

Lingfield Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2015 AT 8PM
AT LINGFIELD AND DORMANSLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present:

John Cole - in the chair
Valerie Millar
Chris D'Avray
Liz Lockwood
Vivien Hepworth
Rody Kaiser-Davies

1 member of the public
District Cllr Brian Perkins

In attendance:-

Liz Lockwood recorded the minutes in the absence of the clerk.

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Graham Marks.

1.2 Declaration of Interests

None.

1.3 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 29th September 2015

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

Chairman brought forward item 8.2

Members discussed the option of the parish accepting the gift of land in connection with the Pond Farm development. The report from Mr Reed in the open part of the meeting indicated a Heads of Agreement was being considered between the owners and the preferred developer and the matter of transferring the land to the parish through an agreement with the developers to hand the land over. The use of the field as a sports pitch was proving problematical as Tandridge Council were taking a long time to deal with the legal agreement and Mr Reed was worried they were reluctant to take on assets which may have long term maintenance costs and he would like alternative uses to be considered. The developers were very reluctant to allow the parish's preferred use – as allotments – as they thought the visual impact would detract from the development. The offer

to show the developer the current allotments, and to note how they are effectively screened, have controls over the appearance and state of the allotments was passed to Mr Reed to take to the preferred developer.

In the meantime Brian Perkins, who had been helping the local Scout group find a field for camping and “field-craft” sessions, will get in touch with them to see if the Pond Farm field may be suitable. The Scouts would need a purpose built toilet block to meet health and safety criteria and this could be a modest building connected to a modern sewage treatment unit rather than connected to the mains. The field would then be available for all the children of the local community to use for outdoor activities, including the primary school and would have a greater value to residents than perhaps the allotments which would have a limited number of tenants.

As a temporary measure, it may be prudent for the parish to take on the field and set it aside as a wild flower meadow, as suggested by the Lingfield Nature Reserves Committee, requiring only one grass cut per year whilst an agreement could be drawn up with the Scouts to take over the maintenance. The Scouts already have a building, which is currently being improved at their expense, so one would not be needed on the field.

The other options considered – use as a sports field may involve additional expense for drainage as was required for the former hockey pitch and reluctance by the football club to take on a field that would compete with their existing venue in Felcourt

Use as wildlife ponds – would involve additional expense to create

Use as a community orchard would compete with the existing one and would require additional labour, which the current committee is finding difficult to source for its existing assets.

The parish would need to be happy that they were not taking on something they would not be able to maintain within their limited budget but wanted to try to ensure the field is kept for the benefit of the community in the spirit of Mr Reed’s proposed gift. Mr Reed was thanked for his patience and continued generosity, and for his offer to help in a practical way with his machinery, with the maintenance for a few years, whilst he is able to help. Brian in the meantime will establish if the Scout group is interested. A stop gap use as a wild flower meadow may not necessarily be an unacceptable outcome as residents would still have access to it.

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

- a) Lingfield station notice board - noted no reply
- b) English Rural Housing - noted no reply
- c) Volunteer parking enforcement – Liz will speak with Paul Barton at TDC to see if the matter can be taken forward.
- d) Air quality monitoring - Liz has written to David Bryant at TDC to see what their policy is and mentioned that the head of Environmental Health (David Beattie) at TDC had noted a marked increase in complaints about fuel smell and staining from the local area. This may be as a result of the increased flights over the area.

Recording any fuel particles was likely to be difficult and current pollution monitoring was only for Nitrogen Dioxides. Chris offered to contact specialist companies which supplied air monitoring equipment to see if this was achievable and Liz would follow up the same with TDC.

2 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Financial Report

Members approved the Financial Report and noted that the cash at the bank as at 21st October 2015 was £62,456.26.

The following cheques were approved for payment:-

| Date | Cheque | Payee | Amount £ |
|-------------|---------------|--|---------------------|
| 07/10/2015 | dd | Orange Broadband | 28.50 |
| 30/09/2015 | 213 | Rita Russell - Librarian's retirement function | 50.00 |
| 30/09/2015 | 214 | R.V. Deller- work around Gun Pond and village | 640.00 |
| 05/10/2015 | 215 | SSALC - Surrey Conference | 36.00 |
| 05/10/2015 | 216 | SSALC - Chairman's Networking Event | 144.00 |
| 07/10/2015 | 217 | Liz Lockwood (NP Insurance) | 201.40 |
| 07/10/2015 | 218 | 1st Lingfield & Dormans Scouts - Grant | 1,000.00 |
| 20/10/2015 | 219 | F. Elwood - Salary | 985.21 |
| 20/10/2015 | 220 | HMRC - PAYE | 123.53 |
| 20/10/2015 | 221 | Surrey Pension Fund | 417.83 |
| 20/10/2015 | 222 | Royal British Legion (Poppy Wreath) | 25.00 |
| 20/10/2015 | 223 | Jeremy Clarke Services (advance road closure) | 48.00 |
| 20/10/2015 | 224 | EDF Energy - electricity | 41.00 |
| | | Total | 3,740.47 |

