

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Church Room, Plummers Plain on
Tuesday, 25th October 2016 at 7.30p.m.

Present :

LBPC Councillors Ed Allen (Chairman), Michael Lloyd, Gevin White, Geoff Peckham,
Mrs. Kate Hough and Mrs. Jackie Ward.

WSSC Councillor Brad Watson and HDC Councillor Toni Bradnum

21 members of the Public & Rev. Mark Betson

Clerk: Michael Tuckwell

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from LBPC Councillors Graham Miller (Vice Chairman) Jaimie Daniels.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – There were none.
3. **Public Forum (Part 1) (Council agree to adjourn proceedings for questions from members of the public) –**
 - a) Mr. Wayne Bayley elaborated in more detail his concerns, made by previous e-mail, at comments made by LBPC against Planning Application DC/16/1558 – Conversion of Stables into a Dwelling (Stables, Holme Farm Orchard, Winterpit Lane, Mannings Heath). Mr. Bayley had subsequently requested explanation of those concerns in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (Foe). The Chairman advised that LBPC were not very familiar with the Foe but undertook to respond after taking appropriate legal advice from, perhaps, SALC/HALC. The Chairman agreed that a written response should be sent to Mr. Bayley as soon as possible.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council held on Tuesday, 27th September 2016.** The Minutes, having been circulated to all members, were agreed as accurate (Proposed by Cllr Lloyd, Seconded by Cllr Hough) and were duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters/Actions Arising from Previous Minutes

- (a) Speeding Traffic through the Village (including proposed restrictions in Mill Lane).

The Chairman and Cllr. White reported that a very positive meeting had been held recently with Chris Stark, WSCC Highways. A sum of £20k from S106 money held by WSCC has been allocated for speed control signage in Lower Beeding and it is hoped that new 30m.p.h. restrictions will be in place before Christmas. Cllr. White advised that a school travel plan was required – **Action: Cllr Ward.**

The TRO process for Mill Lane is underway and a speed survey has been commissioned.

- (b) Speed of traffic and damage caused to trees and verges by heavy commercial vehicles along Winterpit Lane. This was discussed at the recent meeting with WSCC Highways (Chris Stark) although no immediate solutions to the problems in Church Lane were forthcoming or proposed.

- (c) Problems with inconsiderate Parking on Hampshire Hill.

- . This was discussed at the recent meeting with WSCC Highways (Chris Stark) who undertook to respond to the Council against the notes of the meeting drafted and issued by the Chairman. **Action: Chairman/Chris Stark, WSCC**

6. Website

There was a general discussion concerning the perceived quality and lack of content on the website. Cllr. Hough pointed out that the website could only be as good as the amount and quality of material as she was given to put on the site. It was agreed that, in order to make things more convenient for website operators and contributors, an application called 'mail chimp' might be used. **Action: To be reviewed at the next meeting.**

7. Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Peckham (LBPC Lead on LB's Neighbourhood Plan) tabled a current progress status report which showed that, at this stage/time, we were comfortably on schedule for a plan completion in, possibly, early-mid 2018.

8. Police Report

Cllr. Lloyd reported that a spate of recent thefts and break-ins in the village had included £10k of tools and equipment stolen from Paul Williams, Tree Surgeon and £3k of equipment taken from Cllr. White. The police had, apparently, taken no action to investigate these thefts. Cllr. Lloyd had written to Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner

who had responded that she was very surprised at this situation. Commissioner Bourne, in response to Cllr Lloyd's invitation, has advised that she will attend the next LBPC Meeting on 29th November to discuss the matter with Councillors and residents.

9. New Councillors

It was noted that the maximum number of Councillors that LBPC were permitted to have under the rules was 9. With the recent resignation of Ian Shaw, we currently had 1 vacancy. The Chairman advised that 2 applicants for the vacant position had come forward– both of whom would make excellent Councillors. The 2 applicants, Mrs. Leslie Banford and Mr. Andy Hinton, introduced themselves at the meeting.

10. Delegation of Responsibilities of Councillors

The Chairman advised that he was proposing to establish specific areas of responsibility for Councillors and asked the Clerk to arrange future meeting Agendas into separate sections for each Councillor. Action: Clerk

This was put to the meeting as a motion and agreed – Proposed Cllr. Hough, Seconded Cllr. Peckham.

11. Reports from other Authorities.

(i) County Councillor's Report. WSCC Cllr Brad Watson reported as follows:-

- (a) It had become apparent that many people had misconceptions about the role of the Sussex Commissioner for Crime and Police and, accordingly, a centre for the resolution of problems and disputes has been set up by WSCC. No doubt the Commissioner, Katy Bourne, would provide more detail when she visited LBPC on 29th November.
- (b) As people will have seen on the TV and in the newspapers a 3rd Runway has been announced for Heathrow Airport. This, for the time being at least, will relieve the pressure for additional housing to be provided at Gatwick and in surrounding areas but it should not be assumed that the danger has completely passed.
- (c) An 'Even Better Pavements Scheme' has been set up to help keep town and village pavements both clean and well maintained.

(ii) District Councillor's Report. HDC Cllr. Toni Bradnum reported as follows:-

- (a) The proposed development in Piries Place, Horsham will be a new cinema and entertainment complex.

- (b) Congratulations to Ed and Gevin on their achievements with obtaining revised speed limits in Lower Beeding.
- (c) As LBPC will have heard, Henfield PC's Neighbourhood Plan has been rejected by the courts. There is no denying that this is a serious blow, to Henfield in particular, Dr. Chris Lyons, HDC Director of Planning was anxious that other parishes, currently working on their NPs, should keep going and not lose heart.

12. Planning.

(i) Applications considered at the Meeting

DC/16/2173 (Barn at Maple Hill, Newells Lane, Lower Beeding) – Conversion of Buildings into a Dwelling House

LBPC Objection, in accordance with comments submitted to HDC Planning 30th October 2016.

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

None

(iii) Decisions Made

None

(iv) Other Planning Issues

None

13. Litter Warden.

For a number of reasons, this matter has not progressed as well as hoped. The Chairman proposed that the position should now be advertised, initially on LBPC's website, to see if we could elicit any alternative responses/applications. **Action: Clerk/Cllr/Hough**

14. Highways, Pathways, Footpaths and Hedgerows.

(a) Pavement Clearing.

A response from the HDC Community Services Officer was still awaited. The Clerk will chase this up. **Action: Clerk**

(b) Hedges

It was reported that these had largely all now been cut and no further action would probably be needed until next year.

15. Care of the elderly in the Parish.

It was agreed that this item should be carried forward and reported on at the next meeting (29th.November).

16. Public Forum (Part 2) (Council agree to adjourn proceedings for questions from members of the public) –

The horrid burnt coffee smell emanating from the old Howards Nursery site is likely to still be in evidence for at least another month and the movement of lorries on and off the site was still causing a problem. The matter/s are being progressed by HDC.

17. Finance

- (i) **Accounts Status/Summary at 30th November 2016.** This had been previously circulated to Councillors and was summarised by the Clerk at the Meeting.
- (ii) **November 2016 Cheques for signature.** As per Accounts Summary.
- (iii) **Section 106 Report.** Current Total available, per HDC Report, is £21,048.47 i.e. £74,805.00 (June 2016 Report) less £53,756.53 released for the new Playground Facilities.
- (iv) **Other Matters.**
None

18. Any other Business & Literature for Circulation

There were no AOB matters raised and there was no literature for circulation to Councillors.

19. Date of Next Meeting (Tuesday, 29th. November 2016).

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 p.m.

Signed _____

Date _____