

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held in the Church Room on Tuesday, 19th May 2015 at 7.30p.m.

Present : LBPC Councillors: Ed Allen (Chairman), Graham Miller (Vice Chairman), Ian Shaw, Gevin White, Geoff Peckham, Mrs. Kate Hough, Mrs. Jackie Ward and Mrs. Jamie Daniels.

Clerk: Michael Tuckwell

In Attendance: HDC Councillor Toni Bradnum and 6 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from WSCC Cllr. Brad Watson
2. **Declarations of Interest** – There were none.
3. **Public Forum** – Jackie Fake raised the following issues:-
 - (i) Siting of the present football pitch in relation to the proposed positioning of the New Playground. Cllr. Miller advised that it was intended that the football pitches should remain where they were currently situated.
 - (ii) Hedge on Handcross Road between 'Homelea' and Church Lane was in urgent need of Cutting. Cllr. White advised at the Meeting that this had now been auctioned by HDC and the hedge, although not perfect, was now much improved.
 - (iii) Poor state of the pavement from 'Cheriton Cottage' up to 'Hillcrest Farm Riding School' on Handcross Road. The Clerk agreed to enquire of HDC (Broadbridge Heath Depot) about borrowing their machine which did this work – HDC contact details to be obtained from Mr. Alan Croxford. **Action: The Clerk**
4. **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 24th March 2015.** The Minutes, having been circulated to all members, were agreed (Proposed by Cllr. Hough, Seconded by Cllr. Miller) and duly signed by the Chairman as a true record of the Meeting.
5. **Matters Arising**
 - i) **Website.** Cllr. Hough advised that a new box to show Planning Applications and Planning Meeting Dates had now been added to the LBPC Website. It was agreed that A Twitter Feed should be run from the Website. **Action: Cllr. Hough**

ii) **Completion of School Building Works.** Cllr. Ward provided the Meeting with the following Report on progress with the school building works :-

“ Finally, approximately two years after the building of a new school hall and changes to the main school building commenced, we now have confirmed dates for the final phasing and completion of the building works. This has moved forward to Friday, 5th June – nearly a month ahead of schedule.

The junior classes and school offices have been situated in the new hall since the beginning of the summer term but will move back into refurbished, and much changed classrooms, library and offices during the half term break. This week, floors are being carpeted, doors receiving final coats of paint and snags being ‘sorted’. *As soon as we are back in the main building the final finishing of the hall will take place.*

However, the front playground will have to be resurfaced as various parts of it have been dug up to accommodate pipes and drains etc. We are also hoping to change the vehicle and pedestrian entrances to the school so that children will enter the grounds before the vehicle entrance. This should make their journey to school safer.

Despite the upheaval during the last two years, the children have been admirable. They seemed not to notice the piercing sounds of drills or loud hammering and carried on as normal. They even managed to take second place in the ASSH netball (6 small schools competing) without having the benefit of a court or playground to practice on.

We have a busy half term ahead including sports day on Wednesday, 15th July, where parents and friends will have an opportunity to see the new school before the official opening in the autumn term.

The support of the Parish Council is much appreciated by Mrs. Bishop and the school. We hope that you will be able to attend the ‘opening’ to see the new building and transformed main school.”

6. Matters for Consideration

i) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Chairman advised that Cllr. Peckham had kindly agreed to lead LBPC’s Neighbourhood Plan activities with the assistance of a recognised Consultant and, with this in mind, he was asked to arrange a meeting with Faustina Bayo of AiRS as soon as possible. The Clerk was asked to find out the name of the consultant that West Grinstead Parish Council used. **Action: Cllr. Peckham and the Clerk.**

ii) **Speeding/Heavy Lorry Traffic through the Village.** Cllr. White reported that progress was proving to be extremely slow, as evidence by the text of a recent e-mail received from Dean Wadey, PCO, North Horsham CLC Area, WSCC.

“ My apologies I've not been able to reply this sooner as I've mostly been out of the office over the past few days. I think you've left me a couple of messages too but I'm afraid I've not been able to access them due to a technical issue that is hopefully now sorted.

That aside I've copied into this response our highways and traffic engineering teams to you to provide an update re- the enquiries around the TRO and the 'rubber strips'. I'm afraid that neither of these issues are ones that I can really help you with as part of my role but hopefully the two teams copied in will be able to provide you with a point of contact going forward.”

Cllr. White was asked to contact WSCC Cllr. Brad Watson as soon as possible to establish whether a TRO and budget for Lower Beeding have been established and when the next WSCC Committee Meeting was to be. **Action: Cllr. White**

As a separate activity, Cllrs. White, Ward and Shaw were asked to draw up a Speeding and Traffic Risk Action Plan, to include where LBPC were on the priority list with the TRO, and report back to LBPC at the next Meeting. **Action: Cllrs White, Ward and Shaw.**

The Clerk was asked to ensure that the PCSO was invited and attended the next Meeting. **Action: The Clerk**

iii) **Playground Maintenance.** The Clerk was asked to contact HDC Parks & Recreation Dept to see if they would be prepared to take on this activity - perhaps for a monthly charge. Cllr. Miller agreed to investigate possible contractors to handle playground maintenance. **Action: Clerk and Cllr. Miller**

7. Election of Officers & Council Members for 2015-16

- i) **Chairman** – Cllr. Ed Allen was re – elected Chairman, Proposed Cllr. Hough, Seconded Cllr. White
- ii) **Vice Chairman** – Cllr. Graham Miller was re-elected Vice Chairman, Proposed Cllr. Daniels, Seconded Cllr. Allen
- iii) **Councillors** – the Chairman welcomed two newly elected (9th May) members to the Council i.e. Cllrs. Geoff Peckham and Ian Shaw. Cllrs. Ward, Hough, Daniels and White had also been re-elected on 9th May.
- iv) **Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer** – Michael Tuckwell was re-elected as Clerk & RFO, Proposed Cllr. Allen, Seconded Cllr. Miller

8. **Co-option of Additional Parish Councillors/s.** The Clerk advised the Council that there remained a vacancy for 1 Councillor (the maximum number of seats being 9 for LBPC) who could, if the Council so wished, be co-opted on at a later date.

9. Reports from other Authorities.

- (i) **County Councillor's Report.** In the absence of WSCC Cllr. Watson no report was available.

- (ii) **District Councillor's Report.** Newly elected HDC Cllr. Toni Bradnum (replacing Duncan England) introduced herself to the Council and the meeting. Cllr. Bradnum apologised for not having a Report available but explained that she had only been elected for 10 days and was still in the process of 'getting her feet under the table' and arranging for her office facilities to be set up.

10. Planning

(i) Applications for consideration at the Meeting

DC/15/0949 – Replacement of Loggia – The Glebe, Brighton Road
LBPC have No Objection to the Application

(ii) Applications dealt with outside the meeting - for information

DC/15/0923 - New Homes Development on Land to the North of Sandygate Lane.
LBPC strongly oppose this Application. The Chairman summarised the LBPC response that he had written to HDC Planning (this can be viewed on the HDC Planning Website) and urged all concerned residents to write to HDC separately, objecting to the development, if they had not already done so.

(ii) Decisions Made

DC/15/0254 – New Field Access – Matchams Grove, Horsham Road, Handcross.
Application Permitted.

DC/15/0519 – Demolition of existing building and construction of a new detached dwelling – The Works Barn, Brighton Road.
Application Refused.

(iii) Other Planning Issues

DC/13/0366 (Change of Footpath, Trinity Fields to Leechpond Hill)

After almost 2 years, there has still been no decision made on this Application. It was agreed:-

a) that HDC Cllr. Bradnum would try to find out what was holding this up and whether it should in fact be dropped altogether

and

b) that LBPC would not include this item on the Agenda for future Meetings.

Action: HDC Cllr. Bradnum and the Clerk

11. **Highways, Pathways, Footpaths and Hedgerows.** It was reported that the pavement on the A281, between Sandygate Lane and Monks Gate was urgently in need of hedge cutting and clearance work. **Action: Clerk.**

Sue Philippon, the WSCC Ranger had advised that she would shortly be visiting Lower Beeding to inspect and arrange any upkeep work on local footpaths. She had been given Cllr. White's contact details to arrange a time to carry out the inspection with him.

12. **Lighting through the Village.** In response to a letter received from Justine Coote, it was noted that although LBPC are responsible for the current parish lighting, any new lights required or thought necessary would be the responsibility of West Sussex County Council.
13. **Notice Boards.** Two New Boards, to replace those at the Church and at the top of Mill Lane had been placed on order with Greenbarnes and were expected to be delivered (to Cllr. White's property at the end of June – early July. Installation had yet to be arranged although Mrs. Jackie Fake had recommended a Mr. Trevor Blunden of Southwater.
Action: the Clerk
14. **Winter Maintenance..** The Clerk agreed to contact Mr. David Christian to arrange a suitable date and time for all the village Grit Bins to be topped up to capacity. **Action: The Clerk**
15. **HALC Report.** It was noted that the next HALC Meeting would be on 8th July. Cllr. Peckham undertook to LBPC's representative on HALC and would attend the 8th July Meeting in the Billingshurst Centre. The Clerk advised that, as long as he was available, he also would attend.

16. Finance

- (i) **Accounts Status/Summary at 31st May 2015.** This had been previously circulated to Councillors and is attached to these Minutes.
- (ii) **May 2015 cheques for signature.** As per attached Accounts Summary.
- (ii) **Section 106 Report.** Current Total available £74,805.00 less £59,881.32 allocated for Playground Facilities (see below) = Nett £14,923.68
- (iii) **Funding for Enhanced Playground Facilities etc.** Cllr. Miller advised that he and Cllr. Daniels had reviewed a number of quotations received and had selected Playdale (total cost £59,881.32 – see above) as representing the best value for money. Cllr. Shaw agreed to obtain a number of quotes for the installation of CCTV at the New Playground. Cllr. Miller will obtain quotations for the provision of any necessary planning requirements.

Cllr. Miller will arrange a date for, and a gang to, demolish the current playground.
Cllr. Ward was asked to obtain the School's views on the proposed New Playground.
Action: Cllrs. Miller, Ward and Shaw.

- (iv) **LBPC Grants for 2015.** It was agreed that these would be reviewed and discussed at the next Meeting (28th July).

17. Any Other Business + Literature for Circulation

Various literature received was circulated to Councillors for reading.

18. Date of Next Meeting (Tuesday, 28th July 2015).

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 p.m.

Signed _____

Date _____