

UPPER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk: Steve Coberman

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 18th October 2016 **Time:** 7.30pm **Place:** Beeding & Bramber Village Hall

Present:	Cllrs S Birnstingl (Chairman), K Bowlan, A Chilver, V Cook, R Harber, P Kentell, J Rowland, and C Warren.
R:1016:01 <i>Apologies</i>	All committee members were present.
R:1016:02 <i>Questions from the public</i>	There were no questions from the public.
R:1016:03 <i>Declarations of interest</i>	There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest by Councillors on any of the agenda items below.
R:1016:04 <i>Minutes of previous meeting</i>	The minutes of the meeting dated 21 st June 2016 were approved by all present and signed by the Chairman. <i>Proposed by C Warren; Seconded by R Harber.</i>
R:1016:05 <i>Matters arising</i>	R:0616:09: Cllr S Birnstingl noted that the CIL will run alongside s106, not replace it. Our ability to call on CIL will be limited as we lack the Power of General Competence (due to a lack of sufficient councillors); however, it is expected that projects would in any event only be funded to the extent of 60%-65% by CIL. Cllr Birnstingl suggested that we proceed with preparing proper plans for our proposals both for our own use and for liaison with HDC; these plans will cover our ideas for footpaths and the linear park. It was felt that the first step might be to approach HDC for consultancy to assist us.
R:1016:06 <i>Linear park</i>	Cllr R Harber ran through his ideas for a linear park along the riverbank south of the village, as mentioned at the last two meetings of the committee. It would involve not only improving the quality of the existing footpath, but also providing such things as seating, picnic areas, exercise equipment, a floating jetty and mooring points, a link to the Bramber path on the opposite bank, access for pushchairs and mobility scooters, and other amenity improvements both for the use of villagers and to attract visitors to moor on the river. The Clerk noted that he had already commissioned the grass-cutting contractors to clear the path 3 times a year, starting this autumn. Cllr Harber suggested that we produce a short vision or plan to take the idea forward, but without spending money at this stage; this could be done by councillors and/or artistically-inclined residents.

<p>R:1016:07 <i>Path at playing field</i></p>	<p>Cllr S Birnstingl noted the ongoing campaign calling for a hard-surfaced path to replace the existing mesh path around the playing field, running along the playground and school fences. He questioned whether there is a really a problem at all, noted that we had spent approx £7,500 on path improvements around the field in recent years, and doubted whether it would help relieve the problem of parking at the school. The Clerk noted that the only problem he was aware of was that a puddle forms in the rain at the car park end of the path, but that this does quickly drain. Other councillors confirmed that they use the path frequently, and have encountered no problems. It was agreed to monitor the condition of the paths, and maybe correct any specific problems caused by sunken ground. Cllr V Cook, who lives on the High Street and uses the path regularly, agreed to monitor the condition of the path on a regular basis, and to report back.</p>
<p>R:1016:08 <i>Branding for litter wardens</i></p>	<p>Cllr S Birnstingl reported that the Henfield litter wardens have branded livery, and that it looks attractive. He suggested that we do the same, and suggested that we pursue it for our own wardens. The first step would be for the Clerk to enquire of Henfield PC as to who is their supplier.</p>
<p>R:1016:09 <i>Village sign</i></p>	<p>It was agreed that we should purchase a crate of 6 mixed bottles of wine to thank the artist for repainting the village sign. The Clerk was asked to arrange this.</p>
<p>R:1016:10 <i>Budget for 2017/18</i></p>	<p>The Clerk tabled a first-cut draft budget for 2016/17, along with budget data from the previous three years, a year-to-date income/expenditure schedule, and a year-to-date income/expenditure summary, and a summary of cash holdings. There was a wide-ranging discussion on the documents, which were considered line-by-line. The overall budget showed a proposed deficit of approx £22,000, which the Clerk indicated was desirable as cash reserves have grown to unwarrantably high levels due to consistent underspending in previous years, only partially rectified by the budgeted and achieved overspend in 2015/16. A number of minor amendments were suggested to the draft, and the Clerk agreed to incorporate these and present a second draft to the November council meeting.</p> <p>Cllr S Birnstingl asked whether we should include a sum for taking on some grass and verge cutting currently done (or not done) by WSCC; it was agreed that councillors should email suggested locations for grass cutting to the Clerk for collation, and a quote would then be obtained from the grass-cutting contractors..</p>
<p>R:1016:11 <i>Correspondence</i></p>	<p>No relevant correspondence was tabled.</p>
<p>R:1016:12 <i>Items for information or next agenda</i></p>	<p>There were no items suggested for discussion, or to be placed on a future agenda.</p>

The meeting closed at 9.00pm. The next meeting will be held at Beeding & Bramber village hall on Tuesday 21st February 2017.

Minutes signed by: **Date:**