

Bramber Parish Council

Meeting Minutes ***Wednesday 29 July 2015*** **at Bramber & Beeding Village Hall**

PRESENT:

Councillors R. Potter (Chair), N. Stubbs, J. Goddard, M. Tilley, Mrs M. Goddard, Ms J. Howley, Mrs D. Goodall and the clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Councillor D. Barling, District Councillor B. Staines, Mrs. L. Burt (Horsham Matters) and 6 residents.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors N. Mills and Mrs S. Bignell, District Councillor D. Coldwell and P. Conroy (Neighbourhood Warden).

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 June 2015 were agreed and signed.

3. OPEN FORUM

Youth Service

The Chairman introduced Liz Burt from Horsham Matters, the organization responsible for delivering the Youth Service. The Chairman explained to the meeting that the original contract runs for 3 years and that we are at the beginning of this third year. The Council will decide at the next meeting whether this service should continue and asked Liz to describe what is happening so that councillors are more informed. A visual presentation showed the variety of activities, participants' views and links with the community. In response to questions Liz said that the service supported 10-19 year olds with 84 registered in the Youth Clubs and 16 at The Hub with an 80+% of regular attendees. She praised the inspiring work of Emma, the youth leader and also the help of Paul Conroy, the Neighbourhood Warden.

Walks for All

The Council had received a letter from a local resident saying that he supported a proposal from Upper Beeding PC that the new footpath be opened to cyclists. This would then mean that cyclists would not need to use a dangerous Downlink crossing near Dacre Gardens.

Martin Leigh-Pollitt, the Chairman of the Steyning Partnership which instigated the project, re-iterated the objectives of the plan which was to provide a safe and accessible footpath for families, the elderly and the disabled. It would also ensure that it was accessible to prams, pushchairs and wheelchairs.

There were several opinions expressed by the council, the majority supporting the original aims of the scheme and the fact that the council had donated a significant sum of money on those terms. Several councillors were worried that if cyclists were permitted then it would be used by horse riders too thereby damaging the surface. A minority felt that it would improve safety on the Downlink.

It was proposed by Councillor Goddard and seconded by Councillor Stubbs that the original designation be retained and this was carried.

4. REPORTS

County Council

Kissing Gate

Councillor Barling gave the news that the kissing gate was to be re-installed on the Downslink on 11th August. The work will be done by volunteers. The Chairman thanked Councillor Barling for his quick response to the problem raised at the last meeting.

Clays Hill

Councillor Barling had both good and bad news. The roundabout could be de-restricted, thereby moving the 30mph sign to the bottom of Clays Hill. Additionally 2 other roads would require further signage installed. The total cost would be in the region of £17,000 and, as it is not a priority for WSCC, the Parish Council would be responsible. Councillor Goodall suggested the council re-consider the use of temporary signs and SIDs.

Maudlin Lane

There is still no date for the vegetation beyond Maudlyn Park to be cut. The hedge between Coombe Drove and Clays Hill is privately owned and WSCC have written to the landowner.

Councillor J Goddard raised the question of newly planted hawthorn shrubs on the Bostal Road which are likely to cause problems.

District Council

Councillor Staines gave the report on behalf of the District Councillors:

Adopt-a-Street HDC has asked all councillors to draw the attention of Parishes to this scheme and to give it publicity. It is complimentary to the litter picking scheme and apart from keeping streets tidy should promote community spirit.

Planning Matters Improvements continue to be made in the processes and new staff and consultants engaged. The consultants are principally involved in major applications of which there are a large number. The enforcement part of planning is under some stress given the relatively small size of the department and the sheer number of enforcements that are required to be dealt with.

Youth Services HDC organized a meeting on 20 July which was attended by Councillors Potter and Marilyn Goddard.

HPDF There was an attempt to make a major modification to the Horsham Strategic Plan but this was defeated. The problem is that any delay to the plan, also causes significant delays to CIL which directly affects parishes. The inspection of the plan resumed and was completed. It is hoped an approved plan will be ready for adoption in the Autumn. In the meantime the inspector has told the Council that 800 units is required against the 750 previously agreed. It is not expected that this will be a problem because there are already this number planned to the next 6 years.

