

**BRAMBER PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Council Meeting held on **04 January 2017**  
at Beeding & Bramber Village Hall

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

1 resident, District Councillor David Coldwell until 8p.m and County Councillor David Barling who attended from 8.15p.m.

**1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Roger Potter.

**2. MINUTES:**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 were read and proposed for acceptance by Councillor J.Goddard, seconded by Councillor Crocker and approved and signed.

The clerk asked for an amendment as the attendance of Michael Pearce (Neighbourhood Warden ) had not been recorded. This was agreed. Action points would be covered during the meeting.

**3. OPEN FORUM**

No issues were raised.

**4. REPORTS**

**County Council**

Councillor Barling reported that he had seen Jonathon Ulmer who had said that the proposed work to the damaged pavement in The Street had met all the criteria for funding and would now be prioritised against other proposals in the County. He felt that there is a strong likelihood that it will be done later in the year.

During the discussion about the village gateway sign Councillor Barling said he would ask Chris Stark about prices.

**District Council**

Councillor Coldwell reported that this had been a very quiet period for the council but that Council Tax is likely to increase by 1.75% to cover inflation although this has not yet been confirmed. The car parking consultation continues until 18 January.

**Neighbourhood Wardens**

The following report was received from Michael Pearce:

The South Horsham area, which includes towns and villages such as Pulborough, Steyning, Billingshurst and Henfield, has seen 22 burglaries in the past four weeks, compared to only six in the same period last year. The Billingshurst and Pulborough areas have experienced the worst of the latest offences, in which two vehicles have often been seen and also two men together.

Currently 14 burglaries in these areas between 5 December - 19 December are being treated as linked, which means they are believed to be being committed by the same person or group of people.

We have received information from a resident of the Street in Bramber that at around 11.30pm on Christmas Eve two male adults were drunk and disorderly and were hitting several car rear view mirrors. They were able to identify the two individuals but it is not clear at this stage whether they reported this to the Police. Both adults are known to the Police for previous offences.

We held the first Wardens Surgery for Bramber and Upper Beeding at the Hub Café on Wed 7<sup>th</sup> December. Take up was slow and it is hoped that the next surgery which takes place on Wed 18<sup>th</sup> January at the Hub between 1100 -1230 am will be more successful. The Press Release is on the Bramber website.

### **Joint Parishes Cemetery Committee**

Councillor Stubbs reported on the first meeting of this committee which replaces the Burial Board. He said it was a lively meeting with strong public attendance mainly from the local churches.

Decisions from the previous meeting about procedural matters were ratified. Representatives from the churches put forward their views about representation on the committee and after much discussion it was agreed that each Church would be invited to nominate a representative to regularly attend meetings. They would contribute to discussions but not have voting rights. This arrangement will be monitored.

The accounts up to 30 Nov 2016 were agreed and the total estimated cash fund at the end of March is £44,666. A significant part of this (circa £35,000 on present estimations) will be required for the proposed land purchase. Current projections of monthly income and expenditure are not encouraging and further work needs to be carried out for a clearer understanding of the likely impact of these projections. The decision that in the event of the committee having to call on the participating councils for additional funding, this will be based on the proportion of Band D properties in each parish was also ratified.

The next meeting takes place on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### **Joint Parishes Youth Committee**

Members had received a copy of the proposed agreement with Horsham Matters and wanted confirmation that this was a one year agreement and

that co-opted members would be need to be re- appointed. It was agreed that the document showed that the intention was to run for 3 years but that decisions about continuing had to be made by the end of Dec each year.

Acceptance of the agreement was proposed by Councillor M.Goddard, seconded by Councillor Goodall and agreed.

## **5.FINANCE**

a) The financial statement, showing a balance e of £27,558.48 with a carry forward figure of £26,026 .66 for Bramber and £1,531.82 for SWAB was presented. Approval was proposed by Councillor J.Goddard and seconded by Councillor Stubbs and agreed.

b) Councillors then considered the precept for 2017-18.They had received information about a range of increases and also considered the fact of an estimated overspend next year of approximately £2,700. After much discussion Councillor J.Goddard proposed that the precept be raised by £500 to a total of £21,500. This was seconded by Councillor Stubbs and agreed. This represents an increase of 2.86 on the precept and an increase of £1.16 on the Band D (2.28%).

c) The clerk reported that there had been an increase in the number of tree applications this year and more than the tree warden appointed at the start of the year had expected. The council discussed the possibility of giving her a small contribution to the expenses she has encountered including telephone calls, travel to visits and to training. Councillor Goodall proposed an amount of £50 and this was seconded by Councillor M Goddard and agreed.

