

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Church Room on Tuesday, 29th March 2016 at 7.30p.m.

Present :

LBPC Councillors Geoff Peckham (Acting Chairman), Gevin White, Mrs. Kate Hough and Mrs. Jaimie Daniels.

Mrs. Jackie Fake and 3 other members of the Public (re Howards Nursery – see Section 3 below and Section 9 iv) over the page).

WSCC Councillor Brad Watson
HDC Councillor Toni Bradnum.

Clerk: Michael Tuckwell

Not Present: LBPC Councillor Graham Miller (Vice Chairman)

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from LBPC Councillors Ed Allen (Chairman), Mrs. Jackie Ward, Michael Lloyd and Ian Shaw.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – There were none.
3. **Public Forum (Part 1) (Council agree to adjourn proceedings for questions from members of the public)** - There was some considerable discussion regarding neighbours to Howards Nursery's objections to, and problems being experienced with, on-going & future work associated with current Planning Applications. In particular, the concerns centred around the very unpleasant smell of burning coffee, lorry movements (delivery of turf) at night time and people living unauthorised in the buildings. It was noted that Ed Allen (Chairman of LBPC) would be speaking against the Planning Application on behalf of LBPC at HDC's Committee Meeting the following week. The members of the public present stated that they also would be sending a representative to reinforce LBPC's views at the hearing.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd February 2016.** The Minutes, having been circulated to all members, were agreed as accurate (Proposed by Cllr Hough, Seconded by Cllr White) and were duly signed by the Acting Chairman.

5. Matters Arising.

- (i) **Website.** Cllr Hough reported on the current status of advertisements revenue received and website costs so far this year. A Credit Note for the revenue income and an invoice for MAS's costs were handed to the Clerk. Take together they showed a small balance due to LBPC of £195.34. This will be shown as income in the Accounts for April but held for release pending the receipt by MAS of further advertisement revenue and incurrence of costs. The Chairman expressed LBPC's thanks to Josh Hough for his work at MAS.

6. Matters for Consideration

- i) **Speeding Traffic through the Village.** Cllr. White reported that LBPC's TRO, totalling £40,000, was currently held under consideration by/at Horsham District Council for evaluation in accordance with recently issued new rules. Cllr. White was of the opinion that, once the money was released to LBPC, we would need to regularise the speed limit (to 40m.p.h.?) throughout 'the triangle' and push for the introduction of speed cameras because these are clearly effective at reducing speeding. The current limit of 60m.p.h. in Sandygate Lane must be reduced especially in view of the possibility of new housing developments in that area. In this respect, Cllr.White will ask the Chairman, Ed Allen, to write to our new MP, Jeremy Quinn. **Action: Cllrs. White.**

- ii) **Playground Maintenance**

The new playground equipment has all been erected and positioned in situ but completion remains delayed due to the continuing wet weather and consequent state of the ground. As soon as the ground dries out satisfactorily the wet pour would go in and installation would be finalised.

7. Reports from other Authorities.

- (i) **County Councillor's Report.** WSCC Cllr. Brad Watson reported on the following matters:-

- a) WSCC now have the authority to cut hedges at any time and bill the landowners accordingly (subject to the birds nesting season and weather/seasonal considerations).

- (ii) **District Councillor's Report.** HDC Cllr. Toni Bradnum reported on the following matters:-

- a) The new micro chipping law for dogs formally comes into effect on 1st April 2016.

8. Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr. Peckham reported that work on putting together a first draft of LBPC's Neighbourhood Plan was, with Dowsett Mayhews's (DM's) assistance, proceeding very well and was

probably a little ahead of what might be expected, as evidenced by the e-mail below received from Laura Bourke of DM.

“Dear Geoff

Thank you for sharing the draft letters. I have reviewed these and feel they are fit for purpose. It might be worth including when you wish the forms to be returned by. As discussed previously, we would recommend you consider allowing a 4-6 week period for people to respond.

Thank you for the copy of the Lower Beeding CLP Survey, it provides useful background information. I trust this is the only survey information you have? If any further survey's been carried out with respect to housing need could you please also share.

The appeal decision is interesting and highlights the weight Inspectors are putting on areas which are progressing neighbourhood plans. I would take comfort from this and think it again demonstrates the importance and value in producing a neighbourhood plan when seeking to protect Parishes like Lower Beeding from over development.

We look forward to receiving the Vision and Objectives in due course, after which we can discuss consulting on the Scoping Report.

Kind regards
Laura

Laura Bourke

BA MSc MRTPI

Senior Planner”

9. Planning

(i) Applications for consideration at the Meeting

**DC/16/0381 – Stonehouse Farm, Handcross Road
(Retrospective Change of Use on agricultural barn to B1 light industry in a residential area)**

No Objections from LBPC but further information will be requested.

ii) Applications dealt with outside the meeting - for information

There were none.

iii) Decisions Made

None

iv) **Other Planning Issues**

DC/15/1394 – Howards Nursery, Handcross Road.

Refer to Section 3 of these Minutes

Pre Application Documents for the Development of 30 Houses at Cedar Cottage, Sandygate Lane received from PRP Architects.

A Presentation by PRP of the Proposal is to be arranged.

10. Highways, Pathways, Footpaths and Hedgerows.

The Clerk was requested to chase up some action from WSCC Highways (John O'Brien) and/or the land owner, Mrs. Pritchard regarding the hedge running along to Church Lane which urgently needed cutting. **Action: Clerk to contact WSCC Highways/Mrs. Pritchard**

11. Litter Warden.

The Clerk advised that he had established that all the clothing and tools needed by a Litter Warden could be obtained within the maximum budget set of £150.00. Since there were a number of factors to consider before taking on a new employee i.e. Contract of Employment, Salary & Expenses to be paid, Pension, Insurance etc., a final decision on whether or not to take on a Litter Warden was postponed until the next LBPC Meeting.

Action: LBPC

12. Queen's 90th Birthday Party

Further discussion/decision postponed until the next Meeting.

13. Care of the elderly in the Parish (item requested by Cllr. Michael Lloyd)

In the absence of Cllr. Lloyd, discussion was postponed until the next Meeting.

14. Commemorative Tree and Plaque for Colin Makey.

The Clerk stated approval for this activity to go ahead had been received from WSCC Highways and Saxon Weald. The Clerk and Cllr Ward now need to organise purchase of the Ginkgo Biloba tree and commemorative plaque and install same in situ. **Action: Cllr. Ward and the Clerk**

15. HALC

It was noted that the next HALC Meeting will be on Monday, 25th April 2016 at Barns Green Village Hall.

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

There were none.

16. Finance

- (i) **Accounts Status/Summary at 31st March 2016.** This had been previously circulated to Councillors and was summarised by the Clerk at the Meeting.
- (ii) **Other Accounts items e.g. Transparency Grant.** The Clerk confirmed that he had received verbal approval for this Grant (reduced to £950.00) and awaited SALC/NALC's formal advices and release of the money.
- (iii) **March 2016 Cheques for signature.** As per Accounts Summary. Neither of the approving signatories for the cheques i.e. the Chairman and Vice Chairman was present at the Meeting so the cheques could not be signed off. Cllr. Peckham took the cheques to obtain the Chairman's signature and stated that we should arrange for a third approving signatory. He asked the Clerk to arrange this. **Action: Clerk**
- (iv) **Section 106 Report.** Current Total available £14,923.68 i.e. £74,805.00 less £59,881.32 allocated for the new Playground Facilities.

17. Any Other Business + Literature for Circulation

Various literature received was circulated to Councillors for reading.

18. Date of Next Meeting (Tuesday, 26th April 2016).

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 p.m.

Signed _____

Date _____