

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held in the Church Room on Tuesday, 28th July 2015 at 7.30p.m.

Present : LBPC Councillors: Ed Allen (Chairman), Gevin White, Geoff Peckham, Mrs. Kate Hough and Mrs. Jamie Daniels.

Clerk: Michael Tuckwell

In Attendance: HDC Councillor Toni Bradnum, PCSO Susan Poynter and 5 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from WSCC Cllr. Brad Watson and LBPC Cllrs. Graham Miller (Vice Chairman) and Mrs. Jacqui Ward.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr. Geoff Peckham declared an interest in Agenda Item 15 (vi) (Annual Grants 2015) since he was a member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
3. **Public Forum** – It was suggested by members of the public present that it would be useful if this item appeared later in the Agenda in order that they might have an opportunity to comment on matters raised during the Meeting. The Chairman explained that it had previously been agreed that the Public Forum item should appear early in the Meeting so that the public did not necessarily have to sit through the whole Meeting to raise matters of interest to them. However, the Chairman stated that he was happy that, in future Meetings, the Public Forum item should appear twice i.e. early on (Item 3) and towards the end (Item 13) of the Meeting.

Other items raised:-

- i) Duncan England (ex HDC Cllr) said how much he had enjoyed his time as HDC Cllr to LBPC and welcomed his replacement, Toni Bradnum, to the post. The Chairman also welcomed Toni and thanked Duncan for all the help and support that he had given LBPC and himself in particular.
- ii) HDC Cllr. Bradnum stated that she had looked for the Agenda for tonight's Meeting on the Website but it did not appear to be there? (see Item 5 below).
- iii) It was reported that there was a large hole in the road in Church Lane, just past Bede Cottage, and that Church Lane generally was in a poor state of repair. **Action: Clerk to report to WSCC.**

4. **Minutes of the AGM & Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 19th May 2015.** The Minutes, having been circulated to all members, were agreed as accurate (Proposed by Cllr. Hough, Seconded by Cllr. Peckham) and duly signed by the Chairman as a true record of the Meeting.

5. **Matters Arising.**

(i) **Website.** Referring to Item 3 ii) above, Cllr. Hough advised that tonight's Agenda was now on the LBPC Website and apologised for it being added late.

6. **Matters for Consideration**

i) **Neighbourhood Plan.** Dale Mayhew (Neighbourhood Planning Consultant) gave an excellent and concise presentation on the requirements and work that would be involved in producing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Lower Beeding and, also, the services and assistance that his organisation could provide in this respect. He explained that LBPC should not expect to be able to produce such a plan in less than 12 months and any NP undertaken would not be able to take account of current Planning Applications. As regards funding, Dale confirmed that a grant of £8,000 per annum would be available from HDC towards the cost of producing an acceptable Plan.

ii) **Speeding/Heavy Lorry Traffic through the Village.**

The following e-mails from Mike Thomas, WSCC Highways and Transport to LBPC Cllr. Gevin White and from Sam Mason, WSCC Assistant Planner to Mike Thomas, detail the current position regarding a TRO for Speeding Controls in Lower Beeding. The matter will be discussed further at the next LBPC Meeting.

"Dear Gevin,

Thank you for taking the time to talk with me earlier today, and I would like to give you an update on where I believe we are.

The original request was for a 30 mph speed limit as per the attached plan. We have taken speed data and the average speed was greater than that suitable for a 30 mph speed limit without further engineering measures.

The measures believed suitable for this road are vehicle activated signs.

As such I would like you to consider the following ball park estimate to ensure it is reasonable value for money.

a. TRO process £6,000

- b. 6 no double backed speed limit gateways £6,000
- c. 2 no VAS signs and installation to feeder pillar £15,000
- d. 2 no WSCC supply to feeder pillar £10,000
- e. Post installation speed surveys £1,000

My estimate may be a little bit light due to the lack of obvious suitable locations to supply the necessary feeder pillars. This will need further investigation before we can firmly commit to the scheme. Hence, I think at this stage we should budget the full £40,000.

As such the next steps are:

1. The parish council to agree the spend the £40,000 on this scheme
2. Sam Mason to confirm the £40,000 is still available
3. WSCC Officers to get a firm quote on the supply to the feeder pillars
4. WSCC Officers to agree on site the exact location of the VAS signs and Speed limit signs. This may need further engagement from members of the public, particularly nearby home owners.
5. WSCC Officers to gather the view of the police
6. WSCC Officers to review what the risks are associated with the scheme and if it can be completed within the £40,000 budget.

Once we have gone through this gateway WSCC officers will commence the formal consultation for the TRO. Once this is completed Officers and the local County Council Member will need to consider the nature and content to any objections or representations received and decide how to proceed. Presuming this is favourable we will then look to implement the works.

I hope this reasonably informs you of the way forward. Please let me know if you would like any further information.

Kind regards

Mike

Mike Thomas, Area Manager – Worthing and Adur Residents' Services – Highways and Transport, West Sussex County Council"

“Hi Mike – I can confirm that the £40,000 of S106 is still available and allocated to this scheme. The funds are held by Horsham District Council, so once you are in the position to move the scheme forward I will need to approach HDC to agree the release of funds.

