



LINGFIELD
Parish Council

Annual Report 2023



TWENTY THIRD ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

MONDAY 20th March 2023 7pm

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Welcome by the Chairman
2. Reports from the County and District Councillors
3. 'An introduction to Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust' by Anthony Fulford-Smith
4. Presentation on the process for the Conservation Area Appraisal – Cllr Liz Lockwood
5. Public Questions and Discussion

Chairman's Report

Our successful Jubilee celebrations in June last year, were sadly followed by the passing of Her Majesty, the Queen with a national outpouring of grief, admiration and thanks from old to young. We opened our Book of Condolence and held a small ceremony to mark the Vigil which included the reading of the Proclamation to the King.

There will be a street party to celebrate the coronation on Sunday 7th May, which will be a lunchtime/afternoon rather than an afternoon/evening event and more details will be made available very soon.

The winter months have been difficult for many with the rising cost of living. Although the Parish Council has not raised the Parish precept and the amount of council tax you pay for two years, we are all facing mounting pressure and we have had to apply an increase of 4% this year, still lower than inflation.

The pond working group continues to do a great job keeping the pond looking lovely and the water, as predicted, has settled and is no longer green. It was very sad to see the ducks under attack from a few people and we are delighted to see some of them back at the pond.

The Neighbourhood Plan is moving on a pace and there will be more news about that in the coming months. Please see the separate report for details.

Many of you may know that Lingfield has a Conservation Area, which, at the moment, is made up of three attractive historical areas. We have commissioned a Conservation Area Appraisal to look at the boundaries and the historic buildings that make up these areas and you should have received, or will shortly receive, a leaflet through your door explaining this and asking you to send your comments to:- CAA@lingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk.

We are asking for comments which cover, but are not limited to, questions such as :

- What features positively contribute to the Conservation Area?
- Are there features or areas which detract from the Conservation Area?
- What opportunities might exist to enhance the Conservation Area?
- Are the boundaries in the right place?

We have also carried out a structural survey on the war memorial and we are considering some minor improvement works.

We are pleased that we have been able to award our regular grants and some additional grants to several regular well deserving causes and charities this year.

Please don't forget that it is local and parish elections in May this year and if you wish to vote you MUST show photographic identification. You can use any photo ID issued by a government department, even if it is out of date, as long as it bears your correct name and still looks like you! If you do not have anything or it doesn't look like you, you can apply for a voter authority certificate [Applying for a Voter Authority Certificate | Electoral Commission](#)

Finally, please remember that you are welcome to attend parish council meetings and meetings of the planning committee and Friends of Lingfield Pond. Meeting dates are on the notice boards and agendas are published on notice boards and the web site the week prior to the meeting.

Cath Hearnden, Chairman, Lingfield Parish Council

Your councillors until the election in May 2023 are:-

Cath Hearnden – Chairman
Liz Lockwood - Chairman of Planning

Lingfield Parish Council

Report 2023

Vivien Hepworth – Vice chairman
Graham Marks
Clive Jecks
Camilla Downing
Jason Fudge

Clerk: Fay Elwood
Tel: 835557 email: lingfieldpc@gmail.com
www.lingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk



Finance

A precept of £60,000 was raised from Tandridge District Council for the financial year 2022/23. The precept for 2023/24 has been set at £62,400.

Full accounts have not yet been finalised but the list below gives a broad outline of how the money has been spent:-

Administration £38,016
Grants £8,279
Environment and Parish Property £5,018
Centenary Fields and Nature Reserves £4,345
Gun Pond and surrounds £3,957
Events £3,143
Allotments £2,247
Neighbourhood Plan £489

Grants

The following grants were awarded in 2022/23:-

£3,500 Churchyard Maintenance
£1,750 Christmas Lights
£800 Meals on Wheels
£800 Community News
£500 TVA – Befriending Scheme
£300 KSS Air Ambulance
£250 TW Samaritans
£200 Surrey Fire and Rescue
£179.62 Lingfield Larder
Full accounts will be available after 31st May.

