

Lingfield Parish Council

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

**Minutes of the sixteenth Annual Parish Assembly of Lingfield Parish held on
Monday 13th April 2015
at the Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre at 7pm**

Present:

In the chair – Mr C. D’Avray, Chairman, Lingfield Parish Council

Members of the public:

P. Ashby, B. Ashby, B. Stevenson, Pat Smith, Ian Smith, Chris Vasey, Colin Coates, Heather Francis, Peter Francis, Frances Dean, Tony Dean, Pam Erskine, Liz Lockwood, Richard Young, Stewart Robertshaw, Jan Robertshaw, Rita Snow, Margaret Vasey, M. Pocock, G. Pocock, Paula Cox, Martin Cundey, Sue Quelch, Ted Quelch, Ian Quaife, Paul Pirie, Simon Cox, Ian Jones, Harold Peskett, Mahala Peskett, Geoff Ledden, Sally Cole, Rosemary Coates, Michael Butcher

Members of the Parish Council:

Valerie Millar, John Cole, Sonia Perkins, Vivien Hepworth, Graham Marks, Lisa Bangs

Surrey County Councillor – Michael Sydney (part of meeting)

Tandridge District Councillors - Brian Perkins, Lesley Steeds, Maureen Young

Police - PC Paul Baker (part of meeting)

In attendance: Fay Elwood, Parish Clerk

1. Chairman’s Report

The chairman introduced his report (attached) and said he was delighted to present community awards to Harold and Mahala Peskett and Pat Smith for their services to the Day Centre and Meals on Wheels. Both Mahala and Pat said that thanks should go to ALL volunteers, without whom, the service would not be able to exist. The Chairman encouraged people to nominate other volunteers for the 2016 awards.

2. Report from Police

PC Paul Baker informed residents that there has been some indiscriminate drive-by catapult attacks. No-one has been injured but he advised people to keep curtains closed. There have also been some thefts from vans and sheds and he urged people to lock valuable items within their sheds and to mark overtly with postcode as this acts as a deterrent as well as being a way to reunite people with stolen property. Liz Lockwood said she is pleased to see several neighbourhood watch schemes in the area and thanked Geoff Ledden for his efforts in this regard. Brian Perkins asked what the police can do when cars are parked on pavements. Paul said that Surrey Police do not take any action provided that wheelchairs and pushchairs can still get through. Geoff Ledden and Paul both recommended a website www.immobilise.com which

supplies lots of useful security equipment. It is also a useful place to catalogue valuable items. Ian Quaife requested more police presence to deter speeding motorists in Church Road as this road is unsuitable for Speedwatch. Paul said they will carry out checks when manpower is available. The Chairman asked for more volunteers to join the Speedwatch team.

3. Report from County Councillor, Michael Sydney

Michael reported that additional school places required over the next few years is having significant budget implication at County Hall. They have received some government help but there is still a shortfall. The project to repair roads (Horizon) is progressing and the improvements are noticeable. He realises that the pinch points are a major problem and has agreed to work with Pam Erskine to review the decisions made about this. He said that the sewerage leak is not a County Council responsibility. Lisa Bangs asked if SCC is concerned about the leaking sewerage affecting highways safety. She also asked how he will review decisions with Pam when he was the one making the decisions in the first place. He replied that he will answer Pam's questions in conjunction with the legal department to ensure the proper process has been followed. Returning to the sewerage leak, Pam asked if the area could be coned off to stop vehicles splashing pedestrians. Chris and Michael will both ask the Police if this can be done.

Action: CD/MS

4. Report from District Councillor, Brian Perkins

Tandridge District Council has protected services without increasing the council tax for several years. Savings have been made through efficiencies rather than redundancies. They are renting out parts of the building and TDC staff are 'hot desking' to make best use of space. Brian said the council is proud of its recycling service which is one of the best in the county. After 27 years of not building, TDC will be able to start building council houses again. They will be trying to build houses that people want to live in. Pam asked why the Environmental Health Department did not follow up after the dye testing at the pinch points proved inconclusive. Brian agreed with Pam that he was surprised no further investigations took place.

