

Lingfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual Parish Assembly held at Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre at 7pm

Present:

Sally Cole, Chris and Margaret Vasey, Judy Mendell, Rod and Gill Shorey, Jacqui Smith, Rita Snow, A.A. Head, Peter and Heather Francis, Richard Young, Edward Pearcey, Paul Pirie, Ian Jones, Pam Erskine, John and Ann Ball, Stewart and Jan Robertshaw, Martin Cundey, Gudrun Cundey, Selina Springbett, Robert Mitchell, Edward and Susan Quelch, Paula and Simon Cox.

County Councillor Michael Sydney

District Councillor s:- Brian Perkins, Liz Lockwood, Lesley Steeds and Maureen Young

Parish Councillors:- John Cole, Vivien Hepworth, Rody Kaiser-Davies, Liz Lockwood
Parish Clerk - Fay Elwood

Apologies were noted from Chris D'Avray, Valerie Millar and Graham Marks.

The chairman welcomed those present and invited the District Councillors to give their updates to allow them to leave at 7.30pm to go on to another meeting.

1. District Councillor Reports

Brian Perkins

The cuts to government funding has meant that Tandridge District Council (TDC) is having to look at other ways to increase its income so that services can be preserved. They are working with other district councils to share services and hiring office space to other organisations. TDC is in negotiating to purchase the gas holder in the centre of Oxted so that it can be dismantled. This will be a big improvement for the town centre.

Lesley Steeds

Lesley explained the anomaly which means that Felcourt is joined with Lingfield for the Parish Council but Dormansland for the District Council. Lesley and Maureen Young are the District Council members for Dormansland and Felcourt. She said that the main concern for Felcourt is the speeding traffic in Felcourt Road. Residents at Charters Towers are finding it difficult to exit the retirement village safely. There is still a requirement for a safe footpath from Felcourt to Lingfield and she would like to see speed restricting measures (specifically a speed camera). She urged us to work together on the problems we all suffer namely, quantity and speed of traffic and the number of HGVs on our roads.

Liz Lockwood

Liz Lockwood introduced herself and urged people to contact her if they have any problems relating to District Council matters.

Lesley Steeds, Maureen Young, Liz Lockwood and Brian Perkins left the meeting at 7.30pm.

2. Chairman's Report

The chairman reported that it had been a quieter year than previously but assured those present that we are still plugging away at the issues affecting our village. He listed these as being the pinch points, library and Guest House, doctors surgery and the railway crossing.

We have achieved some small successes. The pond is looking superb (thanks largely to Rita and Bob Russell). He also thanked Lingfield Horticultural Society for looking after the planters. We will be asking some of the shops/restaurants to accept a gift of a watering can to help keep the planters looking good throughout the summer months.

We have been asking Surrey County Council to install some more dropped kerbs between Dormansland and Lingfield, following a request from a disabled resident who cannot travel safely between the two villages on her mobility scooter. Michael Sydney has assured us that this is on the County Council's list of things to do. We would also like Surrey County Council to repair or remove the Vehicle Activated Sign in Newchapel Road and deal with the problem of localised flooding in Vicarage Road (caused by a collapsed drain). The Chairman urged residents to contact the parish council if they are aware of anything else we need to be tackling.

Lingfield residents are particularly good at community involvement and he encouraged those present to attend the lighting of the beacon on Thursday 21st April. The beacon lighting is to commemorate the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.

An ongoing concern for the village is the future of the Old Cage public house. This has now been closed for 15 months and we are still not sure what its future use will be. A planning application has been received for various works to the building and it is believed that the owner will then reopen negotiations with a retail operator. Our planning committee will be looking at the plans at its meeting on 26th April before submitting our comments to Tandridge District Council.

Affordable houses in Newchapel Road are currently under construction and, as far as we are aware, the work is not causing too much disruption to neighbours.

The Chairman congratulated Gudrun Cudey on getting over 300 signatures on the petition to save the 281 bus service. The petition was presented to County Hall and we believe the outcome will be decided on 24th May. Further information was contained in the Chairman's written report which was made available at the meeting and on the website.