Fay Elwood, Clerk



Allotments

We have two allotment sites, one at Centenary Fields and one in Newchapel Road. At the time of writing there are no vacancies at Centenary Fields and 6 vacancies at The Pollards. We remain grateful to the owners of The Pollards for letting us use the land to provide allotments to residents of Lingfield and Dormansland.

Planning

The Planning Committee of the Parish Council usually meets at roughly fortnightly intervals, and over the last year has looked at and commented on 92 planning applications. No new houses have been granted planning permission, although there is one outstanding planning appeal for two houses on a Green Belt site outside the village boundary.

Recent difficulties at the Tandridge planning department have led to a delay in the determination of planning applications and there are nine undecided Lingfield planning applications which should have been determined in 2022. The application for Star Fields should have been determined by last September and despite Tandridge District Council (TDC) already deciding to take the site out of the Local Plan sites allocations, it is still hanging in the balance as an Outline Planning Application for 99 houses.

Obtaining Permitted Development rights is a much quicker way to obtain a legal approval for certain extensions and improvements to your property. TDC has issued nine Certificates of Lawfulness to properties in Lingfield over the last year, with some of these applications being determined in less than two months. Details about what is 'Permitted Development' is easily found on the Government's Planning Portal.

Lingfield has a very good record of protecting its trees and many in the Parish are protected

with individual Tree Preservation Orders (TPO), or are covered by tree protections in the Conservation Area (TCA). There were 15 TPO/TCA applications last year. These are assessed by the Tandridge Tree Officer and he is generally supportive of works to the trees in the applications. However, he does refuse permission, where he feels it is detrimental to the amenity of the area to lose a whole or a significant portion of local trees. The Parish Council will be undertaking a review of the trees in the Parish and with the help of the Lingfield Neighbourhood Plan, be identifying trees and hedgerows that could warrant additional protections, especially where they are well established or identified as "Veteran". The District Council does have a policy, which it enforces, that clear-felling, or taking out the veteran trees on a site before submitting a planning application, may be very detrimental to the planning application receiving a positive outcome or could incur significant cost to the developer to reinstate the trees.

It is worth noting that whilst the Parish Council may discuss and possibly comment on every application in the area, it does not have any statutory powers to make recommendations for approval or refusal, like Surrey Highways or the Heritage Planning Officers can do. Sometimes the Parish Council sends in a "no comment"; this doesn't necessarily mean that the Parish Council doesn't have an opinion about an application; it might be because it requires a technical planning assessment by the planning officer. Another consideration the Parish Council needs to bear in mind, is that the rules of "predetermination" apply to Parish Councillors when debating planning applications. Individual supporters or objectors may believe the planning committee should reflect their personal or residents' views but applications need to be considered with an "open mind" and councillors are obliged to make comments which are related to material planning considerations and the planning merits, or

otherwise, of an application and it is the majority opinion which will be the comment recorded.

Liz Lockwood, Chair, LPC Planning Committee



The reserves continue to develop and have been well supported by the volunteers and in terms of donations received in 2022. We would like to thank LPC for their encouragement and support and, particularly, their prompt and positive response to our request to a 25 year extension to our management agreement. We would also like to thank them for their continuing contribution to the cost of the hay cut which is probably the single most important management activity we undertake and is the reason why our meadows are now species rich.

Management

In order to encourage invertebrates our hay cutting regime was modified in 2023 by cutting only half of each field. Uncut areas encourage over wintering insects, larvae and eggs and are also good for small mammals. The cut will rotate each year so that some areas will only be cut every third year. We will be monitoring this carefully to see how the flora and fauna respond. We are reasonably confident that fertility levels are now sufficiently low that there will only be positive impacts.