5. Report from District Councillor, Maureen Young

Maureen is the District Councillor for Dormansland and Felcourt and she said that speeding traffic on Felcourt Road is her main concern. She is working with other councillors to solve the problem. The Chairman said he welcomed the reduction in speed limit from 50mph to 40mph. Paula Cox said she was surprised that there are no signs to inform motorists that the speed limit has changed. Chris will ask SCC to address the problem.

Action: CD

6. Report from District Councillor, Lisa Bangs-Freiter

Lisa said it is with sadness and regret that she is not standing for re-election as district councillor. She has found the past eight years, at times, soul destroying and frustrating. She is disappointed that we have not been listened to on most major issues. She referred to the Frater Report about shortcomings within

Surrey County Council which was written in 2009 and doesn't feel that much has changed since then.

Brian Perkins said she shouldn't be so despondent as there are things which have improved (referring to new equipment in Jenners Field).

7. Lingfield Guest House

Ian Jones gave a brief update on the transfer of the Guest House trust (detailed in the attached report). He said they are very close to signing the agreement but have not achieved everything they wanted. Ian Quaife said he believed SCC has reneged on their initial agreement to treat Lingfield Library as a special case.

Paul Pire said he is disappointed that our County Councillor left the meeting early because it seems that every issue raised tonight is a problem with the County Council. The clerk explained that Michael was due at another meeting. Ian Jones said that Michael Sydney has worked really hard in an effort to try to retain our librarians.

8. Planning committee

John Cole reported that the majority of planning applications dealt with during the past year have been small scale householder extensions. There has been the occasional contentious issue. We monitor the decisions taken on planning applications and it sometimes appears that TDC is not consistent in its decision making. We find this frustrating at times! Referring to the Neighbourhood Plan team, John praised the skill and knowledge of the team members and said he believes it reflects what a good village Lingfield really is. The good things about Lingfield far outweigh the negatives.

9. Issues raised by members of the public

Heather Francis - does the parish council have the power to clean road signs?

Lesley Steeds - Lingfield Park Racecourse need to reduce the vegetation on Blackberry Road.

Margaret Vasey - concerned about the narrowing footpath at the bottom of Town Hill.

The clerk will investigate these issues to see if the parish council can help.

Action: Clerk

10. What should the Parish Council focus on during the next four years?

The Chairman explained that there will not be a parish council election in May because we only have six candidates for seven seats. Lisa Bangs and Sonia Perkins are not standing for election but we will be welcoming Liz Lockwood onto the council.

Paula Cox - What does the parish council intend to do about flooding?

The Chairman explained that he has personally visited homes at risk of flooding but Paula said she is concerned about flooding on approach roads into the village. Brian Perkins explained that Newchapel Road is being considered for an additional culvert in the middle of the road. The Chairman said he will

ask SCC what is happening in Lingfield and see if the Parish Council can do anything to help.

Action: CD

Paul Pirie - Is the Hub project is successful and is it 'cost neutral'.
The clerk explained that the Hub Management team is meeting with SCC in June to talk about the future of the Hub. After a shaky start it has been a successful venture, with parishes having better access to the contractor to resolve any problems. We have also been able to increase the number of times the grass is cut. Surrey County Council has funded the Hub during the past four years and we are waiting to find out if this will continue. Lisa Bangs-Freiter said that it will be interesting to see if parishes are asked to pick up the cost.

Pam Erskine - What is the parish council is doing about Gatwick ?
Chris D'Avray is our representative and he is attending meetings about Gatwick when invited. He recently attended a meeting with Gatwick Limited and he said he does not believe the statistics which are being used to support their case for a second runway. In addition, transport links would be problematic. LPC continues to oppose a second runway. We are trying to get some air quality monitoring done in Lingfield.

Action: CD

Paul Pirie - What can the parish council do about the 'retail experience' in the village?

The Chairman explained that it is difficult for the parish council to influence this and we would rather see shops being occupied than empty. Paul said it is not just the range of shops which is a problem. It is also parking in the High Street, business rates, HGVs going through the village. Brian Perkins asked Martin Cundey about the Chamber of Commerce. Martin said this was well supported when it was set up many years ago but has now fizzled out due to lack of interest.

Bringing the meeting to a close, the Chairman said that although we haven't achieved everything we set out to do, he hopes that residents find the parish council accessible. He encouraged people to contact the clerk if they have any issues they would like us to get involved in.

Meeting closed at 9pm