

Lingfield Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2009 AT 8PM IN THE LINGFIELD AND DORMANSLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present:

Ron Palmer – in the chair
Mary Edwards
Graham Marks
Fran Palmer
Valerie Millar
Sonia Perkins
Lisa Bangs (part of meeting)

District Cllr Brian Perkins (part of meeting)

In attendance:

Fay Elwood, Clerk to the Parish Council

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Apologies for Absence

Lisa Bangs apologised in advance for her late arrival.

1.2 Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest

Lisa Bangs declared a personal and prejudicial interest in items 3.2 and 4.5 and left the room whilst these were being discussed. The interests arise from her son being a member of Lingfield Youth FC (3.2) and her membership of the Planning Committee of Tandridge District Council (4.5). Lisa also declared a personal interest in items 5.2 and 6.6 because of her membership of the Community Services Committee and Local Area Committee.

1.3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2009 were amended as follows:-

5.3 ‘Because TDC were unable to provide an assurance on Resident’s Parking; and because Arena Leisure were unwilling to provide a commitment to make the necessary land available following TDC’s advice that planning permission would only be given in exceptional circumstances, members agreed that it could not risk taxpayers money on a survey of residents’ views or a planning application. It was therefore reluctantly decided not to proceed with the proposal for an off-street car park in Station Road.’

1.4 Correspondence

Members noted correspondence received between 22nd September 2009 and 2nd November 2009.

2 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Progress Report and Actions outstanding

Remembrance Day arrangements went smoothly and the clerk suggested sending a letter of thanks to Tandridge District Council for sending operatives to sweep around the pond at 6.30am to make sure it was in a suitable condition for the service.

Action: Clerk

The only outstanding action in this section is the purchase of a new ribbon for the Chairman's chain of office.

Action: Clerk

2.2 Finance Report and Cheques for Payment

Members noted receipt of the financial report which included details of expenditure against budget for 2009/2010. The cash held in the bank at 1st November 2009 was £44,651.94.

The following cheques were agreed for payment:-

Chq No.	Description	Amount	Power to spend
1501	P. Jones - Clean Talbot Road	£20.00	LG(MP)A 1976 s19
1502	F. Elwood - Clerk's Salary	£910.97	LGA 1972 s111
1503	Inland Revenue - PAYE and NI	£265.22	LGA 1972 s111
1504	F. Elwood - Clerk's Expenses	£49.18	LGA 1972 s111
1505	All Lock Systems	£99.45	LG(MP)A 1976 s19
1506	Lingfield Living	£56.00	LGA 1972 s111
1507	The Royal British Legion	£20.00	LGA 1972 s.137
1508	Surrey County Playing Fields Assoc	£10.00	LGA 1972 s111
1509	A. Heaton - Salary Oct 2009	£297.60	LG(MP)A 1976 s19
1510	F. Elwood - Clerk's Salary	£858.99	LG(MP)A 1976 s19
1511	V. Millar - mileage	£25.76	LGA 1972 s111
1512	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	£2,806.00	PHA 1975 s164
1513	F. Elwood - Salary shortage	£9.92	LGA 1972 s111
1514	Lingfield Living	£56.00	LGA 1972 s111
1515	F. Elwood - Expenses	£33.00	LGA 1972 s111
1516	Lingfield and Dormans Comm Centre	£13.50	LGA 1972 Sch 29
1517	Lingfield and Dormans Comm Centre	£180.00	LGA 1972 s111
1518	Lingfield Horticultural Society	£104.36	LGA 1972 s111

2.3 Budget for 2010/11 and Precept Request

Members approved the budget for 2010/11 and agreed to set the precept at £31,000 for 2010/11.

2.4 Appointment of Cleaner

Members agreed to appoint David Heaton as a cleaner for Talbot Road for two hours per week at a rate of £7 per hour until the end of May 2010.

2.5 CRB Check

Members agreed to carry out a fresh CRB check for Adrian Heaton.

3 GRANTS, FUNDING AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

3.1 Actions Outstanding and Progress Report

No actions outstanding.

3.2 Grant Applications

Members agreed the following grant applications:-

Lingfield Youth Football Club £250

Lingfield Scouts £250

It was also agreed that the council would consider a further application once their centenary budget had been formulated.

Members further agreed to provide a grant equal to the amount raised by the Chamber of Commerce up to a ceiling of £1000 towards the cost of providing Christmas Lights in the village. This grant will be paid using powers under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137.

