

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Church Room, Plummers Plain on
Tuesday, 28th February 2017 at 7.30p.m.

Present :

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

HDC Councillor Toni Bradnum

12 members of the Public

Clerk: Michael Tuckwell

SECTION 1 (Lead Councillor : Ed Allen, Chairman)

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 28th January 2017. The Minutes, having been circulated to all members, were agreed as accurate (Proposed by Cllr Lloyd, Seconded by Cllr Ward) and were duly signed by the Chairman

2. Matters/Actions Arising

(a) Speeding Traffic through the Village. Traffic Controls and Signage in respect of reducing the speed limit, from 40 to 30 m.p.h., on Leechpond Hill and Handcross Road (part of) will be put in place by WSCC shortly. LBPC Cllr.White is looking into the possibility of reducing the speed limit on the rest of Handcross Road from 60 mph to 50 mph.

Action: Cllr. White

(b) Proposed reopening of the old school entrance and footpath around the school playing fields. See Section 2, Item 7 below.

3. Apologies. Apologies for absence were received from WSCC Cllr. Brad Watson, LBPC Cllr. Graham Miller (Vice Chairman), LBPC Cllr. Geoff Peckham and LBPC Cllr. Jaimie Daniels.

4. Declarations of Interest from members in respect of any items in the Agenda. There were none..

5. Public Forum (Part 1) (Council agree to adjourn proceedings for questions from members of the public).

Mrs. Jackie Fake stated that she wished to table a statement (to be read to the Meeting) re the proposed reopening of the old school entrance. This was agreed and will be covered under Section 2, Item 7 of the Agenda.

SECTION 2 (Lead Councillor : Gevin White)

6. Highways & Traffic

Refer to Item 2 (a) above.

7. Reopening of old school entrance and footpath around the school playing fields.

The narrow passage at the back of the gardens to No's 7, 8 and 9 Brick Kiln Close, leading to the school playing field, has been closed for around 25 years. This was done because the then head-teacher deemed it extremely unsafe for children to be taken to and collected from this back entrance to the school. The path leads directly from the B2110 Handcross Road up to the school playing field. It would mean the school having a designated member of staff on duty at the gate, mornings and afternoons, for however long it takes for children to access and exit school. The proposal is aimed at helping parents who take their children to school by car and are having problems parking in Church Close.

Note to be read out to the meeting by the Parish Clerk on behalf of Mrs J Fake.

"When this item was raised last year by Gevin White, I, and several others present, said it would be a retrograde step and strongly opposed the proposal.

The narrow passage at the back of the gardens to No's 7, 8 and 9 Brick Kiln Close leading to the school playing field has been closed for around 25 years. This was done because the then head-teacher deemed it extremely unsafe for children to be taken to and collected from this **back entrance** to the school. The path leads directly from the very busy **B2110 Handcross Road** up to the school playing field. It would also mean the school having a designated member of staff on duty at the gate, mornings and afternoons, for however long it takes for children to access and exit school as they obviously couldn't leave the gate unlocked and unattended. Assuming this proposal is aimed at helping parents who take their children to school by car and are having problems parking in Church Close, then the only parking space available close to this back entrance is a lay-by opposite The Village Pantry where possibly 4-5 cars could fit in. Revd Mark has already given permission for parents to use the Church car park and walk their children round to the school which takes less than 5 minutes.

The Parish Council have been trying for years to get the speed reduced along this stretch of road and during the last few months have finally been given permission for the speed to be reduced to 30mph.

A few years ago a lady was killed on this road after using the telephone box which is next to the school path entrance. It would be absolute madness to put little children's lives at

risk by re-opening this path when they can **safely enter the school by the front entrance** in Church Close as they have done for the past 25 years or more. Children are unpredictable and their safety is paramount.”

The motion will be reviewed and discussed further at the next meeting. **Action: LBPC**

8. Pathways, Footpaths & Hedgerows

(a) Hedge Cutting. Nothing to report at this time.

(b) Pavement Cleaning. The Clerk advised that he had been advised by Debbie Thomas, Clerk to Bolney Parish Council, that they had a contract with the Community Payback Team of Mid Sussex District Council. They come to Bolney parish once a week and do a variety of jobs for them in order to keep the parish looking neat and tidy. It includes grass cutting, hedge cutting, litter picking, keeping the pavements clear of overgrown vegetation, cleaning signposts, painting etc. The co-ordinators are Ian Banks/Rachel Tomlinson and the phone number if we wish to get in contact with them is 01293 225518.

The Clerk was asked to contact Horsham District Council to see whether it was possible to come to a similar arrangement between LBPC and HDC and to establish what the costs might be. Action: Clerk

SECTION 3 (Lead Councillor : Kate Hough)

9. Website Report. A new Item is to be added to the Agenda each month titled ‘Communication’. The e-mail communication changes recently proposed by the Chairman had been agreed with Josh Hough, MAS Web Design and would be implemented shortly.

SECTION 4 (Lead Councillor : Geoff Peckham)

10. Neighbourhood Plan. A meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee will be held on Thursday, 9th March 2017. The next Working Party Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11th.April at 7.30 pm..

SECTION 5 (Lead Councillors : Brad Watson, WSCC and Toni Bradnum, HDC)

11. Reports from other authorities

(i) County Councillor’s Report. In the absence of WSCC Cllr. Brad Watson no report was given.

(ii) District Councillor’s Report. HDC Cllr. Toni Bradnum advised that:

(a) A Government White Paper on Planning, which includes the ability for local authorities to set their own planning fees, has been published. This will almost

certainly see an increase in charges. The White Paper calls for a reduction in the number of starter homes which must be built on any new development. These will be reduced to 10%. I don't know very much more at the moment but I will update you further when we've had our briefing on this.

- (b) £52,000 has been awarded to HDC to promote tourism throughout the district. Acorn Tourism has been charged with undertaking the best way to use this money to promote the area.
- (c) The Tennis Courts in Horsham Park are being resurfaced with 3 dedicated courts for tennis and 1 for multi-purpose use.
- (d) Horsham Council has voted to introduce a scheme of Honorary Aldermen to recognise those who have given long and exceptional service to the District. This was by no means unanimous but was voted through. It will be a badge of honour for those in receipt.
- (e) Sussex Weald Housing Association is changing in order to maintain their viability ; they are now going to be selling around 60% of new build homes at market value in order to subsidise affordable homes and rental properties.
- (f) On Friday of this week, the Older Peoples Forum are holding a Question and Answer session at The Drill Hall, Denne Road with Nick Herbert MP. It's at 10.30am.
- (g) We have another new Committee at Council called the Governance Committee. We are setting out a work programme which will include making recommendations to Council and will monitor the Council Constitution and recommend changes when necessary. I am a member of this new Committee.

SECTION 6 (Lead Councillor : Ed Allen (Chairman) + Clerk

12. Planning

(i) Applications for consideration at the Meeting

DC/17/0308 ('Idmiston', Handcross Road, Plummers Plain) – Various Signage at new build nursery (DC/16/2413).

LBPC have No Objections, subject to the new signs not extending beyond the hedge line.

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

None

(iii) Decisions Made

None

(iv) Other Planning Issues

None

SECTION 7 (Lead Councillor : Michael Lloyd)

- 13. Care of the Elderly in the Parish.** Further discussion/Update deferred until the next Meeting.
- 14. Police Activity.** Further discussion/Update deferred until the next Meeting.
- 15. HALC.** Next Meeting: Thursday, 27th. April 2017 in Lower Beeding Village Hall
- 16. Motions:** The following Motions had been proposed by Councillor Michael Lloyd in his e-mail of 19th. February:-

1. APPROACH GATES

THIS MOTION CALLS FOR THE POSITIONING OF APPROACH GATES TO THE VILLAGE SITUATED ON THE HANDCROSS ROAD APPROACH AND ON THE A281 APPROACH FROM COWFOLD AND FROM MONKS GATE

MOTION APPROVED BY LBPC.

2. COMMEMORATIVE SEATING

THE MOTION IS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ADDITION OF COMMEMORATIVE SEATING IN THE PARISH IN DESIGNATED PLACES. APPLICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED TO COUNCILLOR WHITE FOR APPROVAL

MOTION APPROVED BY LBPC

3. EMERGENCY PLAN

THE MOTION IS FOR APPROVAL OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMERGENCY PARTY SYSTEM FOR THE PARISH BASED ON THE MEMO SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL BY COUNCILLOR LLOYD.

A PREVIOUS EMERGENCY PLAN, DRAFTED BY LBPC SOME YEARS AGO, WAS PASSED TO COUNCILLOR LLOYD FOR HIS REVIEW PRIOR TO AN AMENDED VERSION BEING PUT FORWARD FOR APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING.

4. SCHOOL PARKING

THE MOTION IS FOR THE APPROVAL FOR THE ALLEVIATION OF THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM IN CHURCH CLOSE BY ESTABLISHING A CROSSING SYSTEM TO THE CHURCH CAR PARK .

THIS MOTION WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH BY LBPC AND NEEDS FURTHER REVIEW BEFORE A FINAL DECISION CAN BE MADE.

SECTION 9 (Lead Councillor: Ed Allen (Chairman) + Clerk)

17. Public Forum (Part 2) (Council agree to adjourn proceedings for questions from members of the public). There were no further questions raised.

18. Finance

- (i) **Accounts Status/Summary at 28th February 2017.** Reviewed at the Meeting.
- (ii) **February 2017 – 3 cheques for signature - signed by Cllr. Miller and the Clerk (last time)..**
- (iii) **Section 106 Report.** Current Total Available £12,254.01 – per HDC.

19. New Bank Mandate (Cheque Signatories). In view of recent advices received from:-

The Clerk stated that he was in the process of drafting a new Mandate that would include all 9 current Councillors as possible signatories i.e. any 2 from 9 to sign cheques. Messrs. Croxford and Tuckwell will be deleted as signees.

20. Literature for Circulation

Duly issued, for circulation to Councillors, at the Meeting.

21. Date of Next Meeting. The next Meeting of Lower Beeding Parish Council will be on Tuesday, 28th March 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Signed _____

Date _____