Neighbourhood Wardens

Paul Conroy sent the following report:

Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime

We have had cause to intervene with a group of young people passing through Bramber early on a Friday evening and took alcohol from those whom we knew to be in possession and under age.

We have referred them to the anti-social behaviour team and warning letters will be sent to their parents.

We have passed onto police information regarding a white Transit Van that we saw on various occasions on the evening of Friday 19th June in Annington rd. We believe that the driver and his companion, both young males, were behaving in a suspicious manner.

Michael Mauger from Bramber has been reported missing by Police who are very concerned for his safety. Michael is white .5' 9'' and of medium build with short white hair and a ruddy complexion. It is not known what he was last seen wearing, but he usually wears a floppy sun hat. There have been no further updates from the missing person's team.

Joint Parishes Burial Board

The Chairman reported on the Annual General Meeting of the board held on 20 July 2015. He said that the board had been looking at ways to extend the Botolphs Cemetery, by purchasing additional, adjacent land, to provide the needs of the community for future generations.

The board has considered options for raising extra funds and examined fees and charges of other cemeteries in Sussex. It was found that Botolphs was the only cemetery not to charge for the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial. The Board proposed at the meeting that a charge equal to the cost of the interment fee be made for the first or only interment. The proposal was approved.

5. FINANCE

The financial statement was presented and approval proposed by J. Goddard and seconded by Ms J. Howley and approved. Cheques were presented for signatures.

6. PLANNING

a) Update

New Applications

DC/15/1471 4 Clays Hill

Retention of single storey ancillary garden building

DC/15/1392 19 The Ridings

Fell 1 x Cedrus Deodara

DC/15/1475 The Old Stable Little Drove

Surgery to 1 x Maple

SDNP/15/03490/OHL Street Record Sopers Lane

Overhead lines, removal of poles and installation of new poles

SDNP/15/03525/TEL Sopers Lane

Prior notification to install a micro station

Decisions

Permitted

DC/15/1131 Land East of Little St Mary's, The Street

Amended proposals for construction of a new dwelling (previous approval ref APP/Z3825/A/00/1045790)

DC/15/0904 3 Maudln House Maudlyn Parkway

Surgery to 2 x Beech Trees (TPO)

DC/15/1051 15 The Ridings

Surgery to 1 x Sycamore

DC/15/1231 31 Coombe Drove

Fell 1 x Sycamore

Refused

SDNP/15/01468/HOUS Annington Nursery Annington Road

Occupation of dwelling in non-compliance with agricultural condition (Certificate of Lawful Development-Existing)

b) The Council then considered the application for 4, Clays Hill.

The Council considered this application as if it was a completely new application prior to building. Following discussion and consideration it was proposed that objections be made to the application on the grounds of over-development, serious concern about neighbours' privacy and setting of a precedent.

The council also asked that if HDC decided to approve this application then a condition be made that significant planting (large hedging or fencing) be erected immediately.

Action:Clerk

The Council had no comments about the new poles or micro station to be put in Sopers Lane.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Call for Sites

In the absence of Councillor Mills the Chairman reported that the Housing Focus Group is due to set the assessment criteria for sites and these will be then taken to the Steering Group for comment and approval in August. The parish councils will be given the site criteria for information only.

The Housing Focus Group will assess sites and speak to owners and it is hoped assessment will be completed by late September. All sites will remain confidential and parish Councils will be informed of all the details at the time of the production of the draft Neighbourhood Plan (October). It is anticipated that the referendum will be held in March/April 2016.

Housing Needs Survey:

The draft copy of the survey has been received and showed that over 30% of residents had responded. There had been a good level (63%) of support for the principle of local needs affordable housing with a modest need of 11 households. Councillors were requested to give comments prior to the final draft.

Action:All

8. HIGHWAYS

These issues were covered under item 4.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter had been received from the Beeding & Bramber History Society giving details of a book it was producing about local people who had died in the World War1. The Society is looking for contributions towards printing costs. Councillor J. Goddard proposed £50 be given and this was approved.

Horsham District Council had requested a new project list for the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the original list to help councillors complete the form. **Action:Clerk**

The next meeting of the Council is Wednesday, 2nd September at 7.00 p.m.