

BRAMBER PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on **22 November 2017**
at Beeding & Bramber Village Hall at 7 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillors R.Potter (Chair), N.Stubbs, M.Tilley,D.Goodall,
S.Green,T.Bignell and D.Kitson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

District Councillor David Coldwell, Michael Pearce (Warden) and 1
resident.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies had been received from Councillors M.Croker and J.Goddard
and District Councillor B.Staines.

2. MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2017 were read and
proposed for signature by Councillor Stubbs, seconded by Councillor
Tilley and approved.

Actions:

2.5 Councillor Tilley confirmed that the village hall had no funds to
install a bicycle shed. Council will ask Councillor Croker to advise on
costs and then make a decision if it wants to make an application for
S106 funding to provide this facility. It may be possible to ask Upper
Beeding for a contribution also.

8.1The MVAS has returned from Upper Beeding and has returned to its
original position outside St Mary's. Councillor Croker is progressing
arrangements for a new post.

3. OPEN FORUM

A local resident had provided information to Councillors about plans to
open up some land for a Nature Reserve open to the public with a circular
walk and seating areas. This would provide a quiet area for birdwatching,
photography and wildlife watching as well as hides. There is an
opportunity for the council to apply for a grant of £10,000 from Rampion
as the plans meet all the criteria for this. This money would provide
fencing, seating, information boards etc. to enable this historic land to
become a community asset. Once established the owner will be
responsible for all on-going costs.

Following discussion the council was unanimous in its decision to take this plan forward and form a group to include interested residents to make the initial application. This has to be completed by 12 January 2018 so the schedule is tight. Councillors Green, Tilley and Potter have undertaken to organise this. **Action: S.G.,M.T.,R.P.**

4. REPORTS

County Council

There was no report.

District Council

Councillor Coldwell reported that the Chief Executive of the council is to retire and that interviews take place shortly. HDC is also recruiting more compliance officers. There will be a 3% rise on council tax this year. He also reminded the council of the planning seminar taking place on the morning of 19 December. The clerk confirmed that she had booked places for 3 councillors to attend. (Councillors Croker, Tilley and Stubbs).

Neighbourhood Wardens

Michael Pearce gave the following report:

October has been a quiet month in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour across the three parishes.

A resident has reported a suspicious vehicle which has regularly been stopping in Maudlyn Park for long periods, the driver puts curtains up inside the vehicle and this is causing some concern for residents. The vehicle has been reported to also be causing an obstruction on the pavement when parking there. We have asked residents to call us when the vehicle is present so we can speak to the driver, we have been given vehicle details and times which we have factored into our patrols.

We have been contacted by a resident regarding two cycling incidents along the river footpath. The first incident involves a female cyclist who refused to dismount when asked by the resident. The second involves a young male cycling at speed who collided with the resident. We have been provided photos of both offenders and also been given a name of the young male. We have increased our patrols of the footpath and are looking for the two individuals.

Anti-Social Driving has continued to be an issue across the three parishes, a resident reported three bikes breaking heavily & sliding their back ends out in the Bramber Castle Car Park. We have fed details of two vehicles into the Operation Crackdown System and have increased static observations of the Castle Car Park.

National Road Safety Week begins on 20th November. During this road safety week we will also be cracking down on cyclists and educating them on what they require to be roadworthy, e.g. reflectors, lights and helmets.

We attended a training session run by West Sussex Council on Cyber Crime and Internet Security with an emphasis on the vulnerability of older people. West Sussex Library Service run an outreach Service for older people, who are isolated or unable to access Public Libraries and use a network of volunteers who will deliver books, music and videos to older people in their homes. There is also provision for help with online access that also includes advice and hands on help with internet security. We will be actively promoting these services across all three Parishes

HALC

Councillor Stubbs attended the joint meeting of HDC and HALC. He said that there was a debate about rural car parking charges with some parishes saying it had been detrimental to local businesses. Councillor Potter said that a report from the Steyning businesses suggested that this had not been the case here.

Councillor Stubbs a film made by Henfield about the Year of Culture had been shown and was excellent.

Village Hall

Councillor Tilley reported that the AIRs subscription was discussed and that letters were to be sent to both P.C.s suggesting that they pay an annual grant towards this. The letter has now been received. Bramber's contribution would be £29 (20% of cost). A decision will be made at the next meeting.

The projected income is about £1000 less for next year and increased hire charges were discussed but a decision was deferred until next year.

Works for 2018/9 are for the corridor to be repainted, small room to be repainted and door replaced and work to be done on large room window. The Xmas Fair will be on 25 Nov, Carols on 19 Dec and the May Fair on 12 May.