4 PARISH FACILITIES

4.1 Actions Outstanding and Progress Report

Mary Edwards gave a verbal report of the meeting of Allotment Holders held on 3rd November. Eleven allotment holders were in attendance and they decided they did not wish to continue with the Allotment Holders Forum. It was agreed that the forum had served its purpose but it will be replaced by meetings to which all allotment holders will be invited four times a year.

4.2 Community Infrastructure Levy

Michael Sydney had previously suggested that the Parish Council should think about a 'shopping list' of items we might like to request from a Community Infrastructure Levy if this scheme is introduced. Following advice from Lisa Bangs that Tandridge District Council is not in favour of such a scheme, it was decided to defer this matter until such time as it is raised by the District Council.

4.3 Talbot Road (including Item 4.4 on agenda)

Members agreed that a Sport and Recreation Committee be formed with delegated powers, comprising three members of the Parish Council:- Ron Palmer, Mary Edwards and Graham Marks. The Parish Clerk and Recreation Assistant will also attend meetings and decisions will be taken in consultation with users of the facility and residents of the village. The remit of the committee will be to manage the facility and formulate a programme of improvements. **Members also agreed** to enter into negotiation with Tandridge District Council about transferring the land to Parish Council ownership.

Members noted receipt of the first report from Adrian Heaton and agreed that the actions recommended will be the first business for consideration by the new committee. The clerk will arrange the date for the first meeting.

Action: Clerk

4.4 Allotment Land

Following a suggestion by Mary Edwards, the clerk approached Punch Taverns to ask them to consider selling a piece of land at the rear of the Hare and Hounds car park. Punch Taverns responded by suggesting we retrieve the details from the Land Registry and submit an offer which may encourage them to part with the land. Considering the economic climate, and the wish not to impose Council Tax increases on parishioners, **members agreed** that we should make an offer of £5000 subject to satisfactory surveys to ensure it is fit for purpose. The clerk will write to Punch Taverns. If the bid is successful this money will be taken from Parish Council reserves.

Action: Clerk

Following the withdrawal of the planning application on the land at The Bays, in Godstone Road, it had been suggested by Andrew Saunders, resident of Porters Hall, the Parish Council may wish to put in an offer for the land to provide allotments. He also offered to make a financial contribution but did not specify how much. **Members decided**, in view of the Parish Council's strong objection to forming an access road on this section of Godstone Road, we could not consider constructing an access for allotment holders' use. The clerk will contact Andrew Saunders to inform him of this decision.

Action: Clerk

Graham Marks suggested that Lingfield Parish Council could work in partnership with Dormansland Parish Council in an approach to NCYPE to make some land available for allotment use. The clerk will contact Dormansland Parish Council.

Action: Clerk

5 HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC AND PARKING

5.1 Actions Outstanding and Progress Report

The only outstanding action was to contact Tony Elias concerning a request for the time limit for parking in Gunpit Road to be increased from 3 to 5 hours. However, this has been overtaken by events so the action is cancelled.

5.2 Parking Issues in the Village

The Chairman provided a report on the various parking issues we have been trying to address. The issues still under discussion are:-
Time limited parking in the High Street; double yellow lines in Gunpit Road; reduced price parking permits for traders in Gunpit Road car park.
Graham Marks suggested contacting the new CEO of SCC who had recently stated that he was keen to improve contacts with Parish Councils. He also suggested contacting Moira Cocks for support on the issue of double yellow lines. Lisa Bangs suggested pointing out the variations in the parking strategy when drafting a letter to TDC.

Members agreed that the chairman, in conjunction with the clerk, will draft letters to Moira Cocks, Tandridge District Council and Surrey County Council.

Action: Clerk/Chairman

6 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

6.1 Actions outstanding and Progress Report

None outstanding.

6.2 Highway Maintenance

The Chairman explained that Michael Sydney had arranged a meeting of the seven parish councils in the Lingfield division of Surrey County Council, with the purpose of explaining his idea to have parish councils take over responsibility for maintaining hedges, verges and ditches. This is a variation on the Lengthsman scheme originally proposed by Surrey County Council. All representatives of the seven parishes were in favour of exploring the possibilities but felt unable to commit to the idea until details of the costs and benefits are available.

6.3 Highway Maintenance in Lingfield

Graham Marks agreed to co-ordinate a list of work which would be required in Lingfield if parish councils take over the responsibility referred to in 6.2 above.

Action: GM

All members are asked to provide him with suggestions.