Pollarding and coppicing were carried out in Coldharbour Copse. The copse is now nearly 30 years old. The trees are all the same age and height. The aim is to allow light into the copse for invertebrates and wildflowers as well as make the area more structurally complex by encouraging regrowth. The plan also includes more seeding of woodland wild flowers in 2023.

The Surrey County Council have been kind enough to gift the reserves 300 native trees. The planting of the first tranche was completed in 2022 as part of a plan to create a wood meadow in Beacon Field. This is known to enhance biodiversity and comprises a meadow grading into surrounding woodland (being planted). The most recent tranche of young trees are very small and have been planted in our allotment with the intention of planting them out in National Tree Week in November 2023 when they are larger and more likely to do well.

Volunteers have now begun a programme of invasive non-native laurel removal around the allotments and butterfly garden. The aim is to create an understorey of hazel and other natives under the retained mature trees as well as seeding with woodland flowers such as bluebells. The removal will probably take several years.

South and South East in Bloom

One of our highlights of 2022 was being awarded a “thriving” certificate by South & South East in Bloom. We were one point from achieving “outstanding” and it is our intention to follow SSiB’s recommendations and reach this level in 2023. Our recent coppicing is the first step in following their advice. We are very pleased to have this independent external recognition of our achievements.

Volunteers

Our monthly work parties continue to be regularly supported by up to 20 volunteers. It has been noticeable that more youngsters are being brought along. In addition to our stalwarts and regulars newcomers continue to turn up. Occasional ad hoc week day work parties have been held to address specific tasks and these have also been well attended. We were delighted to host a very hardworking group of volunteers from SES Water for an environmental payback day in October.

Funds and Donations

In 2022, we have received grants, donations and funding from LPC, Councillor Lesley Steeds, The Co-op, DEFRA, Waitrose, plus

various small donations in response to talks and presentations given to local organisations. Currently income covers outgoings and the reserves held are considered sufficient for most likely eventualities.

Your Fund Surrey

The YFS application for funds to resurface our paths continues to be drawn out and taxing but progress has been made. To assist our application Lingfield Parish Council granted us a 25 year extension to our management agreement and we are very grateful and appreciative of their support. Tandridge District Council has reportedly agreed in principle to granting us a 25 year extension to our lease. Their own deadline was to complete the process in April 2022 but it remains ongoing seemingly due to staff shortages at TDC. We are not aware of any other reasons for the delays.

We anticipate more information being required to satisfy YFS application process which appears to continue to evolve and require further responses from us. We have been told our application is regarded favourably and the process should conclude in Spring 2023.

Our high Priority Grasslands

It was discovered recently that the LNR is designated as high priority grassland on the Governments Magic Maps website. Biodiverse grasslands are few and far between in this area. Among the only grasslands so listed are Blindley Heath and Lingfield Cerns which are both Sites of Special Scientific Interest. This is evidence of how successful the creation and consequent management of the LNR has been and we are extremely proud of this status.

Vandalism and other issues

Occasional low level vandalism continues to occur on the reserves with signs and benches being destroyed. Youths have been reported firing catapults at houses from the reserve. Dog mess and uncontrolled dogs (chasing deer etc) continue to be issues. A large proportion of dogs on the reserves are off the

lead. This has been tolerated since the reserves were created but means few areas of the reserve are undisturbed. Dead hedges and low fences have been used to channel traffic away from some areas. There seems to be no widespread awareness of the growing evidence of the detrimental effect of the presence of dogs on wildlife by dog owners. The scout hut ponds now have large populations of goldfish presumably either dumped or deliberately introduced. We feel these issues are largely beyond the control of the management committee but we continue to respond as best we can.

