

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Church Room, Plummers Plain on
Tuesday, 30th August 2016 at 7.30p.m.

Present :

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

9 members of the Public & Rev. Mark Betson

Clerk: Michael Tuckwell

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from LBPC Councillors Graham Miller, Michael Lloyd and Mrs. Jackie Ward, WSCC Cllr. Brad Watson and HDC Cllr. Toni Bradnum.

The Chairman regretted to advise that, due to heavy work commitments, LBPC Cllr Ian Shaw had resigned.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – There were none.

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

a) Further to his e-mail dated 16 August 2016 (reproduced below), Mr. Wayne Bayley addressed the Council in respect of comments made by LBPC against Planning Application DC/16/1558 – Conversion of Stables into a Dwelling (Stables, Holme Farm Orchard, Winterpit Lane, Mannings Heath).

“One of the issues I wish to discuss is the concern that our application seeks to achieve permission beyond the original Appeal decision where permitted development rights were withdrawn.

I would point out that a swimming pool added recently an adjacent former agricultural barn conversion. A new double garage was added to an adjacent replacement dwelling which had its permitted development rights withdrawn and there are hundreds of similar local scheme where the PC has remained silent.

Clearly it makes not the slightest difference to anyone in the area if the "over hang" of our stables are incorporated within the accommodation of the conversion of if the residential curtilage is increased to improve the amenity of the future owners.

Similarly, whether or not existing openings are used for windows or new ones created cannot be observed from any of the properties which are objecting.

It is difficult to see these objections as anything other than a highly personal attack. It is disappointing to see the PC offering an opinion of the legitimacy of our agricultural qualification from our previous Appeal when it is entirely irrelevant to this Application. I will be interested to learn why it was felt appropriate to include this comment in the objection.”

In response (briefly), the Chairman commented that there certainly was not any ‘personal’ element in LBPC’s comments against DC/16/1558 and he assured Mr. Bayley that every Planning Application reviewed by the Council was judged on its particular, individual merits, in as fair a way as possible – taking into account the comments and concerns of neighbouring residents and other interested parties.

It was understood, from a subsequent e-mail, that Mr. & Mrs. Bayley have plans to establish a camping facility using Yurts as a means of generating an income in their retirement. The Chairman suggested that Mr. Bayley outline these plans, and those for any other future application, to the PC before they submitted an Application. The PC would like to review them before a formal Application was made. It was also understood that Mr. & Mrs. Bayley have ambitions to make their tractor shed larger, to accommodate a livestock trailer, and plans for a potting shed, all of which they would be happy to discuss before making an application.

b) Concerns were expressed by Mr. Peter Wood regarding the speed of, and damage caused to trees and verges by, heavy commercial vehicles along Winterpit Lane. His e-mail of 21 August referred. The Council agreed to represent Mr. Wood’s comments/concerns to WSCC Highways (Chris Stark) stressing the need for revised signage and width/weight restrictions along Winterpit Lane and Church Lane. **Action: The Clerk**

c) Mr. Simon Newton had spent some considerable time investigating and analysing the considerable number of planning applications, current and pending, generated by the owners of Stonehouse Farm. Subsequently, Simon had written to HDC Cllr Toni Bradnum, enclosing a detailed summary of all the applications, with a request that they be investigated with a view to clarifying exactly what was proposed and on-going at the Farm. The Chairman thanked Simon Newton for all the work that he had done and promised that we would revert back to the matter at a subsequent meeting.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 28th June 2016. The Minutes, having been circulated to all members, were agreed as accurate (Proposed by Cllr Peckham, Seconded by Cllr Hough) and were duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters/Actions Arising from Previous Minutes

- A) The second Green Waste Bin has been purchased and delivered.
- B) HDC cutting of the grass on the Playing Field. **Continuing Action: The Clerk is in the process of obtaining some quotes from private contractors.**
- C) Overgrown Hedges on Leechpond Lane. The Clerk has requested the landowners, Mr. Tregear and Mrs. Jo Longley to arrange cutting of them. Note: Mrs. Longley has kindly auctioned the request but Mr. Tregear has yet to do so.
- D) Speeding Traffic through the Village. The Clerk has received an email from Sarah Hall, Clerk to Nuthurst Parish Council, stating that NPC will add this item to their next Agenda so that we can work together on this matter in future.
- E) The Clerk has e-mailed Paul Parks of HDC regarding playground signage and the need for chicken wire to be put on the gate and on the fence adjacent to the gate at the New Playground.

6. Website

Councillor Hough reported to the Council as follows (taken from her e-mail dated 10 August to The Clerk).

“As you are aware I have recently had emails from the Lower Beeding Association (LBA) about information being out of date on the website. I have explained to them that I need to be given the prime information before I can update anything. At their request I have also deleted all the LBA events on the latest news page.

Whilst I can delete other events on the latest news as well, my concern as I've stated on many previous occasions before, is that a lack of historical items gives the impression of an inactive site and if no-one is giving me new events it will look very empty. Please let me know what you think.

The LBA have also asked for a list of members details to be added to the website which Josh (MAS Design) has done.

In addition it has also been brought to my attention that there is not a list of Parish Council members. I would like to ask members how they feel about that. I think we have discussed this before and agreed that due to the openness of a website (I.e data can be easily obtained through trawling) that all contact should really be made through the Clerk. I would like to know how everyone feels about this.

The running of the website and the need to charge for advertising also needs review. Josh is going to do a report on the costs of running the website so that we can see how much we need to charge for adverts. The reason for this is that I have not been able to get any

new advertiser this year and have in fact lost a few. ***Post Meeting Note: Per Josh – the Annual Cost of Maintaining the Website is £564.00.***

My suggestion would be to charge an initial fee to cover the cost of adding the advert to the website but after that, unless the company wants to change anything on their advert, it will stay on the website until they ask for it to be removed. We would charge an update fee of say 50% if the business wants to change or update their advert.

We have a lot of small business in Lower Beeding that aren't on the website so people in the village don't even know about them I believe we have a duty to promote Lower Beeding business as much as possible to make the village as attractive as possible and I hope that this measure will make it easier to get them to advertise.

At the moment Josh has been asked to send out all the renewals and invoices to the website and magazine advertisers together and there are still some that haven't paid. We have sent out another reminder to them. I feel it is unfair to ask Josh to continue to do this as it's very time consuming for both of us so asking businesses to just pay to go on the website will save a lot of time and cost to Josh. ***Post Meeting Note: The Clerk has offered to assist in chasing up late payers for settlement.***

I am obviously only talking about the website and don't know what the Parish magazine want to do in future.”

7. Matters for Consideration

1) Speeding Traffic through the Village (including proposed restrictions in Mill Lane).

- a) Following WSCC Highways (Chris Stark's) e-mail of 27 June 2016 (see under),

“Hello Gevin

Further to your telephone call last Friday as you will see from the below communication there were no objections received to the TRO.

On that basis, we can now begin the process to arrange installation of the relevant speed limit signs and VAS. The latter is probably going to take longer to organise, but in order to provide a complete package it should all be installed at the same time. I will need to discuss this with our Traffic Signals Team who order the VAS etc before I can update you on an accurate timescale, but along with the design work needed to give our contractor it will probably be late summer before the signs go in.

Regards”

LBPC now needed to review and decide on what type of signage and speed control measures were preferable e.g., speed humps, standard road signs, electronic signs, speed cameras etc.

- b) It was noted, as reported by a resident, that the current speed limit down Mill Lane is 60mph!! Apparently, a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) has been applied for by the residents and granted by WSCC, in the sum of £5,000, under S106 funding.

2) New Playground

Cllr Daniels reported that the slight tear in the fake grass and the tightening of the zip wire were due to be dealt with by the Contractors in w/c 5th September.

Cllr. White reported that his tractor had broken whilst being used at the New Playground and had cost £237 to repair. He asked if the Council would be willing to recompense him for this expense and this was agreed.

It was agreed that, subject to clearance by HDC (Paul Parks), LBPC would fund and install a number of bench seats at the New Playground.

