



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 24TH MAY 2019 AT LINGFIELD AND DORMANSLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE STARTING AT 7PM

Present:

Anne Hardwick, Ian Quaife, Chris and Margaret Vasey, Ian Jones, Peter and Heather Francis, John and Ann Ball, Sue Quelch, Sally and John Cole, Brian and Sonia Perkins, Pam Erskine

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

Ron Coleman

Andrea Watson

In attendance: Fay Elwood, Parish Clerk

Apologies (only recorded for councillors)

Apologies were received from Camilla Downing

1. Chairman's Report

The Chairman started by welcoming everyone to the Annual Parish Assembly and thanking them for attending. She then introduced herself (as the new chairman) and invited other members of the parish council to say a few words about themselves. She urged people to read the annual report which not only explains the progress made by the parish council over the last year but also includes details about planning, Lingfield Nature Reserves, Lingfield Community Library, Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre and Lingfield United Trust. She then thanked John Cole who had been chairman for the past four years. He was an outstanding chairman, full of good sense plus a wonderful sense of humour which made for a very cheerful parish council. She wished him and Sally all the very best in their forthcoming move to the West Country.

The parish council has some significant issues to deal with, not least the proposed Star Fields development, which would significantly damage the character of our village. We're all up in arms about it, and that includes the parish council which was never consulted about the development before it was announced. She said that the parish council will do everything it can to continue the opposition to the development and to support the Star Fields Action Group.

Other key priorities on the agenda are keeping the area clean and we are in the process of recruiting a new litter warden and will be supplementing this with litter picks around the village. Another key issue for the village is parking enforcement. Many people in the village currently know exactly when parking wardens come to the

village – it's the same time every week – and this doesn't exactly help enforcement. We understand that there is to be a new regime on parking enforcement and we sincerely hope matters improve. We will do our best with the help of our county and district councillors to demand an improvement if it doesn't happen.

Vivien believes we should work closely with the Lingfield Chamber of Commerce to support local businesses. And we will certainly do our best to make the village pretty with more flowers and plants if possible.

There will be more aims and objectives coming out of our first parish council meeting as a new council which is to be held next Tuesday evening. We will be discussing what else we can aim to do at that meeting.

2. Report from County and District Councillors

Report from Lesley Steeds

Lesley said she has been the Surrey County Councillor for 2 years now and has been busy trying to get things done in her division despite budget restrictions. She has used most of her 'allowance' sorting out the wet spot in Saxbys Lane. The drainage situation has now been sorted but she is trying to get some tidying work done. She has made sure blocked drains in Station Road and Town Hill have been cleared; arranged for the installation of bollards outside the primary school and prioritised our High Street for resurfacing.

At the moment she is working to try to keep the Children's Centre open. She is still trying to get the pinch points removed but the police are determined they should stay. The cabinet member suggested taking the verge opposite Bay Trees back by 12 inches to improve the sight lines. However, if this were to happen, and one of the pinch points is removed, it would still require speed cushions. She acknowledged that the pinch points are causing significant problems for the owner of the Thatched Cottage who is trying to get her roof repaired but it is not safe to attempt this without a road closure.

Report from Liz Lockwood

Liz said that she is pleased to be re elected to Tandridge District Council(TDC). TDC has submitted its local plan which is likely to be inspected in September/October. She has been working hard on the inappropriate insertion of Star Fields to the local plan at the last minute.

TDC is going to provide new rubbish bins to residents in September.

The skate ramp in Jenners Field is out of action due to vandalism but it is evident that part of the structure is rotting. Liz will try to get them to refurbish the skate ramp as it is a valuable asset for young people in the village. Finally Liz advised that Jeremy Pursehouse has been elected as Chairman of TDC for the coming year and he has chosen Lingfield Nature Reserves as one of his charities for the year.

Report from Mark Ridge

Mark has been in office for a year and feels he has now settled into the role and recognises what is important to the community. He is taking up the issue of parking enforcement and advised that enforcement is moving from Reigate and Banstead to Sevenoaks in the near future.

He has been appointed as the representative on the Lingfield Nature Reserves committee and is looking forward to helping to preserve it.

He informed those present that both he and Lesley are on the Licensing Committee and will be considering the application from Lingfield Park to increase their opening hours.

