

BRAMBER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parishioners' Meeting

12th April 2017 at 6.30 p.m.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies had been received from Mr Martin Leigh-Pollitt
2. **Present:** Councillors R.Potter (Chairman), N.Mills, J.Goddard, N.Stubbs, M.Tilley, M.Crocker, D Goodall and the clerk.
3. **In attendance:** County Councillor D. Barling, District Councillor D. Coldwell, Michael Pearce (Neighbourhood Warden), and 24 residents.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 04 May 2017 were read and signed.
5. **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman began his report by thanking all members of the council and the clerk for their hard work throughout the year. He especially thanked Marilyn Goddard who has resigned as a councillor after over 20 years service and will be missed and to Nick Mills who announced his resignation both as Vice Chairman of the council and also as Chairman of the Steyning, Wiston, Ashurst and Bramber (SWAB) Neighbourhood Plan at this meeting. It is hoped that Nick may be able to rejoin the council at a later date if his work commitments allow.

He also paid thanks to the Neighbourhood Wardens for all their efforts and emphasised the importance to the community of their work. He gave thanks to Lynne Broome our voluntary tree warden for her expertise in assessing an unusually large number of tree related applications.

He thanked the County and District Councillors for all their support throughout the year. He also extended the council's special thanks to all the volunteers who provide such a valuable service to the community.

The Chairman went on to outline the many activities of the council during the year and the detailed report is attached to these minutes. In mentioning the footpaths he said how successful the Walks for All scheme has proved and said how much the council appreciated the work of Martin Leigh-Pollitt and the Steyning Partnership in making this a reality.

6. **Neighbourhood Warden's Report:** Michael Pearce gave the following report

Anti-Social Behaviour Bramber has seen a relatively quiet year in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour but has not been without incident. On several occasions we have had cause to intervene with groups of youths and confiscate alcohol. Such groups mainly travel to and

from Upper Beeding & Steyning through Bramber and on occasions there have been cases of associated criminal damage. There was one serious incident where a resident was assaulted at their home by a young man who is known to us. We visited the resident regarding the incident but they didn't want to take it any further. There have been no further incidents. We have had several reports of Anti-social driving around Bramber, namely The Street, relating to motorbikes and cars doing "doughnuts" at Bramber Castle. On several occasions we have referred information to operation crackdown and the Police. On one occasion calling 999 due to a motorcyclist driving dangerously on an unlicensed vehicle, with no helmet, at high speed on the main road.

Crime Burglaries have been our main concern this past year as regards to major crime across the three parishes. Steyning & Shoreham in particular saw a prolonged spike of Burglaries which have thankfully subsided in recent months. At this time we had increased and intensified our Patrols across the three parishes, feeding in and sharing any information with police regarding suspicious activity in the area.

Cold Callers We regularly receive calls across the three parishes relating to Cold Callers, on many occasions over the past year we have had cause to check credentials of individuals and on a few occasions request Police assistance. We have also been and are working to encourage people to report any suspicious activity to ourselves and the Police.

Fly Tipping A few cases reported and cleared around Bramber, one extremely large Fly Tip in the Castle Car Park. We continue to patrol the areas to at the very least deter this behaviour.

Dog Fouling Although an ever present issue across all parishes, we've had a few reports relating to dog fouling. There haven't been any major reports to suggest a serious, ongoing or persistent problem in Bramber.

The Chairman then thanked Michael for the report and invited questions. There was one comment from a resident concerning drones and Michael said that one had been sighted over the castle but no complaints had been received.

- 7. Neighbourhood Plan Report:** Nick Mills gave his final report on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. He identified all the factors re housing and green spaces particularly in relation to Bramber and said that the importance of Steyning as a centre for Bramber residents had been highlighted and will mean that community policies within the plan will take account of this. He went on to list the challenges that the plan now faces: legal challenges the plan could face e.g. Henfield, the fact that Horsham DC is no longer using a 'light touch' approach, the problem of housing development within the National Park and the fierce and prolonged criticism from a

small minority of the community causing additional work for volunteers and consultants.

Finally, he listed the work that was still required to complete the plan. These included both a Sustainability Assessment and a Strategic Environmental Assessment as well as more work to gain more robust evidence in a number of areas and perhaps, most importantly, new volunteers with energy, time and enthusiasm to drive the project forward. The full report will be put on the website.

County Councillor David Barling said thanks should be extended to Nick for the hard work he has done in managing this project thus far and this was agreed by all.

8. What If? You can make a difference

The Chairman then welcomed Chris Scott from West Sussex County Council to the meeting. He then gave an illustrated talk about the ways members of the community can respond to an emergency. He emphasised the need for the safe places to be communicated to residents and the importance of identifying things that can be done to reduce the chances of flooding etc. such as clearing leaves from drains ahead of a forecast of heavy rain. He said that contact with other community groups and the emergency services is important also.

He gave a list of simple rules when responding to an emergency particularly about not putting yourself at risk. He demonstrated how the use of cordons and signage is a simple way to identify specific areas of high risk. He commended Bramber PC for their Emergency Plan and the Chairman said that this would be updated. Chris Scott also said that the council would be receiving some safety equipment from the county council and the Chairman reported that Bramber had received some funding from Operation Watershed to purchase some machinery to help keep the ditches clear.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.