



MINUTES OF THE TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF LINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19TH APRIL 2021 AT 7PM

This meeting was held virtually due to the social distancing measures in place to control the spread of Covid-19.

PARTICIPATING

Members of the public:-

Chris and Margaret Vasey, Paul Pirie, Lisa Liggins, Ian Jones, William Woodrow, Selina Springbett, Paul Hearnden, Geoff Ledden, Claire Thomas, Clive Jecks (Chairman, Lingfield Chamber of Commerce), Christopher Adams

County Councillor:-

Lesley Steeds (also District Councillor for Dormansland and Felcourt)

District Councillors:-

Liz Lockwood (also Lingfield Parish Councillor)

Sir Nicholas White

Mark Ridge

Parish Councillors:-

Vivien Hepworth (Chairman)

Cath Hearnden (Vice chairman)

Graham Marks

Andrea Watson

Camilla Downing

Fay Elwood, Parish Clerk

1. Welcome and Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that because of election sensitivity, Liz Lockwood and Lesley Steeds would not be invited to give a report. She then read out her own report which had been previously circulated in the Annual Report (attached).

2. District Councillor Reports

Cllr Ridge said because of the restriction placed on other councillors, he would not say much but he wished to thank Geoff Ledden and all the volunteers who did so well in the first lockdown by offering their services to collect shopping and prescriptions for anyone who asked. When the 2nd wave of the pandemic came, Lingfield was really well prepared and he said he was pleased to see the vaccination programme going so well.

Cllr White thanked the parish council for its efforts during the past year.

3. Public Questions

Members of the public were asked to type their questions into the chat facility, or to raise a hand if they didn't know how to do this. The first four items had been sent in by John and Ann Ball as they preferred not to join the meeting this evening.

Q: Thank you for all the work so far completed on the pond. Hopefully it will be completed successfully in due course.

A: Now the silt has been removed, we have moved on to the rebuilding of the island. We are hoping to finish the pond by the end of the month – although we are awaiting quotes for the rendering work which will affect the final date.

Q: Thank you for the hanging baskets and planters in the summer last year. They really cheered us up during the worst of the pandemic and lockdown. Can they be continued please?

A: We are intending to have the hanging baskets and planters again this year and have increased the number of floral cubes to include some displays in Godstone Road. We won't be placing one outside Chef's Kitchen this time because there is too much shade from the tree.

Q: During our regular lockdown exercise sessions around Lingfield, we have noticed an increase in litter and a few overflowing bins. Are there any plans to organise a litter picking session with volunteers as in the past? We would be very happy to volunteer if equipment and details are provided.

A: We propose to arrange a litter pick later in the year but in the meantime residents can borrow equipment from the Community Centre to collect litter whilst out walking. (John and Ann Ball have already done this)

Q: Is there an update on the local empty shops?

A: (Provided by Clive Jecks) The shops previously known as Vier Studio and Ballard and Shortall have been let (subject to contracts). One will be a retail unit and the other will be a service outlet. There is currently no potential tenant for the former charity shop. This information was provided to Clive by the letting agents and he cannot confirm accuracy.

Christopher Adam

Q: Where are we on the Neighbourhood Plan?

A: (Provided by Cath Hearnden) We are a long way ahead but still waiting for the outcome of the Inspection of the Tandridge Local Plan. We are waiting to find out if the plan is to be amended or rewritten. We have written to Tandridge District Council Planning Committee to express our wish to work with them to provide a Neighbourhood Plan which fits with the Local Plan. The next stage of our Neighbourhood Plan is for the professionals to produce and we would like to arrange a public presentation when it is safe to do so.

Paul Pirie

Q: Once the pond is finished, will a regular maintenance plan be put in place ?

A: We are intending to set up a sub-committee/working party to look after pond maintenance. 'Friends of Lingfield Pond' has been suggested as a suitable name.

Paul also asked Cllr Hearnden to reconsider her plans to resign once the pond project is finished.

Geoff Ledden thanked volunteers who were so helpful during the first lockdown, particularly Debbie Winchester and Jodie Harper. Many volunteers were going out several times a day to collect prescriptions and shopping for residents. He also thanked the Lingfield Marathon Minibus (in particular Scot McDonald and Alan Orbell) who have been delivering supplies to the nurses at East Surrey Hospital. The Chairman echoed his thanks and also thanked the volunteers who have been helping with the pond.

Clive Jecks confirmed he has applied for a road closure for a Christmas Event and is expecting approval of this after 14th May.

Ian Jones expressed his congratulations to the Meals on Wheels team, led by Sara Watson, who continued with deliveries throughout the lockdowns delivering between 35 and 45 meals a day.

Meeting closed at 7.25pm