Promoting the Reserves

We have been showcasing the reserves through guided tours and giving talks. Guided tourists included Steve Bolton, Big City Butterflies Project Officer, John Stokes of the Tree Council, East Grinstead Natural History Society, Gill Underwood's Book Club and David Ford, Chief Executive of TDC. We supported Claridge House's open day by assisting with nature walks. Talks about the LNR were given to Lingfield Horticultural Society, PROBUS of Dormansland and Old Hunstanton Parish Council. More tours and talks are planned for 2023. In July we held a volunteer event to harvest yellow rattle seed on the reserves. This plant is another of our successes. Known as "the meadow maker", it promotes greater floral diversity by suppressing grasses. Harvested seed was subsequently donated to various habitat creation projects including the Mutton Hill roadside verge project, Crowhurst Place, Long Acres Campsite and Christine Scott's meadow restoration project.

Biodiversity on the reserves

Overall our management has continued to be rewarded with exciting discoveries. However, our first breeding bird survey since 2011 showed a marked drop in numbers. We know species like yellowhammer and skylark have largely disappeared in the local area over those eleven years but the survey also shows a drop in many other species. This could be down to methodology and the fact that the

surveyor has not surveyed the reserves before and could only visit a couple of times. However, dog ownership had doubled nationally in this time and, with Covid, the reserves are visited more than ever. While there is a great deal of evidence now showing that the presence of dogs especially off leads deters the shyer species, it is speculation to link the two issues on the LNR. We will continue to monitor the birds and attempt to establish if these are real declines.

There have also been exciting discoveries. A palmate newt was caught in one of our ponds bringing the number of amphibian species recorded on the reserves to six. Our new meadow in the Quiet Garden continues to surprise but the discovery of dozens, maybe more than a hundred, common spotted orchids exceeded all expectations. In fact, these orchids continue to spread across our meadows all over the reserves and are no longer restricted to the ditches and banks where their seed was originally sown. We also acquired our 31st butterfly species by recording a marbled white for the first time ever.

We have been recording the butterflies on the reserves for 20 years giving us a very valuable data set. What it tells us is that our grassland butterflies, like the stunning common blue, are bucking the national trend of continued declines and are actually increasing. This is wonderful news and showing we are getting things right by increasing the wildflower rich areas on the reserve.

Plans for 2023

Projects planned for next year include the laying of Bloomers Hedge by the South of England Hedge Laying Society which also happens to be a charity event, more coppicing and pollarding around the reserves and the continuation of our wood meadow project through more tree planting. There will also be further kissing gate and bench replacements funded by Councillor Lesley Steeds.

We are very conscious that nature reserves surrounded by sterile landscapes, long term, are not sustainable. We therefore plan to

showcase the reserves, be more outward facing and use the success and learnings of the reserves over the last 30 years to support and even lead initiatives to restore biodiversity in the local area and beyond the reserves. We hope this could result in the creation of new habitat and greater connectivity of important habitat across the Eden catchment and ultimately safeguard the reserves future as a hotspot of biodiversity.

John Madden, Chair, Lingfield Nature Reserves



After our informal public consultation in June, I am pleased to report that the draft Lingfield Neighbourhood Plan is making its way through the appropriate channels so that it can go to referendum and become final.

We have just received the Strategic Environmental Assessment and will take on board any comments before submitting it to the public for the Regulation 14 six-week consultation. Information will be posted on the website <https://www.lingfield.info>, notice boards and social media in the next few weeks and the consultation draft will be on the website, with paper copies at various points in the village. All households will be sent information about this stage and you will have plenty of time to look at it and provide feedback.

After this Parish based consultation, it will go to Tandridge for the various consultations and inspections as required by the legislation.

As you will know, it has been a long and, at times, rather tortuous route to this point but we are confident we are on the road to getting the Parish Council's obligations completed before the summer and then it is in the hands of Tandridge to manage the process, including the public referendum ,

which allowing for timetabling to coincide with the council's programme, could be early next year.

Cath Hearnden, Chairman, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Lingfield Community Library

Lingfield Community Library was launched on 25 June 2016 and is now run by about 40 volunteers with support from the Surrey County Library Service.