Report from Sir Nicholas White

Tannery Gardens will be heavily affected by any change in Lingfield Park's opening hours. He is concerned about the effect on the village in general. He advised that he is trying to get involved in Gatwick Airport in the light of climate change concerns. Specifically, he is concerned about increased use of the emergency runway. He supports Lesley in her effort to keep the Children's Centre Open and said that mothers with young children should not be expected to travel to Caterham for the support they need.

3. Public Questions

Ian Quaife – People are parking for long periods outside the convenience store in Newchapel Road which is causing problems with deliveries.

The fencing around the skatepark is down every morning. The northern end of the structure has a small hole which TDC has identified as a H & S issue.

Youngsters can be observed smoking weed and the police seem to be unconcerned. Drivers on the school run are leaving their engines running which is causing pollution. Could we approach Richard Ford to ask if he is interested in the Litter Warden role? A developer interested in the field next to Wallis has said that if this area is developed the pinch points could go. Ian said he believes the pinch points are 'political'.

He is concerned about water in the lower churchyard and the knock on effect if Star Fields is developed. He suggested a water survey for Star Fields could be useful in the campaign to stop development.

Mark Ridge replied that all rainwater from houses in New Place Gardens is fed into a stream via a culvert under the road.

Mark said that he has complained to the police about graffiti on the skate ramp and was advised that a certain amount of graffiti is acceptable. Any graffiti which is offensive or racist is removed within 24 hours. He is concerned about the lack of police presence and the fact that low-level crime is ignored.

Vivien Hepworth said that at a recent meeting of the parish council, police representatives had requested that all crimes should be reported, however minor.

Ian Quaife said that a fight which broke out amongst drunken race goers at The Star Inn on Good Friday had a huge impact on the village. The Police are not objecting to the increase in hours at the racecourse because they say there have been no problems in the past. Ian asked that everyone looks at the application and objects to the changes. Liz said she will publicise the application on social media.

Action: Liz Lockwood

Andrea Watson referred to a concert held at Lingfield Park two years ago, which caused gridlock in the village for several hours. The Racing Post had run a story on the event. She suggested contacting Racing Post to see if they are interested in running a story about the application for increased hours and its effects on the village. Vivien promised we will discuss the issue further at our PC meeting to be held on Tuesday 28th May.

Ian Jones suggested that direct contact with Lingfield Park in an effort to co-operate might be the best way forward.

Sue Quelch said she would be concerned about how people would travel home from the racecourse at 2am and suggested they may be more likely to drink and drive.

Brian Perkins said the racecourse re-sited their stage and speakers in response to a request from the parish council in the past, so they may be open to negotiation.

Margaret Vasey said that Town Hill has become dangerous for pedestrians. The pavement has become narrow due to the vegetation which has not been cut back. Pavements need widening. Vegetation needs clearing.

Sue Quelch asked if the ivy in the High Street twitten could be cut back?

Ann Ball wished to thank the person who looks after the area around the pond (Rita Russell). She also asked for a notice board dedicated to local events.

John Ball asked if the drain in Saxbys Lane has been sorted. Lesley explained that Surrey County Council had originally said it wasn't their problem. Lesley used her member allocation to pay for an inspection. This revealed that the ditch has gradually filled with earth which needed clearing. They renewed some piping and added a drain. Lesley has requested they install some kerbing and repatch the road.

Mark Ridge said that the drains in Vicarage Road and Bakers Lane are all blocked. Lesley said that SCC has now employed a new contractor and she urged people to report blocked drains online.

Sue Quelch explained why the flooding occurred in Bakers Lane. It was due to tree roots having broken the drains.

Ron Coleman said he intends to plot all blocked drains and pot holes on a map for forwarding to Surrey County Council.

Mark Ridge said that the drain infrastructure is gradually breaking down due to its age.

Ian Quaife suggested that the current contractors do not carry out a thorough job. He also referred to an issue with ducklings going missing from the village pond. Ron Coleman explained that he is organising a working party to make improvements to the pond.

4. Presentation of Community Award

The Community Award for 2019 goes to Haresh Naibheman (otherwise known as Harry). He has run the shop in Station Road for many years and here is what his proposer had to say about him:-

“For over 20 years Harry has run the shop in Station Road. He is our hero – shopkeeper and superstar, always going that extra mile and looking out for his customers and members of our community. He is the nicest, kindest and most generous man you could wish to know. Thank you Harry.”

Harry was not able to attend this evening but we will make sure he receives his certificate and gift.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm