

BRAMBER PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on **06 September 2017**
at Beeding & Bramber Village Hall at 7 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillors R.Potter (Chair), M.Tilley, M.Crocker, T.Bignell, N.Stubbs, S.Green and the clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE:

7 members of the public and County Councillor D.Barling.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies had been received from Councillors J.Goddard, D.Goodall and D.Kitson, District Councillors D.Coldwell and B.Staines and the Neighbourhood Wardens.

2. MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2017 were read and proposed for signature by Councillor Tilley, seconded by Councillor Crocker and approved.

Actions: The clerk will contact Councillors Goodall and Kitson about a possible change to the date of the November meeting. **Action: Clerk**

3. OPEN FORUM

The Chairman agreed that residents should put their questions about the Neighbourhood Plan under item 7. He also suggested that item 6.b should be brought forward to enable the interested resident to leave.

4. REPORTS

County Council

Councillor Barling reported that there had been little to report during the summer recession.

He said there was to be a meeting the next day at WSCC to discuss the Highways England proposals for the A27 improvements around Arundel and Worthing. He acknowledged that there was a need to do something but that the improvements to traffic growth may be minimal. Residents of the local parishes had been pressing for an exhibition to be held and that there was to be one in Storrington. (details in Correspondence).

A new local Highways Engineer, Steve Douglas, has been appointed and he is advising that the advisory line outside Chestnut House in The Street

can be re-instated. The Chairman will contact the resident to ensure that he would be happy with that.

Action: R.P.

West Sussex Highways are aware that there have been concerns about the quality of the work to the pavement in The Street. He said that the material used softens and smooths out and there have been complaints about puddling. Highways will review in wet conditions. He also said that the work at Upper Beeding had not been done and that concerns have been received from other areas.

He asked that the Chairman contact him if the agreed work on the drain in The Street is not completed soon.

He also advised that some funding from the "Beautiful Outdoors" scheme will be used to improve the South Downs Way crossing north of Dacre Gardens although this will not involve traffic lights.

District Council

Councillor Coldwell sent in the following report:

The schedule for household waste will be changing from weekly to alternate weekly collection but other collections remain unchanged. This, for some, may present a problem but it is also an opportunity to increase the level of waste recycled. As a country we need to increase the rate of recycling to 50% by 2020 and at present we are at about 46% although in Horsham slightly better than that.

There have been comments in the press about changes to the treatment of minor amendments to approved planning applications. When the constitution was revised last year the rules regarding minor amendments and a few other categories e.g. TPO applications, inadvertently created the need for these applications to be brought to committee. For example, if approval has been given for a certain colour of roof tile and then finds this shade is no longer manufactured then an amendment is applied for. This will normally be sorted out by officers. There is no truth in the suggestion that this amendment is designed to subvert the entire planning system.

Neighbourhood Wardens

The following report was received from Michael Pearce:

We received reports from a resident regarding the Anti-Social driving of mopeds & motor bikes in The Street, Bramber. The bikes are reported to have been travelling in small groups up and down the street at high speed. We have increased our patrols and static observation of the area and have also advised the resident to contact us directly when the behaviour is taking place.

We received several reports relating to cold callers, on one occasion having cause to take name and address details of an individual who

acted aggressively to us when challenged, details have been referred to trading standards.

St Nicholas Church has had a spate of vandalism, the bell rope, part of the wooden font, alter frontal and the glass covering the map of the village have been burnt intentionally. We regularly patrol the grounds and are now going inside the church frequently as part of our routine patrols. If anybody has any information relating to this please contact us.

There also has been an instance of Fly Tipping in the castle grounds where garden waste was dumped.

We have continued to patrol the river footpath but in addition to the issue of pedal cycles we've had reports of dog fouling causing an issue for users. We have put some new Dog fouling signs up and are monitoring the situation.

We have carried out door to door leaflet drops in Bramber to raise awareness and give advice relating to rogue traders and the importance of reporting suspicious behaviour, anti-social behaviour and crime to the police.

