

Lingfield Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL **HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2015 AT 8PM** **AT LINGFIELD AND DORMANSLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present:

Lisa Bangs – in the chair
Sonia Perkins
Vivien Hepworth
Valerie Millar
John Cole
Graham Marks

Brian Perkins, District Councillor for Lingfield
Lesley Steeds, District Councillor for Felcourt
Michael Sydney, County Councillor
Liz Lockwood (Neighbourhood Plan Chairperson)
5 members of the public

In attendance:-

Mrs Fay Elwood, Parish Clerk

Questions from the public

Peter Francis raised the issue of speeding on Town Hill and asked if the Parish Council has considered requesting a VAS in this location. Michael Sydney said that we should write to him to get the issue on the agenda for the Local Area Committee.

Action: Clerk

Heather Francis raised concerns about the condition of the pond compared with a photo of the pond taken in 2009. Of particular concern in the disappearance of water lilies. The clerk explained that members had decided against the expensive refurbishment of the pond but we will check with Vernon to find out if he knows what has happened to the lilies.

Action: Clerk

Report from County Councillor, Michael Sydney

SCC is finalising a budget which reduces expenditure. This is challenging, especially in the light of the extra responsibilities which will be imposed by the impending Care Act. There continues to be problems with flooding but not as bad as last year.

The contractor has been asked to return to Vicarage Road a third time to address the problems following the initial resurfacing. John Cole had spoken to the contractor when he was there and it was suggested that the wrong surface was being applied given that the road is a bus and school route. The clerk will contact SCC to ask if this is correct.

Action: Clerk

Repairs to the VAS in Newchapel Road are in the budget for 2015/16. There was some discussion about the location of the VAS but it was agreed that it would be better to have it repaired than to wait ages for a site assessment.

The expenditure for the dropped kerbs which will allow a disabled person to travel safely from Dormansland to Lingfield is in the budget for 2015/16.

With reference to the Library, Michael said that, thanks to Ian Jones, the new trust document should be signed within the next month. Michael is concerned about the future staffing arrangements and is waiting to talk to Helen Clack. Lisa requested an explanation about his concerns and Michael confirmed that SCC will be funding staff for the library for 12 months as previously agreed.

Report from District Councillor, Brian Perkins

Tandridge District Council has frozen the Council Tax for the 5th year running. TDC is currently investigating the flooding problems in Newchapel Road.

Report from District Councillor, Lesley Steeds

There is not a lot to report concerning Felcourt but Lesley said she needs to speak to Chris about the footpath. She thanked Liz Lockwood and Michael Sydney for their efforts in reducing the speed limit on Felcourt Road.

Report from District Councillor, Lisa Bangs

The past few meetings have been largely about budgets. There are no large increases to report in charges. The Waste and recycling service is running smoothly although there is a budget overspend caused by the need to replace broken food caddies. Graham raised concern about where the contractor is replacing the bins after emptying. Lisa said they should be returned to the position the householder left them. If there are specific problems, residents can contact Biffa to report. The number is on the TDC website.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Chris D'Avray.

1.2 Declaration of Interests

None.

1.3 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 27th January 2015

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

1.4 Matters arising from previous minutes (not listed on the agenda)

1. Supply of sandbags

Still no response from TDC about sandbags but we have been told by Burstow PC that there are none left.

2. Jenny Lane Parking

John has visited Jenny Lane on several occasions and has not witnessed any parking problems. When Chris returns from holiday they will contact the residents to find out if the problem has improved. **Action: CD/JC**

3. Tourist Map

The clerk is investigating alternative quotes and has received an offer of help from a Felbridge parish councillor with experience of producing history boards. There is no direct comparison with the Black Spiral quotation but the clerk will report back to the March PC meeting.

Action: Clerk

4. Security for The Pollards

We are waiting for recommendations from Clark Ground Care.

6. Plaque for Co-Op

Chris was asked to liaise with Fairtrade and the Co-Op to come up with a form of words. We will ask for a report on progress when Chris is back from holiday.

Action: CD

7. Date for litter pick

John and Chris will arrange a date for a litter pick in the Spring. Lisa said that TDC will assist with equipment and disposal of rubbish.

2 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Financial Report

Members approved the Financial Report comprising of a list of cheques for payment and a budget report. A bank reconciliation was not provided as the bank statement for this month has not yet been received.

