

Bramber Parish Council

Meeting Minutes **Wednesday 08 April 2015** at Bramber & Beeding Village Hall

PRESENT:

Messrs N. Mills (Chair) , N. Stubbs, J. Goddard, Mrs D. Goodall , Mrs M. Goddard, and the clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor D. Barling, Mr M. Tilley (website) and 2 residents.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr R. Potter, Mrs S. Bignell and Ms J. Howley. The Neighbourhood Wardens also sent apologies.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th February 2015 were agreed and signed.

Update on action points:

6.b The original plans for the land East of little St Mary's had been found.

7.b Housing survey to be covered under item 7.

10. The Parish Council had arranged for this work to be done and is now completed.

3. OPEN FORUM

A resident questioned what is happening about the Walks for All footpath. No work has been done for several weeks and it is now very popular and well used. What happens when the contractors return? Councillor David Barling agreed to speak about these concerns when he meets Jonathon Perks at West Sussex County Council. Concern was also expressed about the report by Bramber Council in Your Steyning. The parishioner felt that too much emphasis was put on the salt bins rather than the speeding problem on Clays Hill. This resident had estimated that the 10% of cars found to be speeding represented 7 cars every 20 minutes.

A second resident raised 2 further issues. Firstly asking if there are plans to re-surface the path under the bridge and extending South. Again Councillor Barling will seek clarification. He also said that as the new lighting columns now extend further down the by-pass to the South of the roundabout there should be new 30mph signs. **Action: Clerk to contact Mike Dare at W.S.C.C.**

4. REPORTS

County Council

Councillor Barling introduced the council to a new programme which is shortly to be unveiled. It is entitled 'The Beautiful Outdoors' and is an attempt to drive up the economy of the South Downs national Park. There will be a large advertising campaign in both London and Brighton to encourage younger families to visit the park. There will be better signage at the intersections of the South Downs Way to guide visitors to the amenities.

West Sussex has received a large grant for improvements to the countryside including footpath improvements. There will be an improved route from Shoreham to Upper Beeding Bridge.

The re-cycling service now takes extra plastics and it hopes to add between 1 and 2% to the re-cycling rate which is 42% at present with a target of 50% in 2020.

WSCC has a new website and you can find Chanctonbury Talk With Us on Facebook. Finance- Council Tax rates are again frozen which will mean challenging times as the council has lost the Revenue Support Grant. Money will be saved from HDC's move into the same building in Horsham.

District Council

David Coldwell gave the following report:

The main business of the council for the past month revolved about the requirement to publish a consultation document about the additional housing required as a result of the inspector's interim report.

Members will recall that the inspection process was suspended in December last year, when the inspector concluded that whilst the draft plan under examination was essentially sound, it did not allow for enough homes to be built to house the forecast population of the district. HDC had originally calculated that 650 units per annum would be sufficient, but the inspector believed that 750 was a more realistic figure. Thus the suspension of the examination for six months to allow HDC time to find the added units. It is worth noting that he could have rejected the plan in its entirety thus setting the process back by some years.

It is also worth noting that no plan means effectively a free-for-all for the developers because of the lack of a five year land supply and bearing in mind that some developers were saying that we need 1200 houses p.a., the door would have been open for a 'Mayfield' or similar.

The council held an extra-ordinary meeting 18th May and, after a lengthy meeting, approved the amendments for consultation, now running until 5th May.

In the Standards committee, Mr John Donaldson, has been co-opted as an independent person to replace Paul Byford who has retired. John is from Henfield and may be known to some of you through his expertise in flood prevention.

Councillor Goddard said that he had nothing to add to the previous report but said that he is standing down from the district council after 4 years service but will continue his parish council work.

The Chairman thanked him for the contribution he has made and the information and guidance he has provided for the parish.

Neighbourhood Wardens

The following report had been received in March:

On a routine patrol on Friday 20th we came across a small group of youths in Annington Road, most of whom had been drinking. The individuals are known to us and we were given a positive response upon engaging with them. The group made their way through Bramber, towards Upper Beeding where we continued to monitor their behaviour. No calls were received regarding any noise nuisance in Bramber. There are still several suspicious vehicles in the area which we are monitoring. We aim to prevent any would be fly tippers or any other activities of an anti-social/criminal nature. We continue to log any suspicious activity to the local Neighbourhood Policing Team directly or via an Intel log on the Police system.

We received a call from a resident regarding an owner letting their dog foul by the river bank, we have a description of the owner and the type of dog. We have been several times on foot but are yet to come across this individual, we hope at the very least that our presence there will deter such behaviour.

We would like to remind residents to report any suspicious vehicle activities or cold callers who cause any form of harassment, alarm or distress upon visiting to ourselves & the police on 101.

Village Hall

Marilyn Goddard gave the following report of the meeting on 16 March:

WiFi - request by BPC for installation of Wi Fi to the village hall in order to view plans, was discussed. It was agreed that this would also provide a service for other users. The representative from the camera club said that the introduction of wifi would be particularly beneficial at their meetings. The cost of this would be split between BPC, UBPC and the playgroup. Whilst the playgroup were interested they were concerned about the cost. At present it is a residential phone line and BT have stated that this would have to change to a business line in someone's name. It was agreed that the Secretary would arrange a meeting with BPC, UBPC, the playgroup and a village hall representative.

Defibrillator - Martin Leigh Pollitt requested one to be housed in village hall but no agreement reached on where it should go.

Main hall floor - Contribution of 106 monies used from UBPC and BPC, £5,000 and £2,500 has been agreed. The village hall will make up the outstanding balance. Commencement of laying new floor to start directly playgroup start summer break, hopefully 22nd July.