It was suggested by Cllr. White that LBPC might consider installing and funding a number of flower tubs or baskets around the village to make it look more attractive to both residents and villagers. There was general agreement that this was a good idea although no specific action was decided upon at the meeting.

- 8. **Neighbourhood Plan.** Councillor Peckham reported that, so far, 12 sites had been submitted for consideration under the 'Call for Sites' process – the closing date for receipt of applications was the 30th June.

9. Reports from other Authorities.

- (i) **County Councillor's Report.** In the absence of WSCC Cllr. Brad Watson a report was not available.

- (ii) **District Councillor's Report.** HDC Cllr. Toni Bradnum reported as follows:-

- a) HDC Refuse Collection Service – Bin Collection Services were currently under review
- b) The changes to opening times at the Hop Oast Waste Disposal Depot were going ahead (it would be closing for 2 days a week in future).
- c) Bulky Bags (as an alternative to Skips) would be made available to residents and businesses shortly.

d) A Jobs & Skills Fair would shortly be taking place at Horsham Drill Hall.

10. Planning.

(i) Applications considered at the Meeting

None

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

None

(iii) Decisions Made

None

(iv) Other Planning Issues

None

11. **Litter Warden.** The Clerk was requested to proceed with putting the gentleman (Ron?) selected to be LBPC's litter warden under contract, and provide him with the necessary clothing and equipment (within a total budget of £250.00) as soon as possible. **Action: The Clerk**

12. Highways, Pathways, Footpaths and Hedgerows.

(a) Cutting of Mrs. Pritchard's Hedge

It was agreed that LBPC would go ahead with the quote of £800.00 received from 'Complete Tree Service' and seek to recover the cost (as she had offered) from Mrs. Pritchard.

(b) Pavement Clearing

Following the meeting with Paul Greenslade of HDC, and his inspection of the pavements that needed clearing, it had been established that the HDC machine was not robust enough for the work required and the work would have to be approved by and undertaken by the larger machines of WSCC. Subsequently however, it was determined that WSCC currently do not have any budget available to undertake the work.

Paul Greenslade suggested that LBPC speak to Tony Steer (Clerk) at Bolney Parish Council. He understands that they got some work done for them by using labour from people having to do Community Service Work. **Action: Clerk**

- (c) **Hedge at Junction of Warninglid Lane & Plummers Plain.** It was noted that this also needs cutting although it did not seem clear whose responsibility it was and who was going to cut it.
- (d) **Hedge alongside Leonardslee in Brighton Road.** It was noted that this also needs cutting. **Action: Clerk to write to Leonardslee.**
- 13. Care of the elderly in the Parish**
In the absence of Cllr. Lloyd this item was deferred to the next Meeting.
- 14. Commemorative Tree and Plaque for Colin Makey.**
The Ginkgo Biloba tree had been purchased and delivered to Cllr. Ward but was found , on receipt, to be damaged. The suppliers have agreed to supply a replacement tree, free of charge, in the autumn. Meantime, and temporarily, the tree received has been planted in the agreed position on land at Church Close. The plaque still needed to be sourced, priced and purchased. **Action: Clerk**
- 15. HALC**
The Chairman stated that he would be going to the next HALC Meeting, at Pulborough Village Hall, on 29th September 2016..
- 16. Public Forum (Part 2) (Council agree to adjourn proceedings for questions from members of the public) –**

No items were raised.
- 17. Finance**
- (i) **Accounts Status/Summary at 31st August 2016.** This had been previously circulated to Councillors and was summarised by the Clerk at the Meeting.
- (ii) **August 2016 Cheques for signature.** As per Accounts Summary.
- (iii) **Section 106 Report.** Current Total available £21,048.47 i.e. £74,805.00 less £53,756.53 released for the new Playground Facilities.
- (iv) **Other Matters.**
It was proposed that the Clerk should forward a new salt order (for 6 Hippo Bags) to WSCC as soon as possible in order that we should be early prepared for next winter.
- 18. Any Other Business + Literature for Circulation**

Various literature received was circulated to Councillors for reading.

19. Date of Next Meeting (Tuesday, 27th. September 2016).

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

Signed _____

Date _____