Lingfield Library offers a traditional range of services, including:

- Loan of books and other materials eg DVDs
- A children's library
- Reference material
- Reservations for individual readers and book clubs
- Access to computers
- Rhymetime for toddlers and Story Time for 4-7 year olds
- Summer Reading Challenge

Since the launch, we have continued to offer these services and introduced new activities. We have been heartened by the interest in and support shown to the Community Library by local residents.

The Library also houses the Hayward History Centre.

Management of the Library

Following the successful establishment of the Library, we examined the role of the Steering Committee and decided that it should be responsible for strategic oversight. We have established a Library Operations Group, which deals with the day to day running of the Library, including the book stock, volunteer

affairs, publicity and events. These remits complement each other and are operating successfully.

IT

In August 2021, Surrey Libraries introduced a new Library Management System, Symphony, and joined a consortium of libraries using the same software. This gives library users access to a much wider range of stock from any libraries who are part of the consortium with the capacity to return items to these libraries as well. There have been some teething troubles with the new system but all volunteers have now been trained to use it. We hope that we shall have enhanced access to Symphony in coming months which will allow us to add new titles locally, inter alia.

Volunteers

The number of volunteers has remained constant. However, we still do not have enough staff to reopen on Tuesday afternoons. We shall continue to monitor this situation with the aim of extending our opening hours in the future.

Website and Social Media

The Library has revamped its website and raised its profile on local social media to publicise its activities.

Children's Events

The Summer Reading Challenge ran during summer holidays and attracted participants from local schools. The library ran a poetry competition for primary school users during the Autumn Term on the theme of 'Halloween and Bonfire Night' for which we awarded several prizes.

Adult Events

We have reintroduced 'Author of the Month', which highlights the work of one author or literature from a particular country, for example. This has proved popular with readers who appreciate the introduction to a wide range of authors.

We hosted a reading by a local poet, Carol Ann Skipper, which filled the Peter Grey room.

Christmas

As usual, we decorated the Library at Christmas and Father Christmas visited the Library in December with gifts for children from local pre-schools and junior members of the Library.

Funding Shortfall - Surrey Libraries

In common with many other councils, Surrey faces financial difficulties. As a result, they proposed to withdraw funding for new books and the inter library van service for community partnered libraries from with effect from April 2023. Fortunately, this proposal has now been withdrawn but it has reminded us that the Library runs on a shoestring and we must find additional sources of income to ensure that we can continue to offer a good service.

Proposals for 2022/23

We hope to continue to offer our existing facilities and to introduce some new activities, to include:

- Improvements to the website and make more use of social media to promote our activities.
- Visits from local schools and nursery schools
- Monthly exhibitions and features on chosen authors
- A programme of events for to ensure the Library's financial viability.

The Guest House Trustees

Surrey County Council rented space for the Library from the Trustees for 7 years in 2017. One of the Trustees is a member of the Steering Committee to facilitate cooperation. The Library has participated in the Open Garden events organised by the Trustees, which have introduced our services to a wider audience. I am grateful to the Trustees for their support and assistance in maintaining the fabric of the Guest House.

Acknowledgements

Lingfield Parish Council

Report 2023

I am grateful to the members of the Lingfield Library Steering Committee, the Library Operations Group and all our volunteers for their assistance and support over the past year. These have been demanding times and everyone has shown amazing fortitude and commitment throughout. I am also grateful to our colleagues at Surrey Library Service for their advice and support, notably the managers and staff at Redhill and Oxted Libraries.

Lingfield Community Library is grateful to Lingfield and Dormansland Parish Councils for their financial and other support.

Selina Springbett, Chair, Lingfield Community Library



Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre

At the heart of a community centre are people - people who visit the centre and enjoy the activities that take place there but also those who make sure the activities take place. Whether it is the people who put out the chairs ahead of events, the willing souls who prepare our much-loved ploughman's or the board members who give up time to ensure the centre runs properly, they all play a vital part. Against that background, the news that Claire Thomas, our long-serving Centre Manager would be retiring at the end of this year came as quite a blow.