Boundary with 18 Dawn Crescent - Dispute over boundary.

Screen in Large Room - will not retract. No solution reached.

Small tables and chairs - require replacing. Quotes for recovering chairs proved too expensive so cheaper to purchase new ones. Also tables would not comply with health and safety regulations as dangerous when stacked. Also require more long tables. Proposed delaying for year and asking UBPC and BPC for contribution.

General feeling that this too long to wait. To be discussed at next meeting. Councillor Coldwell suggested contacting HDC as there is furniture available.

Action: Clerk

Fund raising includes quizzes, the Camera Club AV Show on 30 April, the Election Cafe on 7 May and the Showcase on 9 May.

The Camera Club asked if it is possible to have ½ disabled parking bays outside the hall as cones are disregarded.

Councillor Barling advised that it may be easier to have a run-in but in any case WSCC need to be contacted.

HALC

Nick Stubbs said he had attended the meeting at the new Ashurst Village Hall and that the Bramber Society had been successful in its application for a grant to have a ladder/platform to hang the flower baskets. The Village hall had also received a grant.

FINANCE

- a) The annual receipts and payments for the year ended 31 March 2015 had been distributed prior to the meeting and were proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Nick Stubbs and accepted unanimously. (Attached to minutes).
- b) The list of cheques for payment was presented and agreed and also showed that the SWAB Neighbourhood Plan account was £1,283.98 in deficit.
- c) The Clerk reminded members that last year council agreed to a 3 year agreement with Came&Co for the council's insurance and asked that the council confirm this should continue. The premium this year is £308.25 representing a 5% discount from last year. Councillors were unanimous this insurance be continued.

6. PLANNING

a) Update

New Applications

DC/15/0351 1 The Ridings

Surgery to 1 x Weeping Ash and 2 x Sycamore trees

DC/15/0539 Lime Trees The Street

Pollard 2 x Lime Trees (TPO)

DC/15/0536 3, The Ridings

Surgery to 1 x Ash Tree (TPO)

SDNP/15/01049/FUL Springfield, Sopers Lane

Proposed agricultural building as amendment to SDNP/12/03352/FUL

DC/15/0731 Land East of Little St Mary's, The Street

Fell 1 x Silver Birch (T9), 1 x Ash (T10), 1 x Oak (T12), 1 X Apple (T14), 1 x Elm (T18), 1 x Beech (T23),

! x Cherry Plum (T39) and Cypress Hedge (T24-T31) and Surgery to 1 X Sycamore (T2), 1 x Ash (T11), Hornbeam Group (T15,T19,T21 and T22), Hazel (T16) and Beech (T20)

Works in a Conservation Area

b) The Council then considered the Springfield application above and came to the conclusion that there were no objections to the amendment.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

a) Report from Steering Group

The chairman reported that some of the focus groups were amalgamating- Transport and Access will join with Environment and Heritage and Community will work together. The Housing and Business/Economy will still work separately.

b)Housing Survey

We expect this to be started within the next two weeks.

c)Call for Sites. Nick explained that this was a requirement of the plan and that this has been advertised. At present only ¾ small sites have been presented but others are expected.

8. PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Communications- Next update for Your Steyning will follow the appointment of the new council.

Information has been received about a new e-mailed newsletter for the Beeding, Bramber and Botolphs communities. It is free to join and to advertise.

www.community-newsletter.org

Traffic and Highways- 4 lamp posts remain to have the lamps updated.

Speed checks are not planned in The Street following the re-design.

The Castle View developers have agreed to re-site bollards this month to match existing and will also replace the missing bollard from outside Yew Cottage.

Housing Development- A planning application to remove and have surgery on trees on the Land East of Little St Mary's has been received and the council has asked Christine Supiot for advice before making its representation to HDC.

Flood Planning- Teresa Wilway from the Environment Agency is speaking at the Annual Parishioners Meeting on 20 May.

The funding has been received from Operation Watershed for the flood equipment store project in the toilet block and this will proceed shortly.

Community Safety/Youth- Negotiations are still on-going with English heritage about a possible music event at Bramber Castle this summer.

9. ENVIRONMENT

Following the death of a dog on the A283 the Council had been asked if a gate and more fencing could be erected to prevent this happening again. Councillors asked for more information as they were concerned this may affect the Downslink/Walks for All access. **Action: Clerk/Chairman**

10. YOUTH PROVISION

Roger Potter and Marilyn Goddard attended the meeting of SAYS on 4 March. All is going well with the Cuthman Centre. There had been a trustees meeting on 6 February and Councillor Coldwell had emphasized that that all reserves in the \SAYS bank account belong to the parishes, and that parishes need to formally ratify the reserves policy approved at the Trustees' meeting. It was also noted that trustees will need to be re-appointed in June and parish representatives to SAYS be re-appointed by the parish AGMs.

It was decided to continue with the scope of the service as currently defined.

11. SHOWCASE – 9th MAY

It was decided to use updated material used at the Neighbourhood Plan launch and that the clerk will e-mail a rota for councillors to complete their availability.

Action: Clerk

12. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Steyning Area Minibus Association's request for grant.

It was proposed by Jim Goddard and seconded by Nick Stubbs that a donation of £100 be sent. This was agreed.

b) Information received about parish appointments to the South Downs National Park authority was not of interest to councillors.

c) Enquiry about Green Leaves.

An e-mail asked if a picture of a house called Green leaves could be identified.

Council agreed it was where the present flats still of the same name are now situated.

Action: Clerk

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Parish Meeting followed by A.G.M. 20th May at 7 p.m.