Action: All members

We have also been asked to compile a list of possible contractors and the Chairman agreed to take on this task.

Action RP

Graham Marks asked if parish councils would be taking on the legal responsibility if it agreed to take on the work. The clerk will check the position.

Action: Clerk

6.4 Amendment to Goods Vehicle Act

Members agreed to support Lorries off Rural Detours in their request to have Section 13, 5(d) of the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995 amended as suggested in their recent e-mail. The clerk will inform Peter Jelfs.

Action: Clerk

6.5 Bird Box

Following a suggestion by the Lingfield Wildlife Area, members agreed that the bird box on the tree by the pond can be moved to the Nature Reserves.

6.6 Rural Exception Schemes

Members noted that the application for 18 affordable houses at The Bays in Godstone Road was withdrawn by the developer before it could be considered by the Planning Committee at Tandridge District Council (TDC). The officers at TDC had recommended that the application be refused mainly due to road safety issues highlighted by Surrey County Council.

The Chairman referred to the parish council decision not to consider the possibility of an affordable housing scheme during the lifetime of this council and explained that we were under the impression that an application for a Rural Exception Scheme could only proceed if it was approved by the parish council. This recent application has shown that not to be the case. The

chairman proposed that the parish council policy should be revised to reflect that **the parish council is totally against building on green belt land to provide affordable housing.**

The majority of members (Ron, Fran, Valerie, Mary and Sonia) voted to support the chairman's proposal.

Lisa Bangs abstained because she is on the Planning Committee of TDC. Graham Marks remains of the opinion that a small development of around six houses would be acceptable on a green belt site. He also agreed to provide details of the sites he had proposed for such development during Part II of the meeting.

The Chairman asked the clerk to write to Tandridge District Council questioning why Lingfield was made eligible for a Rural Exception Scheme when the Core Strategy was formulated.

Action: Clerk

Graham Marks provided details of sites he considered suitable for affordable housing under the Rural Exception Scheme. He had previously discussed the suitability of these sites with Mona Johansson who is the Rural Housing Enabler employed by Surrey Community Action. These were Godstone Road (adjacent to Lingfield Football Club); at the bottom of Town Hill (on both sides) and Lingfield Common Road (just before the junction with Ray Lane). The site in Lingfield Common Road was not considered suitable by the Rural Housing Enabler.

7 TRAINING AND MEETINGS

Members noted that the TVSC Network Lunch scheduled for 26th November has now been cancelled.

8 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

8.1 East Surrey Parishes Liaison Group

Members noted receipt of the minutes of a meeting of the East Surrey Parishes Liaison Group held on 28th October 2009. The Chairman apologised for not attending the meeting

8.2 GACC Newsletter No 91

Members noted receipt of the GACC Newsletter No 91 dated October 2009.

8.3 Passenger Transport Assembly

Members noted receipt of the notes from the Passenger Transport Assembly meeting held on 13th November 2009. Graham Marks advised that our district is not under discussion in the current round of consultation.

9 CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

9.1 Review of Bus Services

Graham Marks advised that a response to the current consultation is not needed because the services under consultation do not affect our parish.

9.2 Surrey Minerals Plan

Mary submitted a short response to this consultation and the clerk will forward this to Surrey County Council.

Action: Clerk

10 MATTERS FOR REPORTING

10.1 Lingfield Park Racecourse

Members noted receipt of a letter dated 30th October 2009 informing the Parish Council that a new Managing Director has been appointed at Lingfield Park Racecourse. His name is Paul Shrimpton and he was previously the Director of Commercial Development for Arena Leisure plc.

10.2 Lingfield Youth Club

Members noted receipt of a letter from Louise Martin dated 23rd November 2009, advising that she has resigned her position as Leader in Charge at Lingfield Youth Club. The clerk advised that the other volunteers at the Youth Club have also decided to call it a day. Consequently the Youth Club will close in December. The clerk will add this as an item for the next Parish Council meeting.

Action: Clerk

10.3 GACC

Members noted the press release from GACC informing us that the Government has refused an enquiry into the plans to extend Gatwick Airport.

10.4 Parish Office Christmas Closure

The Parish Office will close at 12 noon on 23rd December and reopen on Monday 4th January.

10.5 Surrey Police

Members noted receipt of a press release from Surrey Police pledging 200 more police constables for the streets of Surrey and suggesting the closure of police houses to provide finance for this.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Lingfield Parish Council will be held on 27th January 2010

Meeting closed 10.05pm