Kind Regards

Sam Mason, Assistant Planner, Strategic Planning Division, Residents’ Services, West Sussex County Council”

- iii) **Playground Maintenance.** The Clerk advised that RoSPA’s forthcoming Playground Inspection Course at Brentford (9th September) was fully booked. Cllrs. Graham Miller and Jaimie Daniels would now be booked on the next available Course (Telford on 22nd. September, York on 1st October or Swindon on 16th. November). **Action: Clerk**
- 7. **Co-option of Additional Parish Councillors/s.** Two applications for the vacant Councillor position had been received i.e. from Mr. Michael Lloyd and from Mr. Ian Hayes-Coles. The Chairman stated that, in the interests of complete fairness, LBPC would wait another month to see if any further applications were forthcoming before making a decision on the successful applicant at the next Meeting.
- 8. **Discussion re frequency of LB Council Meetings.** It was felt by several Councillors that bi-monthly meetings led to a lack of communication and a serious loss of continuity. After some discussion, it was agreed that, for a trial period at least, LBPC would move to a monthly cycle of meetings which could, at times, and if necessary, be postponed depending on activity levels and importance of issues.
- 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.**

HDC Cllr. Toni Bradnum reported on the following matters:-

1. Change to County boundaries- Lower Beeding, Mannings Heath and Crabtree to go in with a new Division called St Leonard's Forest. Nuthurst to stay with Southwater.
2. Parliamentary boundary changes - only a time schedule currently available.
3. Visit to Ward by Tom Crowley, Chief Executive Horsham District Council - taken to all current planning sites and 1, Trinity Fields.

4. The Government Planning Inspector has increased the number of houses to be built in Horsham District from 750 per annum to 800 per annum.
5. Trinity Fields footpath- now seems to be resolved.
6. Notice of Motion to HDC full Council - seeking a review of the planned 2,500 homes for North Horsham. Motion defeated.

10. Planning

(i) Applications for consideration at the Meeting

**DC/15/1238 – Single Storey Extension – Brookside, Church Lane, Plummers Plain
LBPC have No Objection to the Application**

**DC/15/1395 – Roof Conversion – Gardeners Cottage, Sandygate Lane, Lower Beeding
LBPC have No Objection to the Application, subject to any comments from neighbours).**

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

DC/15/1057 - Hire out of Swimming Pool – Beedinglee, Brighton Road, Lower Beeding.

LBPC have No Objections (subject to HDC Planning's assessment of H & S issues).

**DC/15/1521 & 1258 – New Dwelling – Holme Farm Orchard, Winterpick Lane
Strong Objection lodged by LBPC.**

**Proposal for New Homes (Mr. & Mrs Illes) – Sandygate Lane, Lower Beeding
Constructive discussion held between LBPC and the Applicants – changes recommended. Revised Proposal anticipated in due course.**

(ii) Decisions Made

None.

(iii) Other Planning Issues

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

Appeal lodged.

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

Decision still awaited.

Action: The Clerk will write a letter to HDC Planning (Madeleine) requesting that the condition requiring a footpath (or change of footpath) is deleted and that the Planning Application is withdrawn.

11. **Highways, Pathways, Footpaths and Hedgerows.** The Clerk was requested to write to Mr. Geoffrey Yates, Project Manager, Leonardslee Gardens asking him to arrange for the hedge bordering Brighton Road to be cut since it was overgrown and obstructing pedestrians. **Action: Clerk**
12. **Notice Boards.** The Clerk advised that there would be a slight delay in delivery of the 2 new Notice Boards – the boards themselves had been completed but now awaited the sub-contractors (sign writers) completion of the lettering/logos. Delivery had been revised/promised for early August 2015.
13. **Winter Maintenance.** Item adjourned to a Meeting nearer the time (Winter) concerned.
14. **HALC Report.** Cllr. Peckham reported on the 8th July HALC Meeting which had been attended by himself and the Clerk. Unfortunately, the main speaker (Sussex Police Commander) had not turned up but a speaker from Horsham Health Matters had proved interesting and informative. The next Meeting of HALC will be on Thursday, 10th . September and the Annual Conference will be on Saturday, 31st. October at Southwater Leisure Centre.
15. **Finance**
 - (i) **Accounts Status/Summary at 31st. July 2015.** This had been previously circulated to Councillors and was summarised by the Clerk at the Meeting.
 - (ii) **July 2015 cheques for signature.** As per Accounts Summary.
 - (iii) **Sign off of Annual Audited Accounts for Year 2014-15.**
 - (iv) **Section 106 Report.** Current Total available £74,805.00 less £59,881.32 allocated for the new Playground Facilities = Nett £14,923.68
 - (v) **Funding for Enhanced Playground Facilities etc.** In the absence of Cllr. Miller, an update to the current position was not available.

- (vi) **Annual Grants for 2015-16.** It was agreed that LBPC would maintain grant beneficiaries and amounts at the 2014 levels with the exception of that for Victim Support which would be increased from £11 to a more reasonable and realistic figure of £50. Additionally, the Council agreed to make a grant to the Parent Teachers Association (PTA) on receipt of advice regarding a proposed amount from Cllr. Daniels. **Action: Cllr.Daniels**

16. Any Other Business + Literature for Circulation

Various literature received was circulated to Councillors for reading.

The Council expressed their sympathy and condolences to the family of Colin Makey, an ex Chairman of LBPC. It was felt that the Council would like to make a contribution to a charity that Colin supported, or perhaps fund a memorial of some kind to him. The Chairman would seek the views of Cllr.Jaqui Ward (not present at the Meeting) in this respect.

Following a discussion on what Planning Applications were still current or outstanding for Stonehouse Farm, the Clerk stated that he would research all their Applications on the HDC Website and report back at the next Meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

Thanks were given to Rev.Mark (Betson) for providing teas and coffees.

17. Date of Next Meeting (Tuesday, 25th. August 2015).

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

Signed _____

Date _____