



# Lindfield Rural Parish Council Newsletter

June 2014

Millennium Village Centre, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill, West Sussex RH17 7PG  
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## Your Parish Councillors:

John Dumbleton (Chair)	Tel: 482633	Steve Minter	Tel: 831786
Ray Jones (Vice Chair)	Tel: 453868	Andy Spooner	Tel: 831602
Brian Bunt	Tel: 484661	Christopher Snowling	Tel: 482172
Chris Hersey	Tel: 482270		
Margaret Hersey	Tel: 482270	Parish Clerk: Di Morgan	Tel: 831499
Keith Martin	Tel: 831431	Assistant: Irene Nicholas	Tel: 831499

Lindfield Rural Parish Council Office is open to the Public on Tuesdays 12.30 to 13.30 and Thursdays 10.00 to 11.00

## Chairman's Report 2014

This report attempts to record the important issues over the past year that impact on our Parish

There were two subjects this period that substantially occupied our time, one of which was the old perennial of fending off unwanted housing (not necessarily in our Parish) and the other was the Neighbourhood Plan.

1) The build-up to the planning application from Wates to build 230 dwellings between Gravelly Lane and Walstead was in my last annual report but the planning application decision by MSDC Councillors was postponed until May 2013. Parish Council had held a public meeting and residents continued to battle until the last opportunity even to the planning application meeting, when there was a large turnout in protest.

Unfortunately, the application from Wates was agreed by Mid Sussex District Councillors by a small majority. The Parish Council pays tribute to those residents for their resilience. Wates have now sold off the land to Barretts who have started surveys on the site and will commence building in July. The name of the site will be Heath Wood Park and a small committee of interested parties (including the Parish Council) is now set-up to oversee the conduct of the development.

The Council viewed and reported on 71 applications over the past year, most of which were acceptable to the community.

2) The Parish Council continues to involve the community with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) with several exhibitions having been organised in Scaynes Hill and Lindfield. As we indicated before the Plan was a joint effort between the two Parish Councils and we should soon be at the stage of submitting our Plan to the Government Examiner. We have been mindful, however, that the Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) District Plan had been rejected by the Examiner as had recent Parish Council Neighbourhood Plans (Slaugham PC being one) within the Mid Sussex area.

In consequence the joint Lindfield Parish Councils are agreed to submit our Plan to MSDC for their comments and will be guided by the residents to establish whether a period of reflection needs to be observed in the light of the recent developments.

Other main features of the year were as follows:

3) Burial Ground:

a. The Cemetery and Lodge continue to provide funds for the community but to date the Chapel is still vacant. The Parish Council is confident a client will be found in the next few weeks.

b. There have been changes this year in that Sue Masters has resigned from the Registrar post for personal reasons after 11 years. Sue has been an integral part in the running of the cemetery since the Parish Council took over the facility in 2003 and it has been due to her dedication that such a high standard has been maintained. P&S Gallagher Funeral Directors will take over the Registrar Post in May 2014.

c. A recent audit of the Burial Ground revealed that there was sufficient space to accommodate a capacity in excess of 12 years for new burials. Council is therefore in the process of deciding whether to use the burial ground extension as an eco-interment area.

4) Gravelly Lane Allotments still thrives thanks to the continued assistance from the Allotment Supervisor, Colin Cheney, George Mason and several allotment holders This year Council increased the rent to pay for the maintenance of the surrounding hedges. These hedges were previously maintained by volunteers but it was felt that H&S demands precluded plot holders from climbing ladders.

The Allotment Cup this year was awarded to Colin Cheney, congratulations to him.

The provision of allotments in Scaynes Hill is still on the agenda but, before acquiring any land, Council would need to be further persuaded there is sufficient interest.

5) We are pleased to announce that the Parish Council continues to maintain their precept (Council Tax) at the same level as preceding years.

6) Clustering – After the success of last year, the adjoining parishes are discussing with Haywards Heath Town Council further collaborative tasks. A list of the existing tasks (taken from West Sussex County Council responsibility) can be obtained from our Clerk but residents may wish to recommend and suggest further areas that could be performed at the clustering level.

7) The Parish Council continues to support local charities, the list of which is held by the Clerk. However, in particular the Council was very pleased to assist the Village Centre in Scaynes Hill with a small donation after they experienced a difficult period with excessive energy bills over the past two years. The community

is justifiably very proud of the Village Centre and we feel would certainly wish to support the Centre for the future.

8) As I reported last year, Vera Grainger joined us as our Finance Officer and this year we greeted her as the Clerk for Chailey Parish Council. Vera is to share our accommodation in the Village Centre. That's what we call cross-county cooperation!

9) Finally, I would wish to take the opportunity to thank all my fellow Councillors, Di, Irene, Vera and Christine Field (WSCC) for their support over the past hectic year.

## Power outages in Scaynes Hill

At the recent Annual Parish Meeting, Cllr. Martin provided feedback on discussions with UK Power Networks (UKPN). The difficulties experienced by local residents have been acknowledged by UKPN and they explained that they were also unhappy with the situation. The majority of the power cuts in the area are as a result of vandalism – the most recent caused by a bonfire around an electricity pole.

Since the AGM, UKPN have provided some updates:

### Vandalism

UKPN have made changes to the infrastructure supplying Scaynes Hill in an attempt to deter vandalism and this was completed on 22nd April.

### Security

The installation of CCTV has also been considered but rejected as its effect would be minimal due to the large area of woodland that needed coverage.

### Upgrade

Work is being planned to improve the supply to Ham Lane and Lewes Road. This is yet to be scheduled as some legal work will be involved and this always takes time.

### Conclusion

Scaynes Hill is a rural area and therefore will always be at risk of lengthy power cuts. However the work being done by UKPN is intended to limit any outage to seconds; not hours or days that have been experienced recently.

## Police report

by Nicola Green, PCSO

### Speedwatch

The police are currently in the process of setting up a community speedwatch scheme in Scaynes Hill. The Roads Policing Unit have assessed Lewes Road and located a suitable site for speed checks to be conducted.

Once arrangements are in place, the police will ask for local volunteers who will be trained to conduct speed checks. The speedwatch volunteers will go out in groups of three, one person to operate the speed gun, one to read out registrations of offending vehicles and one to take a note of the registrations. The details are then inputted into the Operation Crackdown System (www.opcrackdown.org) which is an external website used by the public and police to report anti social driving. When operation crackdown have received two reports involving the same vehicle, the driver will be contacted and details will be passed to the Roads Policing Team in Sussex Police.

### The local neighbourhood panel

This is made up of the local community and Nicola Green, getting together every 10 weeks at the police station to discuss local issues, crime figures and priorities moving forward. Nicola would encourage the residents of Scaynes Hill to get involved. Please contact her for details of the next meeting.

She is also keen to set up further Neighbourhood Watch and/or Farmwatch schemes locally. Please contact her if you are interested in signing up. Any further details can be found on the Sussex Police website along with her details as local officer.

### Contact details:

Neighbourhood Policing Team  
Police Station  
Bolnore Road  
Hayward's Heath  
RH16 4BA  
Telephone 101  
[http://twitter.com/hheath\\_police](http://twitter.com/hheath_police)