2.2 Chairman's Report

Request for double yellow lines at the Cage end of Vicarage Road: John had managed to canvas nearly all of the residents and the response was positive. A map of the proposals will be submitted to Surrey County Council with a request it is considered by the Highways Department. **Action: Clerk**

Remembrance Sunday 8th November: John indicated the road closure was slightly extended in time this year as more people were wishing to show their respect and

this would allow for the increase numbers to arrive and leave. John hoped we'd all be able to attend.

Informal get together with Dormansland Parish Council planned for after the planning meeting on the 10th November with refreshments. He mentioned he had been able to attend a couple of the Dormansland Parish meetings and there are many issues which affect both parishes in common.

John attended the Open Day at Bough Beech reservoir and was impressed by their high levels of security and well organized and efficient site. They are planning a similar day in April next year and highly recommends anyone who is interested to attend.

The gate in Headland Way apparently requires an appropriate form from Michael Sydney to the relevant department in the first instance authorizing the expenditure. He suggested that Fay may email Michael to ask him to arrange the correct form to be sent to the Tandridge Local Committee officer. **Action: Clerk**
With regards the suggestion the parish consider taking on the upkeep of hedges and ditches as well as the grass cutting as suggested by Michael Sydney, John had heard that TDC were expressing an interest in taking over the grass cutting. This would have a bearing on the discussion of Item 6. Brian and Liz would take the matter up with Steve Hyder at TDC who had been named as the point of contact for this.

2.3 Informal Budget Meeting

The clerk will circulate some possible dates.

Action: Clerk

3 GRANT APPLICATIONS

None received.

4 PARISH FACILITIES

4.1 Lingfield Library (The Guest House)

Chris reported that at a recent meeting it was decided that it would be advisable to have a group of volunteers interested in helping in the library as a fall back measure in case the Charity Commission would not allow a change in the Library Trust's objects. Even if the Trust were allowed to use some of the £16,000 annual income from the flat, it would not cover the staffing costs completely, so a contingent of volunteers would be needed. Despite the original legal advice that the Trust wording could be changed easily, current legal advice is saying the opposite.

4.2 History Boards

The History Board example was looked at and it was felt to make it easier to identify locations some additional street names would help – for example Godstone Road was not named although Lingfield Common Road was. Reference was made to the leaflet produced by the Nature Reserves and it was suggested it would make for a more coordinated “look” if they had a similar style. Liz

suggested that some people with moderate visual impairments may be able to read but the fairly dark background and font type can make it less easy to read the text. Rita was in the process of assembling the photographs and matching text for approval.

5 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

5.1 Vicarage Road

Members understood the Highways comments about the impossibility of the one way system being implemented on a part time basis and were in agreement that would not be asked for. They were however aware of a continuing level of requests for a one way system to be implemented by the majority users, the residents adjacent to the school and the school itself. John would draw up a very simple survey and it was agreed once approved, would be delivered to the areas most affected, including the end of Saxby's lane near Vicarage Road and Church Road as well as the Vicarage Road and roads off area. It would also be posted on the notice boards and into the wider community and if there was a strong positive response, the parish should try to take the matter forward. The issue of speeding was discussed and it was felt the continued parking of cars would help limit through traffic speeds. Chris volunteered to help with delivery once the survey was agreed.

Action: JC/CD'A

5.2 Highways Issues

As a result of a recent accident involving a telegraph pole, and the communication black out afforded to the district councilor living next to it, it was suggested by Brian that a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) should be asked for before on that corner coming into Lingfield. **Members agreed** that the priority was to get the existing empty pole opposite Rowlands Farm refitted with a new, smaller VAS, preferably one which shows the speed of the motorist and the car number plate. This should help protect the new residents of Hazells Close (new housing off Newchapel Road). As the list was getting very long, it was suggested members pick their top 5 (which are not readily reported online) and send to Fay so she can draw up a short list for the parish to work on.

Action: Members

6 HUB PROJECT

6.1 Payment for Urban Cutting

Members approved the monthly payment of £1835 plus VAT to Clark Ground Care.

6.2 To receive a verbal update from the clerk on the Hub Project

It was noted the meeting had been cancelled.

