

LINDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Assembly

Minutes

**Meeting held on 23rd April 2015
at Lindford Village Hall**

Present

Cllr Derek Barr (Chairman)

Cllr Ian Skelton-Smith

Cllr Barry Parker Smith

Cllr Stan Bennett

Cllr Elizabeth King

Cllr Karen Lynch

Cllr Stephen Edworthy

Cllr Simon Banks Van Zyl

District Councillor Yvonne Parker Smith

Julian Clarke – guest speaker from Red Mist (Development of the Royal Exchange Public House)

Stephen Holden (New Clerk to be appointed 27/4/15))

Michaela Canning (Assistant Clerk)

Tanya Hampshire (RFO)

Thirteen residents

The meeting opened at 8.03 pm.

The Chairman welcomed residents to the Annual Parish Assembly.

Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Lynn Francis.

Minutes of last APA meeting (10 April 2014)/Matters Arising.

Cllr Parker Smith proposed and Cllr Evans seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Agreed by all those who had attended the meeting.

Welcome and Introduction to the Parish Council

Cllr Barr introduced the current committee. Specifically acknowledging Cllrs King and Skelton Smith will be stepping down shortly. On behalf of the remaining committee, the two Councillors were thanked for their service.

Overview of last year's achievements

Cllr Barr mentioned the highly successful 2014 Summer Fete, where valuable moments have been captured in a photo Montague, displayed in The Perry Room. He also commented on the chocolatey smiley faces following two successful Easter Egg Hunts (2014/15).

The Lengthsman Scheme was explained, whereby nominated individuals clean up the village. Suggestions for work to be carried out in this way were requested. Cllr Barr expressed this is his first full year of chairmanship.

Finance report

Cllr Evans reported on the parish finances. They remain in a healthy state and all spending has been contained to a forecast set over a year ago. The Cllr explained there has been an error in the finances with an increase in £1.27/year per person. This will be corrected in the figures next year.

Planning report

Cllr Parker-Smith reported on Planning.

During the last year the Planning Committee has considered around 19 applications. Most have been asking for various home extensions and a few for attention to trees. In summarised detail:

6 tree applications - all given permission to proceed

9 building applications - approved

3 building applications - refused

1 building application - approval not required

Employment Report

Cllr Lynch reported on the Employment side of running the Parish Council.

The salaried staff are;

Steve Holden (Parish Clerk– from 27/4/15), replacing Annette Gould, who retired back in December.

Michaela Canning (Assistant Clerk).

Tanya Hampshire (RFO).

Cllr Lynch and the rest of the Employment Committee will ensure the regular occurrence of staff appraisals and the provision of necessary training for all staff members.

Village Hall Report

Cllr Banks Van Zyl reported on the success of the Village Hall, from both a financially supportive perspective, as well as benefiting from a diversity of use. The following year is expecting further improvement. Cllr Banks Van Zyl formally recognised Gemma Orgoman for her excellent caretaking of the Village Hall.

Allotment Report

Cllr Skelton-Smith reported that the allotments were started up last year, after wettest winter of 100 years! Eighteen allotments are now up and running and all are were taken, however one plot has now become vacant. The Group is a member of the Allotment association.

Public Discussion

The Chairman then asked residents if they had any comments or questions. Kye Anderson and Gemma Orgoman for their remendous help with fete and Easter egg hunts. He further thanked to Steve Holden for his pioneering and input into the fete last year. He also thanked Tanya Hampshire and Michaela Canning for their support with keeping the Parish administration in hand during the transition between the two Clerks.

Guest Speaker

The Chairman introduced the guest speaker; Julian Clarke from Red Mist Leisure. The content of his speech is summarised below:

Red Mist Leisure is now 11 years old, with a trail of successful pub developments preceding this latest acquisition, despite economic challenges, such as the smoking ban.

The purchase of the Royal Exchange and associated land is now complete and the development has begun. The housing on the associated land will fund the pub development

A substantial amount of money has been earmarked to make the pub building good, before fitting it out and for duration of building, the tidiness and orderliness of the site is of paramount importance. With "Durability and sustainability" being the company's moto, it is the intention to spend the money required, to carry out a sympathetic refurbishment.

For the running of the pub, it is intended to use fresh and locally produced food, which is in season. Varied seating will be provided for 80-90 seats, plus an additional 30 outside. The main toilets will be upstairs. (With a disabled toilet downstairs). There will be 22 car parking spaces. There will be an open fire log burner in the new bar, selling local Beers, plus guest ales as well as various ciders and wines. In keeping with their common practise, the company will make donations to a charity, based on sales and are currently deciding upon a charity associated within the Lindford local area. Food will be served seven days a week.

From a Timeline perspective, the company will be on site next week, beginning with a structural survey. In 6 weeks they will start outside (including the necessary roof works and inside tanking). Plans are in place to rebuild new entrance and reinstate the barn. The grand opening is currently anticipated to be at the end of August/early September this year.

It is believed that the running venture will provide 15 to 20 jobs, both full and part-time.

The Annual Parish Assembly closed at 9.15 pm. with the Chairman thanking everyone for their attendance.