Claire has been the glue that has held the Centre together over the past [ten] years. She has supported our all-important users, encouraging new activities and helping existing users to succeed. She has supported the board through her recognition of issues that need to be handled there and her advice has always been well received. And she has created a team of people who help on everything from day-to-day maintenance to finance. Perhaps her finest legacy will be the laser-accurate presentation of notices along

the corridor in the Centre – woe betide anyone who misaligns any of the display.

As Claire will confirm, every week brings a new set of challenges to her door. These range from flooding to power cuts, from people who want a chat to others who believe the Centre is an offshoot of government. Few weeks are the same and Claire has risen to the challenges. We owe her a great debt. The good news is that we have been able to recruit a successor – Terri Pagram - who we are confident will carry on Claire's good work. Terri takes over fully on 31 March. Terri has substantial experience of running organisations and of the different challenges that inevitably come along.

As to the Centre itself, it has come through the Covid period in a sound financial position. Thanks are due to our many users who have successfully re-established their classes and to everyone who attends events at the Centre. During the autumn and New Year we ran a series of events – a Murder Mystery, a music evening and an opera night – all of which were sold out. And Flix in the Stix continues to welcome steady numbers. That level of support contributes to our finances and gives us the confidence to commission further entertainments for the village.

In conjunction with St Peter and St Paul's Church and other village bodies, we offered a warm hub facility from the start of November to March. This was a response to the rising fuel prices fears that people would be unable to heat their homes. In practice, there was limited response to this initiative. It has, however, since January run alongside a Healthy Eating Club, run by one of our directors, Lisa Carey. We have been pleased to see growing support for this. Both the Warm Hub and the Healthy Eating Club have received financial support from Surrey County Council and Tandridge District Council.

We occupy a Victorian building, on a lease from the parish council. We are responsible for the repair and maintenance of the

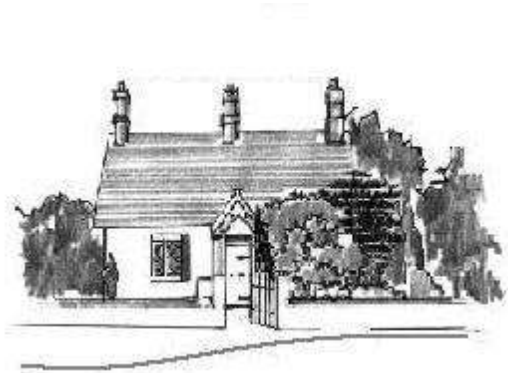
Lingfield Parish Council

Report 2023

building. Over the past year, we have experienced issues with the brick wall that defines the boundary round part of the property, a leaking roof and the need to repair or replace the large room divider in the main hall at the Centre. We have obtained professional advice on the wall and are acting on it; we have, we hope, resolved the leaking roof; and we are exploring options for the room divider. Each of these issues illustrates the need for us to maintain the building and to earn sufficient income to cover the costs.

At board level, we have bid farewell to Robin Graham and thank him for his contribution, notably on fire and safety issues. We are pleased to welcome Danielle Little to the board.

Ian Jones
Chairman, Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre



LUT Chairman's Report to Lingfield Parish Assembly meeting, 20th March 2023

Background

The objects of the charity remain;

- The provision and maintenance of Almshouse Accommodation.
- The provision of Grants for assistance to those meeting the charity's criteria and resident within the parishes of Dormansland, Lingfield and Baldwins Hill.

I set out below the works that Lingfield United Trust has carried out in these respects over the past year.

The Provision and Maintenance of Almshouse Accommodation

We continue to maintain our 2 Almshouses known as 'HoChee Cottages' in Plough Road, Dormansland.

Our residents remain those who were in occupancy since the refurbishment of the almshouses in 2013 and in one case, prior to that date. Sadly Mr Joe Abbott died in 2022 and so his widow Maureen remains in residence. We continue to support them in any way they require and check their wellbeing. We have put in place assistance in the garden and with pruning and heavy jobs that are required.