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

7.1 Progress Report

John mentioned the current Housing Needs Survey which was being delivered this week and recommended all residents complete the survey to give the Neighbourhood Plan the information it needs. He reported the work on the evidence report is continuing and mentioned having a meeting with the owner of Scandia Hus as being a highlight where they obtained a detailed and interesting perspective of a Lingfield based business.

7.2 Expenditure

None but it was noted the Plan is preparing a grant bid.

8 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

8.1 Hedges and Ditches

The matter of TDC wanting to take over the grass cutting would impact on the desirability of the parish taking over the hedge and ditch work, any saving by using the local contractors to do both jobs would be lost. It may be something the parishes in the current hub may want to keep under their rights in the Localism Bill if it was seen that the parish was able to get a better service for less money by keeping the contract in the local area. This was the justification for the hub taking over the grass cutting work from Surrey highways in the first place.

8.2 Development at Pond Farm

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

9 TRAINING AND MEETINGS

9.1 SSAFA

Members noted the invitation from SSAFA to a performance of the band of the Scots Guard on Wednesday 9th December 2015

9.2 Surrey Association of Local Councils 2015 AGM and joint annual conference with Surrey County Council (held on Thursday 15th October 2015)

Vivien was thanked for her informative summary and Chris and John noted much of the same material was presented at their Chairman's training day. Vivien and Rody suggested that the day was not as informative as they had hoped and that the speakers didn't have enough time to develop their subjects. There wasn't a feedback form at the end of the day otherwise Vivien would have been happy to make suggestions for improvement. Perhaps Fay could find out if there is a form they could fill in.

Action: Clerk

9.3 TVSC to a Self-Care Health Event

Members noted the event to be held on Tuesday 17th November 2015 at St John's Church, Hurst Green. **Members agreed** the parish's best representative would be Graham, he has a copy of the invitation.

9.4 Tandridge Crime Summit

Members noted this is to be held on 3rd November 7pm at Tandridge District Council. Liz and Brian will be attending.

10 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

10.1 Surrey Police

The Update from Surrey Police Chief Constable - Issue 39 was noted.

10.2 Members noted receipt of a letter from assistant chief constable of Surrey Police dated 16th October 2015 concerning 'Policing in your Neighbourhood' project.

10.3 Members noted receipt of Edition 1 of Airmail - Airport News for local residents

10.4 Members noted receipt of Gatwick Arrivals Independent Airspace Review Project Delivery Plan (Edition 1.0). Members discussed the value of raising residents' concerns about the impact Gatwick is having on the area with both Ken Harwood who is collecting views for the TDC submission and with the MP. It would be beneficial to work alongside Dormansland to make the concerns heard doubly in the various forums. Liz will ask Jane Vogt, a resident in Dormansland, who has been helping Ken in the District submission, for a copy of their text for pointers to help Lingfield make a statement. Members agreed this was an issue which will be of interest to many residents and needs to be kept at the forefront, ideally on the agenda for each meeting. Although Parliament will be deciding where the next new runway will go, if it is Heathrow, there are strong indications that Gatwick will still apply for a second runway anyway.

It was noted that Gatwick has been increasing the number of flights in the last few months, that some of the routes, especially for easterly take-offs have changed and that should they get the second runway, there would be more planes than Heathrow's two runways. The concern that secondary glazing grants are allocated on strict geographical lines (by the noise contours) gave one side of the street the grant when the other was without, were set out before the recent flight path changes, which are now affecting different sets of residents. This concern should also be passed onto the MP. Liz and Chris will both attend the GACC AGM and are happy for the parish to continue to keep its membership going so that the newsletters, etc can be shared with members.

11 CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

11.1 Tandridge District Local Plan

Forthcoming consultation was noted.

11.2 Wealden District Council

Members noted the Publication of the Wealden Local Plan Issues, Options and Recommendation Document - comments due by 14th December 2015, although not all members have had a chance to read the document, Chris recommended they did as it is interesting in the context of Neighbourhood Planning.

11.3 Wealden Affordable Housing Delivery Plan

Members noted receipt of Wealden Affordable Housing Delivery Plan proposed modifications - responses due by 16th November 2015 Noted - ditto

12 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members approved minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 29th September and 13th October 2015.

13 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

13.1 To note copy of letter from DCLG to Michael Sydney concerning The Green Belt

13.2 Plaque for the Coop - this has been delivered to the Parish Office.

13.3 Oil and Gas Exploration and Extraction licenses for the area; as this will be in tomorrow's paper and could generate local interest, agreed to put on the next meeting agenda. Liz will circulate the Government map showing the license areas.

13.4 Felcourt footpath; Chris has produced a map for Lesley Steeds of one option and Liz will forward one which shows an additional way for pedestrian access to Lingfield from Felcourt with less distance on roads without pavements.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 24th November 2015.

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm