progress on the suggested footpath from Felcourt to Lingfield. It has been accepted that it will not be possible to install a pavement but it is felt that a footpath across fields would give a safer option than exists at present. Mr Kaye reported that the route has been mapped out and tested. Graham Marks thought that such a footpath may have existed some years ago and may have been extinguished through lack of use. Rita Russell advised that the RH7 History Group has old maps at the library. The Chairman said that LPC will attempt to drive this forward, copying any correspondence to Lesley Steeds. Lisa Bangs reported that a recent traffic survey showed that 51,000

vehicles a week use East Grinstead Road. Brian Perkins urged people to report all accidents and near misses to support the case. Lesley Steed thanked Lingfield Parish Council for agreeing to take this on.

Matters raised by members of the public

Andrea Watson reported that after requesting a litter pick in the twitten between The Star and Lingfield Station, the County Council has now cut the hedges but has left debris which makes the litter inaccessible. A litter pick has been arranged for 17th March starting at 10.30am. The clerk will contact the footpaths officer to request that the debris is removed.

Action: Clerk

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Apologies for Absence

Surrey County Councillor, Michael Sydney gave his apologies in advance.

1.2 Declarations of Interest

Lisa Bangs declared a personal interest in item 2.4 as she is a member of the Community Services Committee of Tandridge District Council.

1.3 Minutes of meeting held on 26th November 2011

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

1.4 Correspondence received since last meeting

Members noted receipt of a list of correspondence received between 6th December 2011 and 23rd January 2012.

1.5 Outstanding Issues

Due to the length of time taken in the informal part of the meeting, it was agreed that the clerk will pass the list of outstanding issues to members with the aim of dealing with as many as possible before the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

2 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Financial Report

Members approved the Financial Report dated January 2012. Cash in the bank as at 16th January 2012 was £19,321.81. The following cheques were agreed for payment:-

Date	Cheque	Details	Amount (£)
13/12/2011	822	FWAG - Grant	Cheque returned – Org in administration
13/12/2011	823	R.V. Deller - Work at Gun Pond	540.00
13/12/2011	824	SLCC - Subs	140.00
19/12/2011	831	F.Elwood - Printing	20.00
13/12/2011	826	F. Elwood - Clerk's Salary	873.33
13/12/2011	827	A. Heaton - Salary	112.80
13/12/2011	828	HMRC - paye	189.47
13/12/2011	829	Surrey Pension Fund	267.46
19/12/2011	830	F. Elwood - Stamps	36.00

04/01/2012	dd	Orange Broadband	20.42
09/01/2012	832	BT - Phone Bill	105.26
09/01/2012	833	Lingfield and Dormansland Comm Centre	180.00
09/01/2012	834	Sutton & East Surrey Water Allots	51.87
09/01/2012	835	Sutton & East Surrey Water Pond	155.29
16/01/2012	836	F. Elwood Chain for Cent Fields	24.49
16/01/2012	837	Mr & Mrs Ireland - Allotment Refund	25.00
16/01/2012	838	Mr Klinge - Allotment Refund	25.00
16/01/2012	839	Mr T. Jones - Allotment Refund	25.00
16/01/2012	840	Mr & Mrs Tyrrell - Allot Refund	25.00
17/01/2012	841	C. Barnett - Water for the Pollards	23.65
17/01/2012	842	R. Burberry - Tree removal	24.00
17/01/2012	843	A. Heaton - Expenses	10.94
18/01/2012	844	A. Heaton - Salary	81.60
18/01/2012	845	F. Elwood - Salary	873.33
18/01/2012	846	HMRC - paye	181.67
18/01/2012	847	Surrey Pension Fund	267.46
		Total	4279.04

Members approved the following virements:

£4000 from 'Talbot Road' to 'Salaries to cover the cost of Sport and Rec Assistant.
£50 from 'Contingency' to 'Training' to cover shortfall in budget provision.
£50 from 'Contingency' to 'Affiliations' to cover shortfall in budget provision.
£750 from 'Contingency' to 'Admin' to cover shortfall in budget provision and expenditure up to end of March.

2.2 Chairman's Report

Members received a written report from the Chairman, detailing the meetings he has attended during the past month.

Specifically, he reported on discussion with Dr Gardner about the possibility of surgery expansion. Dr Gardner explained that it is not the right climate for looking at expansion, but would do a cost analysis.

On the subject of increased sports provision, the Chairman has contacted the owner of Pond Farm but has been advised that the field in question has been sold.

2.3 Internal Auditor for 2012

Members agreed to appoint Peter Frost as Internal Auditor for 2012 unless Graham can find a suitable local person within the next week.

Action: GM/Clerk

2.4 Charges for Talbot Road

Members agreed not to increase the charges for Talbot Road for 2012/13.

2.5 Road Sweeper

Members approved a payment of £35 as a gesture of thanks to Richard Ford for the fantastic work he does to keep Lingfield tidy. Graham suggested including a paragraph in Community News – deadline 4th March.

Action: Clerk

2.6 Insurance Claim

Members noted receipt of a cheque for £2173 in payment of the insurance claim for damage by theft to the Community Centre roof.