## **6. PLANNING**

a) Update

### **New Applications**

**DC/16/2896 Monks Gate, The Street**

Proposed two and single storey extension

**DC/16/2876 13 The Ridings**

Fell x 4 trees and Surgery x 3 trees (species unknown)

**DC/16/2924 Burletts, Clays Hill**

Surgery x 2 Sycamore trees

### **Decisions**

**DC/16/1714 Hoppits, Castle Lane**

Demolish existing garage and erect a three bedroom bungalow

**Application Refused**

**DC/16/1981 The Old Tollgate, The Street**

Erection of a single sided fabricated Best Western brand Property

Identification sign to replace existing in same location **Permitted**

**DC/16/2516 Oakleigh House, Little Drove**

Fell 1 x Ash Tree and Surgery 1 x Yew Tree **Application Permitted**

**DC/16///2609 Beakes Place, The Street**

Surgery 2 x Sycamore Trees (Works to Trees in a Conservation Area)  
**Application Permitted**

**Withdrawn Application**

**SDNP/16/05998/APNB Upper Maudlyn Farm, Sopers Lane**

b)The council considered the following application:

DC/16/2896 Monks Gate , The Street for a two storey and single extension. Councillors agreed there were no objections to these proposals.

**7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Mills reported that work on the plan remains on hold until representatives of the Steering Group have attended a meeting at HDC towards the end of this month. It is hoped that then once Horsham's plans are known decisions can be made on progressing the plan.

**8. HIGHWAYS**

a) The roundabout

A letter had been from Highways had been forwarded from Councillor Barling which said that it would be impossible for the parish to pay towards the cost of alterations o the roundabout and whilst there was support from WSCC there was no money to fund the work. Councillors then discussed the alternatives. Councillor Croker confirmed that the cost of the Speed Indicator Device would be approx £4,500 and Councillor Stubbs asked about the possibility of a village gateway at the bottom of Clays Hill. He said he would find information about these and the clerk said she would e-mail clerks to see if any area had experience of these.

**Action:N.S. and the clerk**

There was general agreement that the council should go ahead with the purchase and installation of the SID and it was proposed by Councillor Croker and seconded by Councillor Goodall that an application be made to Highways for a license for three sites and that an agreement be made with the lighting contractors. This was agreed unanimously. **Action:M.C.**

b) Steyning Car Parks

A request had come from Steyning PC for the council to support their action against HDC's proposal to bring in car park charges.

There was much discussion on this topic and eventually it was agreed by 7 councillors and 1 abstention not to support the opposition to the charges on the following grounds:

There was no indication in the letter as to how the car parks would be funded. If it was decided to increase the Steyning precept the council considered this would be a more expensive option for Steyning residents. Councillors felt that it should be the car park users who should pay and that residents of Bramber would be happy to pay the £12 annual fee to park in Steyning and other local villages.

## **9. PARISH PLAN**

It was agreed that the Carol Service had been very successful and the Chairman extended thanks to all who had helped with putting up and taking down the Christmas tree and also to St Mary's for hosting tea and mince pies after the carols.

The Emergency Planning Group had met and identified the main issues arising from the Environment Agency no longer having responsibility for ditch maintenance. The Chairman met with Kevin Stacey to discuss St Mary's ditch.

He has agreed to contact the EV to find out what has been completed and what outstanding maintenance issues remain. He will ensure pipes under the A283 are clear, ensure that the overgrown channel at the end of the drain near the road bridge is cleared and also clarify what stretch of St Mary's Drain WSCC will have responsibility for from March next year. Councillor Potter will arrange for the EV to give further training on ditch clearance. He is also consulting with Operation Watershed on the purchase of tools.

The first of "The What if" training sessions takes place next Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Jan at 7.15p.m.

## **10. ENVIRONMENT**

Nothing further to report.

## **11. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Council was reminded that the consultation about the additional precept for the police was closing shortly
- b) A request for a £100 donation had been received from Horsham Age UK but it was decided not to donate as it was not considered sufficiently local.

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday, 08 February 2017** at 7.00 p.m.