The following cheques were approved for payment:-

Date	Cheque	Description	Amount £
15/01/2015	99	Viking Direct - stamps	55.03
15/01/2015	100	Viking Direct - Phone and stamps	147.87
21/01/2015	101	D. Ohlson - work at allotments	210.00
21/01/2015	102	HM Revenue and Customs	136.15
21/01/2015	103	Surrey Pension Fund	417.83
21/01/2015	104	F. Elwood - Clerk's salary	974.21
21/01/2015	105	EDF Energy	41.00
21/01/2015	106	Glasdon UK Limited - Grit bin	199.98
21/01/2015	107	Clark Ground Care	2,040.00
21/01/2015	108	L & D Comm Centre - Rent	180.00
22/01/2015	109	S. Barnett - water for allotments	29.45
27/01/2015	110	M. Hobden - Plumber	45.00
05/02/2015	dd	Orange Broadband	28.50
19/02/2015	111	F. Elwood - Salary	974.21
19/02/2015	112	Surrey Pension Fund	417.83
19/02/2015	113	HM Revenue and Customs	136.15

19/02/2015	114	R.V. Deller	450.00
19/02/2015	115	Surrey Tree Warden Network	45.00
		Total	6,528.21

2.2 Recognition payment

Members approved a payment of £40 to Richard Ford in recognition of his hard work in keeping Lingfield tidy.

2.3 Parish Assembly

Members agreed the format for the Parish Assembly to be held on 13th April. The evening will be a chance for the parish council to reflect on the past four years ahead of the election in May. We will not arrange for a speaker. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

3 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Members decided not to approve a grant for Victim Support because they have already been awarded grant in this financial year. The clerk will advise them to apply again next year. **Action: Clerk**

4 PARISH FACILITIES

4.1 Litter Bin

Members approved expenditure for a new larger litter bin outside Costcutters. Lisa has agreed with TDC that this can be funded out of the S.106 money from the 'Occasionally Yours' development. We will ask Richard if he is aware of any other locations which require new bins. **Action: Clerk**

4.2 Village Market

We are struggling to find stall holders for the proposed village market so it is likely that the launch date will have to be postponed.

5 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

5.1 Godstone Road Pinch Points

This issue was the subject of a meeting of the Tandridge Local Area Committee at its meeting on 13th February. Graham expressed concern that the environmental impact of pollution was not mentioned in the officer's report. Lisa reported that Chris was disappointed that although a previous meeting had been deferred to allow him to provide additional information, this was not taken into account. Lisa felt that the SCC report was completely inadequate and lacked empathy with the views of residents. Lisa invited comments from Michael Sydney about why he supported the officers' report and not residents wishes.

THE MEETING WAS SUSPENDED TO TAKE COMMENTS FROM MICHAEL SYDNEY

Michael said that the Police would not support removal of the traffic calming scheme and that members are compelled to follow officers' advice. Brian said that TDC had insisted that there should be some form of traffic calming and that this passed the decision back to SCC. There was some disagreement about the historic events relating to the granting of planning permission. Lisa suggested that the Parish Council should continue to raise concerns and report when signs are damaged or missing.

A member of the public said that previously the Police had been of the view that pinch points were not appropriate in this location.

THE MEETING WAS RECONVENED

6 HUB PROJECT

Nothing to report.

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

7.1 Progress Report

John gave a brief report explaining that the responses to the surveys have now been analysed. The next stage is complicated. The Steering Group is starting to design a Business Survey and finding a way to engage with the youth in the village. They need to get quotes for carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

7.2 Terms of Reference

Members approved the terms of reference which was based on the existing constitution, with additions to satisfy parish council audit procedures.

7.3 Expenses

Members approved expenditure of £25 for the printing of posters.

8 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

8.1 Post Office

Members noted that the Post Office will be relocated to the Seven Day Grocers in Godstone Road on 28th March 2015. The clerk was asked to send a letter thanking Mr & Mrs Blackburn for the service they have provided to the village for so many years.

Action: Clerk

9 TRAINING AND MEETINGS

9.1 Gatwick Airport

Gatwick Airport have invited two members from the parish council to a meeting on 18th March 2015 starting at 7.30pm at the Lingfield Park Marriott Hotel. Chris and Graham will attend.