2.7 QE2 Celebrations

Members approved £250 towards the cost of processional theatre for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

2.8 Parish Assembly

Members agreed that representatives from local organisations will be invited to the Parish Assembly to be held on 16th April 2012. We will invite a speaker from Surrey Police to give a talk on the subject of the new arrangements for appointing a Police Commissioner. **Members approved** a budget of £100 and agreed that refreshments should be served at the end of the meeting. The clerk will contact Surrey Police and issue invitations to the event.

Action: Clerk

2.9 Grant towards Master Clock

Members agreed that as it has been decided not to replace the master-clock, we no longer require the grant allocated to us. The clerk will inform TDC.

Action: Clerk

2.10 Code of Conduct

Members noted the contents of a Report to the Standards Committee of Tandridge District Council on 4th January 2012 giving details of the amended standards regime following introduction of the Localism Act 2011. Graham said that some members of the committee should come from the south of the District to give proper representation. It was noted that an independent person will be voted onto the committee and Graham asked if this will be a secret ballot. Lisa will find out.

Action: LB

3 GRANTS, FUNDING AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

3.1 Grant Applications

Member considered a grant application from the Lingfield Skate-park Campaign. **Members agreed** that they would like to help but felt more information is required before they make a decision. The clerk will invite a representative to come to an informal meeting with Lisa or Chris to answer questions and find out if there is any way we can help over and above awarding a grant. Brian suggested that TDC should also be involved.

Action: Clerk

4 PARISH FACILITIES

4.1 Vandalism at Centenary Fields

There has been further vandalism at Centenary Fields during January, particularly at the allotments. This is the subject of a Police Panel meeting being held today. The Police will be suggesting a Neighbourhood Watch team, combined with infrared cameras to identify the culprits.

4.2 Allocation of Allotments

Members noted a report from the clerk dated 23rd January 2012. At Centenary Fields there is a half plot vacant but as it is in a shady position it may be difficult to let. It was agreed to let full plots in future. There are three people on the waiting list for Centenary Fields. One plot is vacant at The Pollards but it will need clearing again before it is let. The new water trough at The Pollards will be installed during February. We still need to obtain a shed and mower for The Pollards.

Action: Clerk

4.3 Inspection of Allotments

Item deferred.

5 TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Nothing to report.

6 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

6.1 Lingfield Nature Reserves

Members noted that an extra area of hard standing is to be installed near to the Field Shelter to make the area accessible for disabled people.

6.2 Footpath Diversion

Members noted the proposed Diversion, Creation and Extinguishment of footpaths 435, 434a and 435a to reflect the routes which currently exist on the ground.

6.3 Footpath 381 across railway line

Members noted receipt of correspondence from Surrey County Council, advising us that they intend to permanently close the footpath because of the danger to pedestrians. The Chairman felt this is unreasonable and would like Network Rail to consider other options such as an automatic closing gate. Mary Edwards attended a meeting with Network Rail in 2011 and they advised this is not an option for Lingfield, although she couldn't recall the reason. **Members agreed** to contact Network Rail with suggestion they should pursue other options.

Action: CD

6.4 Footpath from Felcourt to Lingfield

This was discussed at length in the informal part of the meeting and **members agreed** to liaise with the County Councillor to ensure the relevant land owners are contacted.

6.5 Proposed Traffic Calming Scheme for Godstone Road

The Chairman reported the owner of Porters Hall has proved ownership of the boundary (wall and hedge) and refused permission for it to be taken down. We believe this will mean that a new planning application will need to be submitted and in the meantime the clerk will write to Surrey County Council with questions which arose from the traffic survey carried out by the Police.

Action: Clerk

6.6 The Hub Project

Members approved the signing by the Chairman of the Inter Parish Hub Agreement for the cutting of grass verges. A contractor has been appointed but this information is confidential until he has been informed.

6.7 Oil Exploration

Following the recent publicity about 'Fracking', **members agreed** a statement to be included on the Parish Council website.

7 TRAINING AND MEETINGS

Nothing to report.

8 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

8.1 SCAPTC Winter Newsletter

Members noted receipt of the December Newsletter from SCAPTC.

8.2 Localism Bill 2011

Members noted information obtained from the Clerk's Networking Day on the subject of Localism.

8.3 Final Recommendations from the Electoral Review of Surrey

Members noted a report on the final recommendations and were pleased to see that Crowhurst is remaining within the Lingfield Division.

8.4 Surrey Minerals and Waste Development Framework

Members noted the submission of the document to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination.

8.5 Minutes of Meeting of Lingfield Nature Reserves

Members noted receipt of Minutes from a meeting of the Lingfield Nature Reserves held on 16th November 2011.

9 QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the working party is to be held on Wednesday 1st February at 6pm.

10 CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

Members noted receipt of Tandridge District Council's comments on the Gatwick Draft Master Plan.

11 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Members approved minutes of the meetings of the planning committee held on 29th November and 13th December 2011

12 MATTERS FOR REPORTING

12.1 Elections for Police Commissioner

Members noted receipt of information about the changing arrangements for appointment of Police Commissioners

12.2 Churchyard Working Party

Members agreed to support the application for a grant to the Local Area Committee for the purchase of tools.

12.3 Superfast Broadband

Members noted receipt of an update on Superfast Broadband in Surrey dated Jan 2012.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Saturday 25th February 2012 starting at 9.45 am. Questions from the public will be taken before the meeting at 9.30am. Chris and Lisa gave apologies in advance for the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 11.31am.