3. Community Awards

Nominations for our Community Awards are increasing each year and this year members voted to present awards to James Korbel, for his volunteer work at Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre and to Marlene Hughes, for her work at the Cavendish House Trust Charity Shop.

4. Public Questions

Michael Sydney said that Gudrun's presentation of the petition to SCC was extremely professional. He said that although he cannot promise there will be no changes to the service, there will still be a bus service from Lingfield to East Grinstead (via Dormansland).

Ann Ball

Does the Parish Council have any influence over what is happening to our shops? We are fortunate to still have a number of shops but they are all very similar. The Chairman explained that business rates are high in the village and the market dictates which types of shop can survive. It is up to residents to support the shops we do have in the village. The Parish Council can comment on applications for 'Change of Use' but the decision is taken by Tandridge District Council.

Judy Mendell

Is it true that a tattoo parlour is moving into the Cage Cabin? If so, can we influence signage? The Parish Council had no objection to the tattoo parlour moving into the Cage Cabin but any signs should be in keeping with the Conservation Area and would probably require planning permission.

Gill Shorey

Why did Tandridge District Council reject the application to make the Old Cage Public House an asset of community value? The clerk will forward the decision notice to Gill.

Action: Clerk

John Ball

Requested that the minutes from previous Annual Parish Assembly are included in the report to future assemblies.

Action: Clerk

Paula Cox

As part of the editorial team from Community News, I notice that Lingfield does not hold as many community events as other surrounding villages. Should someone be responsible for co-ordinating events so that more happens in our village? Ian Jones, Chairman of Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre pointed out that there are regular events at the Community Centre. The Chairman of the Parish Council said that if there were a group of people willing to organise an event, the Parish Council would support it, both with time and funding. Ann Ball asked if the Parish Council could call for volunteers to reinstate Lingfield evening. Martin Cudey said he had tried to get people to take on the organisation of Lingfield Evening when he retired but no-one was prepared to take it on.

Gudrun Cundey

Asked if there are plans to improve access at railway stations in Lingfield or Dormansland as she has to travel to East Grinstead and come back again to make sure she can get off the train on the right side of the track. The Chairman explained that Network Rail want to install a new footbridge at Lingfield Station. Surrey County Council has recently consulted on a proposed diversion of the footpath. A section of the footpath going over the railway line was closed because of a near miss a few years ago. There is to be a meeting of interested parties on Friday 22nd at 3.30pm at Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre. This is not a public meeting.

Mrs Quelch

Asked what is happening to the field adjacent to the former Hare and Hounds pub. The Chairman explained that planning permission for housing was refused because it is Green Belt land. Our concern is what it will now be used for. The Neighbourhood Plan group may be able to designate its use in the plan.

Pam Erskine

Is concerned about the way Surrey County Council treated the recent petition to have the pinch points in Godstone Road removed. Accidents and incidents occur on a daily basis but are only reported if someone is injured. She is also concerned that the Section 278 agreement used inaccurate plans and she is now prevented from using her driveway safely. She is still waiting for a reply from Michael Sydney on the matter of changing the road markings.

Margaret Vasey

Asked if we could arrange for some ditch clearing and vegetation removal on Town Hill so that access is clear for wheelchairs and buggies

Judy Mendell

Enquired about the illegal burning of waste at Garth Farm. Paula Cox urged her to take note of dates and times when it is happening, preferably with photos, as Liz Lockwood is compiling evidence to show it is still happening despite a 'stop' notice having been issued. Judy also reported that a barbed wire fence has been erected along the footpath leading from The Star Inn to Lingfield Station. The clerk has already reported this to the Footpaths Officer at Surrey County Council.

Jacqui Smith

Comment that peak time traffic is made worse by the pinch points. The Chairman thanked residents for bringing these matters to our attention. He also thanked Jacqui for initiating the idea of installing a defibrillator at the Community Centre. This was installed recently and was funded by grants from GACT and Surrey County Council.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm