

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present :

LBPC Councillors Ed Allen (Chairman), Graham Miller (Vice Chairman), Michael Lloyd, Gevin White, Geoff Peckham, Andy Hinton, Mrs. Jaimie Daniels, Mrs. Kate Hough and Mrs. Jackie Ward.

HDC Councillor Toni Bradnum
CEO SALC Trevor Leggo (Part Time)

18 members of the Public

Clerk: Michael Tuckwell

SECTION 1 (Lead Councillor : Ed Allen, Chairman)

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 29th November 2016. The Minutes, having been circulated to all members, were agreed as accurate (Proposed by Cllr Peckham, Seconded by Cllr Ward) and were duly signed by the Chairman

2. Matters/Actions Arising

(a) Speeding Traffic through the Village. LBPC Cllr.White will investigate the possibility of reducing the speed limit on 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.

The narrow passage at the back of the gardens to Nos 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.

Some objections to the proposal have already been received/noted and the motion will be reviewed and discussed further at the next meeting.

3. Apologies. Apologies for absence were received from WSCC Cllr. Brad Watson.

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).

Mr. Trevor Whitehouse again asked what could be done about problems with inconsiderate parking (particularly in the summer months) on Hampshire Hill. LBPC replied that they had investigated this matter with WSCC Cllr. Brad Watson and, more especially, Chris Stark of WSCC Highways. Having received reports from Sussex Police and the Fire Brigade, indicating that the problem was not as great as reported, they had concluded that the only possible course of action was for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to be applied for. In this respect both WSCC Cllr. Watson and Chris Stark had further advised that there was no funding available for TRO's (other than those already committed) in the budgets for 2017 or 2018 and that, even if applied for now, TROs typically took around 24- 36 months to be processed and approved. LBPC had also taken note of representations from the landlady of The Wheatsheaf Public House to the effect that her business would be severely damaged by any parking restrictions on Hampshire Hill i.e. there were little or no alternative parking facilities for her customers and any consequent decrease in trade might well force the inn to close.

Reluctantly therefore, the Council had concluded that, in view of the above, and for the time being at least, they could no longer support an application for a TRO for Hampshire Hill. The matter would be revisited later in 2017 once the summer's activity had been observed/noted.

SECTION 2 (Lead Councillor : Gevin White)

6. Highways & Traffic

Refer to Item 2 above.

7. Pathways, Footpaths & Hedgerows

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

(b) Pavement Cleaning. The Clerk advised that, despite sending a chasing e-mail, he had still not received a response from the HDC Community Service Officer. The Clerk will discuss the matter with the Chairman of Bolney Parish Council (who had previously utilised the assistance of HDC Community Services. **Action: Clerk**

- (c) **Path Clearance and other miscellaneous Items.** It was agreed to investigate ownership of land north of Church Lane in order to determine responsibility for clearing the pavements/verges in Church Lane. **Action; Clerk**

SECTION 3 (Lead Councillor : Kate Hough)

8. **Website Report.** A new section is to be added to the website re 'Financial Reports'..

SECTION 4 (Lead Councillor : Geoff Peckham)

9. **Neighbourhood Plan.** It was agreed that, following Parliament's recent review of Neighbourhood Plans, and other local developments, activity on LBPC's NP generally should be 'slowed down a little'. The next Working Party Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 21st.February at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.

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

10.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) :HDC will be opposing the proposed new incinerator plant which was planned to be sited at the old Warnham Brickworks.
- (b) HDC Council Tax for 2017-18 will rise by 1.2%.

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

11. Planning

- (i) **Applications for consideration at the Meeting**

DC/16/2597 (Mannings Heath Golf Club) – Demolish existing Halfway House and replace with one single storey structure providing appropriate catering facilities, indoor seating area and exterior covered seating area under one single roof.

LBPC have No Objection

DC/17/0010 ('Selehurst'), Brighton Road) – Construction of first floor side extension.

LBPC have No Objection

**DC/17/0035 ('Beedcote', Brighton Road) – Fell 1 x Cedar Tree and Replant
LBPC have No Objection**

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

None

(iii) Decisions Made

None

(iv) Other Planning Issues

DC/16/1558 (Holme Orchard Farm) – e-mail dated 10 January 2017 received from Mr. Wayne Bayley re Freedom of Information Request. Response required.

Since Nuthurst Parish Council had also provided comments on this Planning Application to HDC (the property is on the borders of the two parishes), it was agreed that LBPC would contact Nuthurst PC with a view to issuing a joint response to Mr. Bayley's Fol request. **Action: Chairman.**

DC/16/2173 (Barn at Maple Hill, Newells Lane). This Application will be considered at the Meeting of the HDC Development Control Committee on 7th February and is recommended for refusal.

The Chairman advised that he would be attending the Meeting to speak against the Application. LBPC were informed by HDC Cllr, Bradnum that she intended speaking in support of the Application.

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.** There had been 1 burglary in the village in recent weeks which was speedily investigated and resolved by the police.
- 15. HALC.** Next Meeting: Thursday, 27th. April 2017 in Lower Beeding Village Hall

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

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

17. Finance

- (i) **Accounts Status/Summary at 31st January 2017.** Reviewed at the Meeting.
- (ii) **January 2017** – 3 cheques for signature (signed by Cllr. Miller and ex-Chairman Alan Croxford).
- (iii) **Section 106 Report.** Current Total Available £12,254.01 – per HDC.

18. Budget & Annual Precept 2017-18. At a separate meeting, held prior to this main Council Meeting, LBPC had finalised its precept requirement for 2017-18. The figures were due to be submitted to HDC by 29th January at the latest – the Clerk will therefore hand deliver the application to County Hall on the morning of 29th.

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

- (a) Lloyds Bank (that the Chairman was not in fact shown as a cheque signatory on the current mandate and that the actual three signatories designated were Cllr. Miller, ex-Chairman Alan Croxford and the Clerk, Michael Tuckwell) and
- (b) CEO SALC, Trevor Leggo (that the Clerk should not be a cheque signatory).

It was agreed that a new Mandate should be raised that included 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.

The Clerk will generate an appropriate new Bank Mandate. **Action: The Clerk**

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 February 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Signed _____

Date _____