As it is now 10 years since the refurbishment works to the Almshouses were carried out, we appointed a Surveyor to carry out a Quinquennial Inspection Report on the properties in accordance with the Almshouse

Association requirements. The report highlighted a few minor issues which we have taken action to resolve. There were no significant structural problems or any works which require major remediation.

The Provision of Grants

At Christmas 2022, the Trustees of Lingfield United Trust were able to distribute 102 payments.

This comprised grants to 25 couples and 77 single applicants and came to £7005 in total. 127 people were helped in total.

The amounts distributed are £65 per single person and £80 per couple. Once again we sent application forms to those who had applied the previous year, as the distribution points used prior to the pandemic, are still not as accessible as they have been previously. We also advertised locally for applicants.

We continue to pay grants for assistance to vulnerable and needy residents and families in Lingfield and Dormansland parishes and we have received referrals and supported financially at least 6 families and additionally organizations such as Dormansland Diamonds and the Dormansland War Memorial Hall.

We continue to be successful in attracting additional funding from the Henry Smith Charity and again this year we made an application for assistance towards the Warm Hubs initiative which seven local premises are involved with. We were successful in attracting £4000 for this year and the same sum for the next 2 years. This has been distributed to each organization on a pro rata basis in accordance with the amount of time they were open for shelter and refuge and apportioned as a result of a questionnaire completed by the organizations involved.

Trustees

We have 7 Trustees who have been in place for the duration of this year and I attach a current updated list for your information. I am grateful for all their work and support on behalf of Lingfield United Trust.

Lingfield Parish Council

Report 2023

The very sad and sudden death of our Clerk, Marlene Hughes in March 2022 has left us without her valuable services and her tremendous support is sorely missed. I as Chairman have covered those duties in the meantime and we are still hoping to find a replacement.

Lingfield Common
Road
Lingfield
RH7 6BZ

The Church of St
Peter and St Paul
Old Town
Lingfield
Surrey
RH7 6AH

Marion Wardell, Chairman, Lingfield United Trust

As always the Annual Report and Financial Statement will be audited and sent to the Charity Commissioners in due course.

Registered Charity no 1150971

Chairman – *Mrs. Marion Wardell, 5 Wallace Square, Lavington Park, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0FJ 01798 867661*

Clerk to the Trustees – *position vacant*
Lingfield United Trust *company no 8296570*
reg address 1 HoChee Cottages, Plough Road, Dormansland RH7 6HQ

Lingfield United Trust Officers

Chairman

Marion Wardell
5 Wallace Square
Lavington Park
Petworth
West Sussex
GU28 0FJ

Clerk to the Trustees

Position vacant

Trustees

Enid Marten
14 Beacon Hill
Dormansland
RH7 6RH

Susan Calamassi
Claridge Gardens
Dormansland
RH7 6HZ

Sally Martin
Flat 2, Garth Court
20 Mount Pleasant
Road
Lingfield
RH7 6BH.

Gill Williams
5 College Close
Lingfield
Surrey
RH7 6HG

Richard Young
Providence Cottage

The Reverend Ian
Whitley,

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY SECOND ANNUAL
PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON
11TH APRIL 2022 AT LINGFIELD AND
DORMANSLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE
STARTING AT 7PM**

Present:

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:-

Cath Hearnden (Chairman)

Vivien Hepworth (Vice Chairman)

Jason Fudge

Clive Jecks

Camilla Downing

Members of the public:-

Sophie Tester, Tommy Crawley, Dave Mycock,

Charlotte Swan, Robert Mitchell, Judy

Mendell, Ian Jones, Paul Pirie, Katie

Montgomery, Tony Parsons, Sue Quelch, Tony

Stevens, Tony Head

In attendance: Fay Elwood, Parish Clerk

1. Welcome from Chairman

The chairman welcomed everyone and said how nice it is to be meeting in person again after the restrictions of the past two years. The chairman's report can be found in the Annual Report (attached).

