

BRAMBER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at Beeding & Bramber Village Hall on Wednesday, 20th May 2015 at 8.30 pm

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor David Barling, Councillor David Coldwell, Mrs S Bignell and Paul Conroy (N.Warden).
- 2. PRESENT:** Councillors R. Potter (Chairman), N.Mills, J.Goddard, N.Stubbs, Ms J Howley, Mrs D Goodall and Mrs M Goddard.
- 3. IN ATTENDANCE:** M.Pearce (Neighbourhood Warden), M Tilley (Website), Ms Teresa Wilway (Environment Agency) and approx 25 residents.
- 4. MINUTES:** The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2014 were approved and signed.
- 5. NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN'S REPORT:**

Michael Pearce reported that there had been two shed break-ins in The Street, a van broken into in De Braose Way as well as a car break-in. Tools appear to be the target for thefts across the area and the wardens are preparing a further property marking event. There have been several anti-social driving reports and also issues about a particular moped. The importance of using the Operation Crackdown website to report incidents was emphasised.

A suggestion was made by a resident to photograph tools stored in garages to aid identification. Another resident raised the issue of motorbikes on the by-pass at weekends and another spoke of the difficulty of reading the registration plates on bikes.

The question of a 30mph limit on Clays Hill was again raised by residents who are concerned speeds are increasing and more accidents arising. A petition was given to the council which will continue to work with police and highways to get some signage.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave thanks to members of the council and the clerk for their support during the year. He also thanked Christine Supiot for all her help and advice about trees and footpaths, Mick Tilley for his management of the website and to the team of volunteers who are responsible for the management of the magnificent flower displays along The Street and also for maintaining a flood watch.

The Chairman praised the work that the youth worker had done throughout the year and said how important this is to the area. The Walks for All project will be completed in the coming months and already the paths are being used much more. The parish council is looking into the possibility of placing dog bins. The improvements to the design of The Street were completed this year and have been welcomed although there is some concern that traffic speeds have increased.

The Neighbourhood Plan Bramber is completing with Steyning, Ashurst and Wiston is continuing well and the Chairman thanked parishioners for completing the survey and warned that another short survey about housing needs has to be conducted in Bramber shortly. Grants received from West Sussex County Council's operation Watershed has enabled the council to organise two drainage projects in Maudlin and also a refurbishment of the old ladies' toilet so that flood sacks can be stored.

26 planning applications and 30 applications regarding trees have been received throughout the year and the council continues to work with the Parish Plan.

7. THE FUTURE OF THE RIVER ADUR INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD:

Teresa Wilway from the Environment Agency and project manager for the changes to the River Adur Internal Drainage Board firstly gave a short history and overview of the boards. There are 120 districts in England at the moment and of these 112 are governed by a board of agricultural landowners and councillors and just 8 (including the Adur) by the Environment Agency.

The work the agency does is mainly on the smaller watercourses and the maintenance of the 4 pumping stations. Work on the watercourses mainly concerns vegetation management and total costs run between £35.55k. per year.

Ms Wilway said that in line with government policy the management of ordinary watercourse within Sussex and Kent will transfer to local ownership and therefore the IDD is to be abolished. Riparian landowners will be responsible for maintaining their own ditches but the E.V. will continue to maintain the Annington Pumping Station at least until 2021 as the agency owns the land. It will continue to run as an emergency pump-sometimes with an additional pump- until this time.

The proposal is to be submitted formally to the minister in the summer and the IDD abolished in March 2016. The West Sussex CC steering group will monitor the this to ensure a smooth transition. A small number of riparian landowners will be targeted to ensure vegetation management is maintained and West Sussex County Council will be responsible for enforcement.

Several residents expressed concern that if just one or two landowners did not maintain ditches then there would be flooding problems. However, Ms Wilway said

that there had been few difficulties in the 112 areas which had worked like this for years. A further problem was raised about areas of land where owners are unknown.

The Chairman thanked Teresa for her very informative talk and residents took away further information.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Nick Mills, the chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan gave an update of how it was progressing and said that there were opportunities for more people to participate if they wished. Over 100 residents of the four parishes had contributed. He apologised for the additional survey for Bramber residents but explained that the other areas had already completed it.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.