Year of Culture

Councillor Green reported that she and Councillor Potter had met with Martin Leigh-Pollitt and other local residents and subsequently an application for £6000 had been made to HDC to fund an event in Bramber during the Year of Culture.

5.FINANCE

a) Payments to a value of £3128.55 were agreed (list of cheques for payment attached as an appendix to the minutes). Receipts had totalled £676.00.

The bank reconciliation showed a balance of £27,082.67 as at 26 October 2017 and was signed by the Chairman.

The current cash book figure shows a balance of £24,630.12.

b) Councillors had received the proposed budget for 2018/19 and explanations were given for any variances. The clerk explained that the shortfall if the precept remained as it is would be just £750. She had also proposed that the General Reserve remain at £10,750 but that there should also be an Earmarked Reserve of £2,500 for any expenses related to a Neighbourhood Plan if this was decided upon. She advised that the current position would cover these expenses with at least £2000 to spare so suggested council consider leaving the precept the same.

c) Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Stubbs and seconded by Councillor Goodall that the precept remain at £21,500 and was agreed unanimously. The clerk pointed out that this would show as an increase of 0.12% but due to an increase in the tax base would actually be a 1p decrease were week for most households!

6. PLANNING

There was no planning update. The clerk asked Councillor Coldwell if he could find out what was happening to the Annington application submitted to SDNP in August and had been called in by them.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Potter reminded council of the processes that would need to be completed for this including the re-designation of the area which would be the parish boundaries. There was discussion about whether it will be possible to complete all the work but it is hoped that there will be interested residents who will assist. It was generally felt that Bramber would benefit from having a plan particularly in regard to green spaces. Councillor Stubbs proposed that the Plan go ahead providing that funding can be found, this was seconded by Councillor Kitson and agreed by 6:1.

8. HIGHWAYS

Councillor Croker had sent a report to all members.

A trial of switching the MVAS in The Street on/off for 2 week periods is being considered. This will compare speeds as the MVAS continues to log speed when turned off.

The VAS has been rotated to face down the hill again after 2 months facing west. Analysis of 2 weeks at the start of this period and 1 week before the end has shown no significant variation in both average and 85th percentile speeds.

Councillor Croker also attended the Horsham Area Highways Liaison presentation by the area manager Chris Stark. Many points related to the effect of reduced budgets. The Highways budget will be around £7.5m in 19/20 from £14m in 13/14. The focus is on safety implications of any defects.

Each district team has a £50k budget for lines and signs (re-linng the A24 costs £150k).

Online reporting (lovesussex.gov.uk or the Highways own system) is by far the most cost effective and should get a faster response.

9. YOUTH PROVISION

The Chairman reported that the Joint Parishes Youth Committee had been informed that Emma, the youth worker, is leaving to take up a new post at the end of the month and also Liz the liaison person with Horsham Matters had been made redundant. Allen Taylor, an experienced youth worker is to take over the work at least until the end of March by which time the post will have been advertised. The council had been asked to confirm its desire to maintain its agreement for the service to continue next year. Employment costs will be 2.5% higher next year but it is anticipated that operational costs will remain the same. This would mean an increase of £78 for Bramber.

Following discussion and comments from Councillor Green who had attended the JPYC for the first time, that Emma had established a good service which benefitted the community Councillor Bignell proposed that the council should continue its support, this was seconded by Councillor Green and agreed unanimously.

10. PARISH PLAN

The Chairman gave the following update to the parish plan:

E- Flood Planning

Most of the emergency kit has been delivered and a few items remain to be ordered but are well within the allocated funding from Operation Watershed. This is mainly due to the kit awarded to the parish from the WSCC Resiliency team as a result of the training undertaken.

A number of changes have been made to the Contingency Plan as a result of the second “walk through”. These will be distributed shortly. Pertinent pages will be posted on the wall of the storage room in the toilet block.

I – Environment

A further backflow of sewerage was experienced in Yew Cottage as a result of a blockage in the public toilet. HDC are going to organise a survey of the pipe work under the car park in an attempt to identify a solution to this problem.

Carols in the Car Park with the Salvation Army have been arranged for Sat 23 December with coffee and mince pies afterwards at St Mary's. The Christmas tree has been ordered and will arrive on 9th Dec at about 8.30. Any help with decorating would be greatly appreciated,

11. ENVIRONMENT

Nothing to report.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Information about Community Land Trusts had been received from AirS.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Wednesday, 03 January 2018 at 7 p.m.**