9.2 Neighbourhood Planning

John Cole and other members of the Neighbourhood Plan group will attend a meeting at Tandridge District Council arranged by the new head of Planning Policy on 5th March 2015.

10 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

10.1 GATCOM

Members noted receipt of Key Messages and Outcomes dated 29th January 2015.

10.2 Community Rail Partnership

Members noted receipt of the Spring Newsletter.

11 CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

Nothing to Report.

12 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members approved minutes of the meetings of the planning committee held on 27th January and 10th February 2015.

13 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

13.1 Oxted School

Chris and Vivien attended a meeting with the Governors to find out about the change of status to a Foundation School. Both were reassured about the continuation of school places for Lingfield and Dormansland Children, and also about preserving the Visually Impaired unit. (Full notes attached)

13.2 Reduction of Speed Limit

Members noted receipt of a copy of the Notice about the proposed reduction of the existing 50mph speed limit to a 40mph limit on certain lengths of Felcourt Road.

13.3 Scouts fundraising

Lingfield Scout Group has confirmed they wish to go ahead with the sponsored lock in at the cage on Friday 22nd May from 6pm through to Saturday 23rd May at 6pm. The items in the cage will need to be stored elsewhere for that weekend.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 31st March 2015.

Meeting closed at 9.19pm

Report on meeting with Oxted School Governors 4th Feb 2015

Vivien and I met Brian Taylor, head of governors, and two fellow governors, at 6.30pm at Oxted School. We were joined by Peter Holgate and one of his Dormansland councillors.

Both Vivien and I were sceptical about Oxted School converting to Foundation status and on our way to the meeting discussed questions we should raise. These included Lingfield and Dormans schools being "feeder schools" to Oxted, and the continuing provision of VIS (visually impaired) and Special Needs groups being retained.

Brian Taylor was unambiguous in his governor's support for VIS, saying Oxted School was one of 4 schools in Surrey offering this unit and had every intention of making the VIS unit the best in Surrey. He also stressed they ran an Autism unit and highlighted the School's philosophy of retaining a flourishing Special Needs unit. This was not a streamed school for the advantaged.

On the question of "feeder schools" Brian said it was the governor's aim to encourage pupils from Lingfield and Dormansland. The school has had 7-10 years bad performance - below the average 50% of Surrey schools - and parents did not want to send their children to an under-performing school. They had engaged (employed) the Howard Partnership Effingham Trust over the past few years and the levels of improvement across the school had improved dramatically, achieving 73% passes in 2013 - staff had become fully engaged and parents had begun to list Oxted as their first preference again. If parents were told by SCC that their first preference for Oxted School was not available, ask them to contact the School direct, because there is availability. Pupil numbers were running at some 1960, where as capacity is 2300. 40% of pupils come from the local Oxted area where as approximately 90 pupils come from Lingfield and 40 from Dormansland.

The benefits of becoming a Foundation School and eventually an Academy are:

1/ All the DoFE funding comes direct to the school and the County does not take it's administration charges of 30% before payment to Oxted. So the school gets all the funding!

2/ By being part of a foundation trust, Oxted School will work with other schools within the trust sharing best practice and expertise, which will continue to improve performance levels.

3/ The Trust is a limited company by guarantee and their scrutiny of schools within their group ensures that education levels remain high. Problem solving on the door-step.

4/ By becoming an Academy, the school will have to sign a 125 year lease on all the assets currently owned by SCC. This will ensure the school cannot sell off land to make financial gain. The secretary of state has to be convinced that dispensing with any asset has to be for the educational benefit of the pupils of the school. There is no plan to sell off any land. Oxted sits on a 12 acre site which is considered less than adequate to suit the needs of the school.

5/ The cost and availability of support services from SCC are expensive and not area specific, where as support from the Trust is local, immediate and taylor made to the needs of the school.

Brian Taylor believes the governing body are fully up to the tasks to take Oxted School forward with the specialist knowledge and experience required.

Parents wishing to ask questions and find out more are advised to log onto the closed Facebook site: [Loveoxtedschool](#) or look at the school web site. Currently the governors are running road-shows in primary schools. 61% of schools in Surrey are Academy or seeking Academy status.

The teaching staff and most of the parents of pupils at Oxted School are behind the proposal to take the school in Foundation Status and onto an Academy.