

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present :

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

WSCC Councillor Brad Watson
HDC Councillor Toni Bradnum

3 members of the Public

Clerk: Michael Tuckwell

SECTION 1 (Lead Councillor: Michael Lloyd, Acting Chairman)

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 28th February 2017.

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 Acting Chairman.

2. Matters/Actions Arising

There were none..

3. Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from LBPC Cllrs. Ed Allen (Chairman), Graham Miller (Vice Chairman), Andy Hinton and Mrs. Jaimie Daniels.

4. Declarations of Interest from members in respect of any items in the Agenda.

There were none.

5. Address by Sonia Mingan of AGE Concern on possible future social problems in Lower Beeding.

At the invitation of LBPC Cllr. Michael Lloyd, Sonia Mingan of AGE UK, Horsham District gave the Council an interesting and informative presentation on the problems that elderly people in Lower Beeding might face and the assistance/services that AGE UK could provide. The main problems that elderly residents (within the age bracket of, say, 50-100+) usually experienced were to do with illness, especially dementia, transport and, in particular, loneliness. In these regards AGE UK could help with services covering Help at Home, Home from Hospital, Relative Support, Information and Advice and a Home Visiting Service. AGE UK were also very active in supporting many local Clubs around the villages.

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

There were none.

SECTION 2 (Lead Councillor : Gevin White)

7. Highways & Traffic

- a) **Traffic Calming in Church Close.** The following e-mail, dated 27 March 2017, has been received from Chris Stark, WSCC Highways, and was discussed at the Meeting – no firm decision on action or response was agreed.

“ Dear Gevin

I think it is highly unlikely WSCC Highways would support any traffic calming in this road, however, if the parish council wanted to submit an application via our [Community Highway Scheme](#) process it will allow us to give it an assessment, and if it reaches our benchmark score for progression can be considered for funding. Please be aware that across the county we do receive more requests of this nature than we have the resources to deliver so it would stand a better chance of progression if funding came from a 3rd party source, such as a developer or maybe the parish council direct.

With regard to a 20mph speed limit alone I don't think it will make any difference to traffic speeds, and therefore is not something we would wish to promote as a County Council scheme. As I have previously advised, if there is an issue relating to parents dropping off or collecting school children this should be considered as part of a school travel plan, which I understood you (the Parish Council) were going to talk to the school about.

Chris”

- b) **Damaged Traffic Signage.** The following e-mail, dated 27 March 2017, has been received from Chris Stark, WSCC Highways, and was discussed at the Meeting – no firm decision on action or response was agreed.

“ Gevin,

The school / Lower Beeding sign with the one damaged post will not be repaired as I am satisfied it is still fit for purpose. I have advised this before.

The direction sign damaged at the end of Sandygate Lane has a job in the system for repair, but there is still a large backlog of signing jobs for the contractor to work through. Unfortunately I don't recognise where the two blank post pictures relate to. Even though they may have been reported before can they please be reported again through the Love West Sussex App or online at [Report a problem with a road or pavement](#).

I have a new Traffic Officer starting next week and one of his jobs is to sort out any outstanding signs jobs, so reporting it via the online process allows it to go straight to him to speed things up. Reporting to me is not the most efficient method of communicating with us as I am often unable to deal with emails for several days if not weeks.

Your other reports (the inspection chamber covers in Church Lane) have been logged and passed to a Highway Steward to deal with so thanks for those, though again it is better if they are reported online as above.

One final point, as mentioned the contractor has a backlog of signs work still to work through so I'm sorry to say I still don't have a date for the speed limit signs to be installed.

Chris”

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

There had been no further progress on this matter since the 28. February Meeting.

Action: To be reviewed at 25th April Meeting.

9. Commemorative Benches/Seating & Flower Baskets etc. in the village.

A brochure containing examples of different types and styles of commercially available benches was passed to Cllr. Ward for review and 'pass on' to other Councillors.

10. Pathways, Footpaths & Hedgerows

(a) Hedge Cutting. The Clerk advised that, as requested, he had sent letters to Mr. & Mrs. Harper of Lunn's Cottage, Sandygate Lane and Mrs. Pauline Pritchard asking them to arrange the cutting of hedges at their properties.

(b) Pavement Cleaning. The Clerk advised that he had not yet received a response from HDC regarding a quote for a pavement cleaning service etc. in the village. **Actions: (a) Clerk to chase for an answer and (b) matter to be reviewed at 25th April Meeting.**

SECTION 3 (Lead Councillor : Kate Hough)

11 and 12. Website Report/Communication.

The e-mail communication changes recently proposed by the Chairman have now been implemented and will be available for use imminently..

SECTION 4 (Lead Councillor : Geoff Peckham)

13. Neighbourhood Plan. The next Working Party Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11th April at 7.30 pm. Cllr. Peckham proposed (and all present agreed) that a vote of thanks should be given to Mrs. Leslie Bamford for all her hard work with the NP Sub-Committee.

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

14. Reports from other authorities

(i) County Councillor's Report.

WSCC Councillor Brad Watson stated that he had listened with interest to some of the comments and criticisms made earlier in the Meeting regarding issues with WSCC Highways and, indeed, he was aware of similar issues and criticisms from other parish councils. However, in defence of WSCC Highways, he would have to say that, at the present time, they only had limited resources available and they were facing a huge backlog of jobs from all over West Sussex.

Cllr. Watson provided details to the Council of a new Broadband Grant Scheme which LBPC may be able to take advantage of.

Finally, Brad advised that he would not be standing for re-election as a WSCC Councillor in the forthcoming May elections and that, therefore, this was in fact his last Meeting as WSCC Councillor for Lower Beeding. Brad added that it had been a pleasure working with LBPC these past years, that he would be sad to go (but the time was right) and wished LBPC the very best for the future. In response, the Acting Chairman (Cllr. Michael Lloyd) said that it was indeed a sad day but he thanked Brad for all his help and wished him, on behalf of all at LBPC, a long and happy retirement.

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

- a) A new White Paper had been released by the Government, consultation on which would close on 2nd May 2017. Among its proposals, the following would be of greatest interest to Parish Councils:-

Maintenance of existing strong protections for the Green Belt and clarification that Green Belt boundaries should be amended only in exceptional circumstances i.e. when local authorities can demonstrate that they have fully examined all other reasonable options for meeting their identified housing requirements.

It is proposed to strengthen national policy so that local planning authorities are expected to have clear policies for addressing the housing requirements of groups with particular needs, such as older and disabled people.

Local people can decide where houses go through Neighbourhood planning, and more money has been set aside to facilitate this.

All local authorities must have a Planning Framework, they must work with adjoining authorities to provide the number of homes necessary, and the numbers must be reviewed every five years.

The government wants a standardised approach to housing numbers by 2018.

Planning fees will rise by 20% from July 2017.

Developers will have to pay fees for appeals.

There will be a reduction in planning conditions.

Developers will have to publish the number of homes actually built.

There will be a two year start date from planning permission instead of the current three years.

There will be better powers for compulsory purchase.

Small builders will have more responsibility for starter homes.

- b) A number of new Gypsy Sites were to be created shortly although none of them were scheduled for the Lower Beeding area.
- c) The new Football Club was to go ahead at the Hop Oast Golf Club.
- d) The Yurts at Winterpit Lane – HDC Cllr Bradnum had managed to get several conditions attached which would align them with Brookfield Barn.
- e) The proposed new District Boundaries have been rejected by The Boundary Commission.

SECTION 6 (Lead Councillor : Michael Lloyd (Acting Chairman))

15. Planning

(i) Applications for consideration at the Meeting

**DC/17/0392 ('Meadow Barn', The Hyde, Handcross) – New Design for Roof i.e Variation of Condition 1 of previously approved application DC/16/2639
No Objections from LBPC**

**DC/17/0394 ('Cooks Cottage', Hammerpond Road, Plummers Plain) – First Floor Rear Extension
No Objections from LBPC**

**DC/17/0483 ('South Lodge Hotel', Brighton Road) – New Spa Facility with associated services building and 6 x Eco Lodge Accomodation Pods)
No Objections from LBPC**

**DC/17/0465 ('Merrythought', 1 Plummers Plain House Cottages) – Remove and Replace Garage which is beyond repair.
No Objections from LBPC**

**DC/17/0752 ('Winterpick', Church Lane, Plummers Plain) – Formation of new vehicular access on to highway).
No Objections from LBPC**

(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)

16. **Care of the Elderly in the Parish.** Further discussion/Update deferred until the next Meeting.
17. **Police Activity.** It was noted that within the last month a bicycle had been stolen from the village. Further discussion/Update was deferred until the next Meeting.
18. **HALC.** Next Meeting: Thursday, 27th April 2017 in Lower Beeding Village Hall. Councillors White and Peckham gave their apologies for being unavailable to attend this Meeting.
19. **Motions:** The following Motions had been proposed by Councillor Michael Lloyd in his e-mail of 19th February:-

1. 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.

Further discussion on this item was 'parked' pending future funding determination.

2. 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 .

Further discussion on this item was 'parked' pending receipt of costings from Chris Stark, WSCC Highways for a new revised crossing. **Action: Cllr White to write to and/or discuss with Chris Stark.**

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

20. **Public Forum (Part 2) (Council agree to adjourn proceedings for questions from members of the public).** There were no further questions raised.
21. **Finance**
 - (i) **Accounts Status/Summary at 28th March 2017.** Reviewed at the Meeting.
 - (ii) **March 2017** – 6 cheques for signature - signed by Cllrs. Lloyd and Peckham
 - (iii) **Section 106 Report.** Current Total Available £82,992.58 – per HDC.

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

The Clerk stated that the new Mandate had been agreed by Lloyds with 8 of 9 (the exception being Cllr. Ed Allen, Chairman) of the current Councillors as possible signatories i.e. any 2 from 8 to sign cheques.

23. Literature for Circulation

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

24. Date of Next Meeting. The next Meeting of Lower Beeding Parish Council will be on Tuesday, 25th April 2017 at 7.30 p.m. Councillors White and Peckham gave their apologies for being unavailable to attend this Meeting.

Signed _____

Date _____