Lindfield Rural Parish Council Newsletter

June 2015

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Chairman's Report 2015

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

1) This year, the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) still involved a substantial amount of time for the Steering group (set up between Lindfield Parish Council and us), especially after several Councils had received a set-back with their Plan including Mid Sussex District Council. The Parish Councils had to decide whether to proceed with the NP or await further evidence but finally it was decided to proceed with the former through the District Council and the Government Examiner. The further stage of public consultation has recently been completed.

2) When the Neighbourhood Plan was being formulated it appeared to trigger action from interested parties, some of which were intent to register their demands before the NP was agreed and others to embrace the spirit of the Plan. With the former, and after the planning approval of 230 homes in the Gravelye Lane/ Walstead area, we were expecting a rash of applications. Certainly there were some rumours (and still are) but only one large application was considered, at Birchen Wood (west of Lindfield and adjacent to our Parish). This was recently rejected by MSDC. It is not known whether the applicant wishes to appeal. With the latter (within the spirit of the NP), several small housing proposals have been considered, four of which are located in Scaynes Hill and four in the Lindfield area. Only two have been approved so far, one in Snowdrop Lane and the other in Church Road, Scaynes Hill. The Parish Council is awaiting further developments with regard to the remainder.

The Council viewed and reported on 92 applications over the past year most of which were acceptable to the community.

3) Other main features of the year were as follows:

a) Burial Ground - The cemetery continues to provide funds for the community and the Chapel has now been let after being vacant for a short period.

As indicated in my last report, Gallaghers the funeral director has taken over the role of Registrar and has settled in very easily over the past months. Within the burial ground the existing areas for burials and cremations will be full. Others areas within the existing cemetery, however, will be allocated for burials but the latter area (remembrance garden, cremations) has already been assigned and should be constructed within the next month.

Over the years Council has endeavoured to enhance the area of scientific interest within the Burial Ground but recently has been fortunate to have benefitted from the expertise of Ms Vivien Hodge, who is an Arboricultural Consultant and Mycologist (study of fungi). Vivien has been instrumental in assisting us in the overall maintenance of the whole of the Burial Ground and we are to commence a programme with our maintenance contractor in the next few weeks. Council will be updating the plaque located adjacent to the Chapel. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vivien for her sterling work.

b) The Scaynes Hill Common and Anchor pond continue to be maintained as a result of advice from local environmental groups. With the former we are pleased to announce an agreement to maintain half of the Common as a wildflower meadow.

c) Gravelye Lane Allotments still thrive thanks to the continued assistance from Colin Cheney (allotment supervisor), George Mason (maintenance) and a small band of other volunteers who cut the grass.

The allotment cup was awarded to Mel Miller – congratulations Mel.

The provision of allotment space in Scaynes Hill is still on the agenda but before acquiring any land Council would need to be persuaded that there was demand.

d) A full list of the works carried out and outstanding including projects to be funded by developers (106 monies) is available at the Parish Meeting and through our office.

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

5) The clustering arrangement with Haywards Heath Town Council as announced last year is still in operation for minor works so we encourage all residents to report any problems to the Parish Office.

6) The Parish Council continues to support local charities the list of which is held by the Clerk.

7) Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Councillors, Di, Irene, Vera and Christine Field for their support over the past year.

Special thanks, however, must go to Councillor Christopher Snowling who is to step down as a Councillor this May after 8 years of invaluable service to the Parish. We wish him well for the future.

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		
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

May 2015: Uncontested Election

All councillors have been re-elected, apart from Christopher Snowling, who is standing down.

The Parish Council has one vacancy and anyone interested should in the first instance contact either the Chairman or the Clerk.

Street Lighting

As residents may have observed most of the street lights within the Parish have been replaced. Where the existing lights remain they are either less that 15 years old (owned by WSCC) or are owned by the Parish Council.

The latter street lights are checked on a regular basis by our electricity supplier and have been deemed to be efficient in terms of electricity consumption and the lamp post standards are of sound construction. The Parish Council has however, decided to review the whole of their lighting later in the year to establish a programme of lighting replacement with emphasis on positioning of the street lighting and efficiency. With the latter in mind, your Parish Council is to consider using LED lighting rather than compact fluorescent of halogen.

Resident's comments would be welcome.

Superfast Broadband Availability

Superfast broadband is finally available in Scaynes Hill with speeds up to 8 times the speed of normal broadband. For further details and checking availability to your landline/postcode see http://www.westsussex-betterconnected.org.uk/for-home.

Summary of annual accounts Year ended 31 March 2015

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2015 £	2014 £
INCOME		
Precept & LA Grant	50,803	50,300
Rental Income	47,128	38,205
Other Income	3,880	6,086
	101,811	**94,591**
EXPENDITURE		
General Administration	37,708	35,070
Legal & Professional	4,605	3,847
Site Running Costs	28,627	43,591
Capital Expenditure		
Sundry Expenditure	1,755	4,554
	72,695	**87,062**
Excess of Income over Expenditure	**29,116**	**7,529**

BALANCE SHEET

	2015 £	2014 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	2,557	3,671
Balance at Bank & Cash in Hand	199,379	173,251
	201,936	**176,922**
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	(2,858)	(6,960)
Net Assets	**199,078**	**169,962**
CAPITAL & RESERVES		
General Reserves	41,254	33,725
Earmarked Funds	128,708	128,708
Retained Reserves for Year	29,116	7,529
	199,078	**169,962**