

**BRAMBER PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Council Meeting held on **08 February 2017**  
at Beeding & Bramber Village Hall

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

1 resident and District Councillor B. Staines until 7.45.p.m.

**1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies had been received from County Councillor D.Barling, District Councillor D. Coldwell, Councillor Mrs M. Goddard and the Neighbourhood Wardens.

**2. MINUTES:**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 04 January 2017 were read and proposed for acceptance by Councillor Mills, seconded by Councillor Goddard and approved and signed.

The action regarding investigations about installing a village sign is outstanding.

**3. OPEN FORUM**

A resident asked if it would be possible to find a local auditor who would voluntarily do the internal verification for the council. The clerk said that up to now this had always been the case but that she had advised the council that with new regulations and the continued emphasis on transparency, consideration should be given to using an auditor experienced with working with local councils.

**4. REPORTS**

**District Council**

Councillor Staines reported that Councillor Coldwell has been working with Upper Beeding PC to get the 20mph limit extended right through Upper Beeding. He said that the HDC consultation about car park charges was now closed. The HDC budget is being completed.

**Neighbourhood Wardens**

Michael Pearce sent in the following report:

This month has seen the continuation of a series of burglaries across the district including several throughout the three parishes. We have been

linking in with the Police and have increased our vehicle patrols across area, whilst feeding back any information on suspect people or vehicles to the Police.

We have also checked the credentials of cold callers and on one occasion called the police to deal with a male whom we believed to be of suspicion. The individual was uncooperative upon being challenged by us but did cooperate with the Police.

We would like to remind residents to remain vigilant and to call any suspicious behaviour into both ourselves and the Police on 101.

January has been a relatively quiet month as regards to anti-social behaviour in Bramber, however there have been two incidents in which we've had cause to engage with a small group of youths whom have been moving between Upper Beeding and Steyning. We believe members of this group have been causing ASB and vandalism across the parishes over the past month and are moving through Bramber regularly. We have made the Anti-Social Behaviour team aware and are monitoring the movements and behaviour of these individuals.

On Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> we confiscated alcohol from two underage young people near Bramber Castle and ensured they left the area.

We reported an abandoned vehicle that was left for a considerable length of time in the Bramber Car Park. We would like to make residents aware that abandoned vehicles can be reported on the Police via the 'operation crackdown' website. [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org)

### **Joint Parishes Youth Committee**

The contract has been received from Horsham Matters for Bramber's share (12.5%) of the costs of the Youth Service. This shows that Bramber PC will be paying £3106.94 for employment costs and £731.67 for delivery costs. The contract runs for three years but councillors were assured that it can be terminated at the end of each year. Councillor Mills proposed acceptance of the contract and was seconded by Councillor Tilley and agreed.

The Council then considered the updated terms of reference and Councillor Croker suggested that it should state the number of non council members and the criteria for their selection. This will be taken to the next committee meeting in March. **Action: Chair**

The first official meeting of the committee following the closure of SAYS will take place on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Village Hall Committee**

Councillor Tilley reported that grant money for a new sound system is still being sought and also that no one has yet come forward to take on

the post of treasurer in the new financial year. The hall is currently planning further improvements both inside and outside.

## **5. FINANCE**

a) The financial statement, showing a balance of £24,078.36 with SWAB owing £318.13 was presented. Approval was proposed by Councillor N. Mills and seconded by Councillor Goddard and agreed.

b) Details had been received from an auditor in Lindfield with much experience of working with local councils who would be prepared to do the internal verification of the accounts. The clerk had also contacted the auditor who dealt with several other nearby parishes but he has yet to reply. A proposal was made by Councillor Croker to wait for the second quote and employ the cheaper option. This was seconded by Councillor Mills and agreed.

c) The clerk had received notification from EDF that the present contract was ending in March and that we could continue that for a further year at increased prices or move to a 3 year fixed price at a 10p cheaper daily rate. As this would work out substantially cheaper Councillor Mills proposed that the council to moves to the new deal and was seconded by Councillor Croker and agreed.

d) The clerk reported that she had changed the tel/broadband package as the previous method of paying line rental separately was now far more expensive. She asked if the council was prepared to pay half the cost of the package (£138) which was considerably cheaper than the last line rental payment. Councillor Mills proposed this be accepted and was seconded by Councillor Goddard and agreed.

e) The council had received a request from the village hall for a contribution towards the cost of resurfacing the path in front and at the side of the hall. After discussion Councillor Mills suggested the council donate £150 and this was seconded by Councillor Goodall and agreed.

f) The clerk will forward details of the minutes which gave information about donations to the swimming pool. **Action: Clerk**

## **6. PLANNING**

The clerk reported that there had only been one application from South Corner Maudlyn Park for surgery to a tree. This had been passed to the tree warden.

## **7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Mills reported on the conference held by HDC and attended by representatives from the four parishes and by one of the consultants. He felt that it was good news for SWAB as the pre-sub had not yet been presented.

The site assessments by SWAB are very similar to the examples given and there will be only a few additions needed plus a need to strengthen the evidence base. This will also be needed for the Green Spaces assessments.

The Steering Group will re-convene for a new start once the consultants are ready. The major piece of work still to do is the Strategic Environmental Assessment which will be undertaken by the consultant and it is hoped to obtain a grant for this.

There will be a public exhibition of the Wiston Estate plan on 27<sup>th</sup> march.

## **8. HIGHWAYS**

Councillor Croker reported on developments with the Speed Indicator Device project. In finding additional quotes he has come across a more portable device and there was much discussion about which would be preferable. Councillor Croker will make further enquiries and this will be further considered at the next meeting.

## **9. PARISH PLAN**

The Chairman reported on developments in the parish.

B The planned alterations to the roundabout have now been made and the majority of the people the chairman has spoken to have welcomed the changes.

D All 4 of the houses at Castle View are now occupied.

E The Emergency Planning Group has made an application to Operation Watershed for kit and tools to help clear ditches. This will be available to all residents to use when clearing their ditches. Once this has been received there will be a meeting with the Environment agency for further instruction.

F Members of the Emergency Group attended a training session at the Steyning Fire Station during which the water pump was tested to ensure everyone knew how to use it

The second part of the WSCC emergency training will take place at the Annual Parishioners' Meeting in April.

I Several severe electrical outages were experienced on part of The Street on two days in January causing great inconvenience to all including The Old Tollgate. Members of the emergency group made sure everyone was coping and supplied information. The Chairman will be following it up with the supplier. Also, on two occasions during January the salt spreader was deployed and pavements were treated by members of the group showing again what a vital function this is to the community.

## **10. ENVIRONMENT**

Councillor Croker asked the clerk to reply to the e-mail from HDC regarding the Visitor Economy Strategy which has received a grant from DEFRA. He wished to ask that Bramber PC be kept informed for any developments.

Councillor Mills reported that Bramber Community Orchard is being set up at Bramber Brooks and that once it is established there will be an annual wassail. There is to be a meeting with the OART to walk the site with regard to water management. 120+ trees consisting of several different species have been planted across the whole site .

#### **11. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Information about a candidates event for the WSCC election.
- b) Information about a meeting of The Horsham Older Peoples Forum with a question time with Nick Herbert M.P. on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

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

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017** at 7.00 p.m.