

Bramber Parish Council

Meeting Minutes
Thursday 26 June 2014
at Bramber & Beeding Village Hall

PRESENT:

Messrs R.Potter (Chair), N.Mills, D.Moore and the clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor David Barling, Councillor David Coldwell and Mrs Debbie Wood, Community Seniors Worker for the area.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Jim Goddard, Mrs S Bignell, Mrs M Goddard, N.Stubbs and P. Conroy.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 May 2014 were read, agreed and signed.

Matters Arising:

3.4 The Chairman reported that he had spoken with Upper Beeding Chairman about the new village hall floor but this had not yet been discussed. A decision was deferred to the next meeting.

3. OPEN FORUM

Debbie Wood explained that she was now employed by Upper Beeding Baptist Church having worked with the Police Force for 30 years. She is based at The Hub and is setting up the Link Visiting Scheme. The scheme will use volunteers to visit older people who have been referred and encourage them to come out of their homes. Activities will be created for them to participate in such as a fashion show and an afternoon tea with a choir. Links have already been established with Horsham Age UK, the Wardens and the Police and the Health Centre. A start up grant of £3,000 has been received from the police and this will be matched by the Upper Beeding Baptist Church. The main launch of the service is due to take place in September but prior to this there will be a soft launch matching 5 volunteers with 5 clients on a one to one basis.

The Chairman thanked Debbie and the Council wished her well in her endeavours and will give her full support.

4. REPORTS

County Council

David Barling said that the works on The Street were still due to go ahead on 1st October and that plans for the Downs link underpass were moving forward and that work is hoped to be done by the end of the summer. He asked for information about a new bus service-the Adur Line to be advertised. This is a small company based in Upper Beeding and the service will run on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

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District Council

David Coldwell gave the following report to the council:

Again I have to report that after all the excitements of the strategic plan in April and early May, it has been a relatively quiet month at Horsham. The Council meeting 25th June spent quite some time debating a possible move from the current buildings on North Road to a floor in the building known as County Hall North just down the road. WSCC has recently vacated the 2nd Floor space and moved all staff to a single level. At this stage the Council has simply instructed the Chief Executive and officers to produce a business case for making the move and a decision will be made once the business case has been presented. He will also look at alternative spaces in Horsham as well as a refurbishment of the present building.

There are good arguments for and against the move but the present indications are that the financial savings are likely to be so great that they will override any regarding arguments identity, council chamber fittings etc. Although the overall floor space is smaller than at present, there are numerous meeting rooms on the ground floor level that will be shared with county. Decision time is likely to be autumn and moving, if that is the decision, will be early Summer next year.

It was agreed that a new independent remuneration panel be appointed to look at Councillors allowances; you will recall that there have been no increases in recent years at all despite recommendations to do so. And now it appears that through a series of (un)happy decisions by the revenue that councillors mileage payments might be taxed too!

Several new staff appointments have been made at senior level - the most relevant one for parishes is the appointment of Chris Lyons as Director of Planning, Economic Development and Property.

Burial Board

Marilyn Goddard sent this report of the meeting held on 9th May 2014:

It will be Bramber's turn to Chair the Burial Board in July for the year. As at present we do not have the required two members on the Burial Board. Steyning will take the chair for the coming year and one of Upper Beeding's representatives will be deputy chairman.

The work on Botolphs Church should be completed by the end of September. It has been delayed due to bad weather.

There was discussion on cancelling the annual memorial service due to take place on 14th September as the work on the church will not be complete. However, Rev'd John Challis has offered to conduct a service in the grounds of the church, whatever the weather, so the memorial service will go ahead.

Three memorial applications were all passed.

In the future the JPBB are going to have to purchase more lands so raising the charges was discussed and it was agreed that this will take place next year.

A JPBB activity profile was discussed spanning the years 2010-2014. This showed that whilst numbers had dropped more people were pre purchasing plots. So whilst cash flow was still good at present it will drop in future years. When this happens the JPBB will possibly have to ask the Parish Council for financial assistance.

Dudley Moore agreed to become the representative for Bramber Parish Council. The clerk will forward details to the secretary.

Action: Clerk

HALC

The clerk had attended the meeting on 20 May 2014 and said that representatives from HDC had explained about SHLAA which is a portfolio of possible housing sites but none had been identified in Bramber. A question was asked about the housing land supply shortfall but HDC said that once the district Planning Framework was adopted there will not be such a large shortfall. HDC should have a 5 year housing land supply by 2015.

Emily King from West Sussex CC said her portfolio now included Crime and Disorder and urged parishes to contact their Principal Community Officers. The structure of Adults Services is changing and has been advertised. WSCC are undertaking a rural crime survey and concerns have arisen about cyber crime and dementia.

Ed Dickinson, also from West Sussex reminded Councillors that the Principal Community officers do not handle highways queries and the quickest way is to e-mail highways@westsussex.gov.uk

5. FINANCE

The accounts were presented for payment and proposed by Dudley Moore, seconded by Nick Mills and passed unanimously.

6. PLANNING

a) Update

Considered at Planning meeting 05 June:

DC/14/0899 Hill View Clays Hill, DC/14/0734 South of Stortford, Coombe Drove, DC/14/1055 9 Millfield, The Street and SDNP/14/02481/LIS St Botolph's Church.
New

DC/14/1112 Yew Cottage, The Street

Single storey rear extension (this application had been withdrawn)

DC/14/1099 Bramber Well, The Street

Single storey rear extension, room in the roof with gable end and side dormer windows (affects the setting of a listed building)

SDNP/14/02441/HOUS&02442/LIS

Reconstruction of existing conservatory and extension to existing bathroom dormer

Granted

DC/14/0709 Sopers, Sopers Lane

Single storey side extension

SDNP/13/00643/FUL Land opposite Annington House

Siting and fixing of five livestock feeding silos

b) Applications

DC/14/1099 Bramber Well, The Street

The Council had no objections to these plans providing that HDC considers that the dormer windows will not overlook the neighbouring properties.

SDNP/14/02441/HOUS and 02442/LIS

The Council had no objections to these plans.

Action: Clerk

c) Neighbourhood Plan

Nick Mills reported that the HDC funding is expected in August and then it will be possible to officially engage the consultants. However, Nick is to ask AirS to apply for the Locality funding at the beginning of July.

An exhibition will be held in September to raise the interest of the community.

7. S106 FUNDING (CIL)

Nothing to report.

8. PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Parishioners have received a shortened copy of the latest information.

9. ENVIRONMENT

a) A resident in the Castle Lane area reported that she had found large quantities of dog litter bags around the footpath to Clays Hill on both sides of the by-pass. The Council felt that a dog bin may not be appropriate as an original one was taken away following complaints from nearby residents. The Chairman said that he will speak to the residents to gauge the extent of the problem and the Council will consider the use of notices at the next meeting.

Action:Chair

b) The Chairman reported that Nick Stubbs and Dave Bowskill had attended a meeting about flooding and that the Drainage Board is now working in conjunction with Horsham District Council.

c) A salt bin audit form had been received from WSCC and this was passed to the Chairman in order for bins to be checked for condition and amounts of salt.

Action:Chair

10. YOUTH PROVISION

The latest report from Emma had been distributed to parishioners with the Chairman's letter.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

A request had been received from Sue Booth for the annual contribution to the CAB for the additional session it provides. Last year the Council donated £150 although previously £100 had been given. The service last year catered for just three Bramber residents and in view of this the Chairman proposed that the donation revert to £100 this year, this was seconded by D.Moore and agreed unanimously.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 17 April, 2014**
Planning (if necessary) 27 March, 2014