Councillor Green said she had reported the fly tipping to English Heritage who in turn had reported it to the police as this was the second incident. English Heritage said that it would be cleared up. However, this has still to be done and she will contact them again to chase up.

Action: S.G.

Joint Parishes Cemetery Committee

There had been no meeting of this committee but Councillor Stubbs said that there had been no progress on the possible future purchase of extra land. He also reminded council that the Annual Remembrance service takes place on 10th September at St Botolph's.

Village Hall Committee

Councillor Tilley said that there had been no recent meeting. In response to a question from Councillor Croker he agreed to raise the issue of bike parking arrangements again.

Action: M.T.

5.FINANCE

a) Payments to a value of £972.92 were proposed for approval by Councillor Croker, seconded by Councillor Goodall and agreed (list of cheques for payment attached as an appendix to the minutes). Receipts had totalled £1429.63. The current cash book balance shows a figure of £17,162.33 and will be reconciled with the bank statement when it is received.

The bank reconciliation showed a balance of £16702.62 as at 01 August 2017 and was signed by the Chairman.

6. PLANNING

a) Update: There were no further new applications. DC/17/1245 is going to committee. DC/17/1598, SDNP/17/09287/TCA and SDNP/17/03643/TCA have all been permitted.

b) The council considered application:

DC/17/1864 Castle Inn Cottage, The Street

The council expressed concern that this application had two quite separate parts. It was felt that the retrospective request should have been submitted as a separate application.

The window concerned had been included in a previous application (July 2005) and had been approved as a much smaller window which needed to have obscured glass. However, a much larger window was built and is now the subject of this part of the application. As this building is within the conservation area and the window directly overlooks the neighbouring property it was proposed by Councillor Tilley and seconded by Councillor Croker that this application be refused and the window revert back to the originally approved size with obscured glass. This was unanimously agreed.

The council had no objections to the proposed extension. **Action:Clerk**

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Questions were taken from the floor. The first asked about possible future funding from locality. The chairman said that it may be possible for the cluster to obtain up to £6000 and free Aecom packages. The clerk said that the application would be considered against strict criteria. A second question asked if there were any outstanding invoices to pay and the reply was that the clerk was not aware of any. In answer to a question about how the ratio of payments would be affected if the plan continues the present allocation was explained but also stated that it was not known how the cost would be split in any future grouping. The final question asked if the same consultants would be used again and the Chairman replied that this was unknown at this time.

Councillors were then asked to make a decision about the direction it wished to take. The Chairman explained that Wiston had already withdrawn and that Ashurst was to make its decision the following day. The choices were to stay with the remaining group, to withdraw completely or to undertake a plan for Bramber using much of the high quality work already achieved. Councillors discussed the amount of work this would entail, the effect on housing and green spaces if it wasn't

continued, the possibility of securing sufficient people and the possible costs involved.

Councillor Tilley said that he felt that most of the problems incurred by the plan had come from clustering and he felt that with regret it would be better to leave. Other councillors concurred and it was proposed by Councillor Stubbs and seconded by Councillor Croker and agreed unanimously that Bramber should withdraw and then explore the viability of continuing as one parish.

Councillors had previously considered the FOI requests received and were asked if they were asked to approve the proposed responses. It was proposed by Councillor Tilley that these be sent, this was seconded by Councillor Bignell and agreed.

8. HIGHWAYS

Councillor Croker reported that the speed device on Clays Hill has now been checked and back in place and working satisfactorily. He also said that the one in The Street was working well and suggested it be moved to another position until it was needed by Upper Beeding. **Action:M.C.**

9. PARISH PLAN

The Chairman reminded council that there was a training meeting due to be held on 25 September at 7 p.m. to walk through the emergency plan.

10. ENVIRONMENT

Nothing to report.

11. HORSHAM YEAR OF CULTURE

Horsham DC will announce the grants available for events and Councillor Green said that St Mary's are very interested in participating. The council agreed to support these efforts.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Information had been received about the SSALC AGM and conference.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Wednesday, 11th October at 7 p.m.** Prior apologies were given by Councillor Tilley.