2. Report from County and District Councillors

County councillor, Lesley Steeds, explained her role and told us that the Highways Team is being restructured. Some roads in the division are being resurfaced and some are being re-

dressed. Schools in the division are doing well but are over-subscribed. Ian Jones questioned the number of road closures in recent months. Lesley explained that utility companies have priority when it comes to road closures. They are supposed to liaise with Surrey County Council to plan a road closure but often the work is urgent. The increase in health and safety restrictions means that roads are closed when previously they may have been kept open while the work is going on.

Paul Pirie asked who is responsible for parking enforcement.

Lesley explained this is a district council responsibility and Tandridge District Council has sub contracted the work to Sevenoaks District Council. Villages do not get the same level of enforcement as the bigger towns.

Judy Mendell asked if West Park Road is due for resurfacing soon.

Lesley has requested this be done.

3. Defibrillator Provision in Lingfield

Clive Jecks explained his recent initiative to increase the provision of defibrillators in Lingfield so that no-one in the centre of the village is more than three minutes walk away from a device. He distributed a map showing the locations of the existing machines which are available to the public. He also thanked Costa Coffee and Hearnden Associates for agreeing to fund extra defibrillators. These have been purchased but they are waiting for the cabinets to arrive before they can be installed.

He introduced Tony Head and Tony Stevens, from St Johns' Ambulance. They proceeded to give a demonstration to show how easy the devices are to use. 300,000 people suffer a cardiac arrest in the UK each

year and a defibrillator is the only way to restart the heart. Use of a defibrillator increases a person's chance of survival by 80% if it can be used quickly.

Robert Mitchell asked if they have any data on how often devices in Lingfield have been accessed.

St Johns' Ambulance does not keep this information but it may be available from the ambulance service.

It was pointed out that the pads and batteries on devices have an expiry date. Organisation with devices should be checking and replacing when required.

Sue Quelch asked whether you should leave a patient alone to fetch a defibrillator.

Tony replied that if there is no-one to stay with the patient, it would be better to carry out CPR until the ambulance arrives. It would take around 12 minutes for an ambulance to arrive for a cardiac arrest.

Ian Jones questioned the response from the Doctors Surgery saying they would not be prepared to make their defibrillator available to the general public.

Although there were no representatives from the surgery present at the assembly, Jason Fudge thought it was understandable that a health care service would need to preserve their machine for their own use as it is integral to their daily operation.

Paul Pirie asked who is liable if an organisation has a machine available and it fails to operate.

Clive Jecks appreciated this could be an issue of concern.

Sir Nicholas White asked how quickly pads can be replaced after they are used (pads are single use items).

Tony said that providers usually keep a good stock of pads.

Cath Hearnden asked how an owner would be aware a machine had been used.

Tony wasn't sure but assumed the machine would be taken away for the data to be downloaded at the hospital.

4. Public Questions

Sue Quelch reported that the overhanging trees in the twitten from the High Street to the Church are causing leaf mulch to make the surface slippery.

The clerk will report this to Surrey County Council.

Robert Mitchell reported blocked drains in Town Hill.

Lesley reported she has an investigation going on at the moment. SCC has promised to clear these in April or May.

Robert Mitchell reported running water coming from the Victoria Club. Paul Pirie reported flooding issues from time to time in Ash Close. Lesley asked that residents send her an email on such issues so she can report and monitor.

Paul Pirie asked for an update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cath referred him to the Annual Report presented to the assembly. A draft plan is unlikely to be available before the public consultation on 18th June.

Robert Mitchell explained that they are working on a business plan for the Sports Association with the aim of acquiring a longer lease from

Lingfield Parish Council

Report 2023

Tandridge District Council. The ground and clubhouse are no longer fit for purpose. The building has been there since 1958 and the drainage to the fields has not been maintained. They are currently raising funds to install proper drainage and would like to engage with the community.

Meeting closed at 7.47pm