

Upper Beeding Parish Council

Minutes of the Upper Beeding Parish Council meeting held at Beeding and Bramber Village Hall on Tuesday 30th April 2024 commencing at 7pm

Present:

Councillors: F. Bull, P. Bull, S. Birnstingl, J Cannon, C Deadman, F Heaver, B Harber (UBPC Chairman), T Kardos, and C. Warren.

Parish Clerk: S Keogh.

HDC Parks and Countryside Officer: Pete Crawford

Three residents

Presentation by Pete Crawford regarding Bramber Brooks and Saltings Field.

HDC has recently bought 37 acres of land around the Bramber Brooks area.

Cost was £380,000 of HDC reserves, which was agreed as an appropriate use of funds.

This includes the historic monuments.

Also, it is part of the Weald to Waves Project.

The proposed works will be started by the Environment Agency as they have funds to recreate habitat equivalent to that which may have been lost during the development of the Shoreham Port area.

The work will include the creation of new ponds, a footway and protection of the salterns. The hope is to encourage wildlife, grow reed beds and provide some grazing land.

There will be no change of access and no major changes to the area.

HDC will look to develop some of the area later, but this will not be too extreme.

HDC are also looking to make the Saltings Field part of the project.

The lease to UBPC currently ends in 2027, so may be a good time to cancel the lease early.

The works on Bramber Brooks would be similar so makes sense to have the land back and this would also help the green credentials of the District Council.

Currently the Parks and Countryside department are supportive of the White Bridge project.

The Clerk stated that the item will be on a future agenda to agree to return the land to HDC management.

C: 0424: 01

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. S Teatum and County Cllr. P. Linehan.

C: 0424:02

Declaration of Councillors personal or prejudicial interest

The Chair reminded councillors that previous declarations still stand (as defined under the Localism Act 2011).

No further declarations received on this occasion.

C: 0424:03

Minutes of the last meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on [Tuesday 26th March 2024](#)

Proposed: Cllr C Warren seconded: Cllr. Heaver and agreed.

- C: 0424:04 Public Adjournment**
No Public questions regarding the agenda
- C: 0424:05 Report from District Councillors.**
Cllr M Croker:
Local Plan Consultation Regulation 19, there had been 1700 responses which were being collated and redacted for public inspection in June.
This is also the time when the Local Plan will be passed to the Inspectorate.
The hearing is scheduled for the autumn.
Food waste collections will be weekly, with Garden waste every fortnight, recycling and other waste will be every two weeks.
Start date to be confirmed.
HDC have not made a bid for the Swan Walk lease.
HDC Homes have plans to spend £1.3m for 5 dwellings which will be added to the Council housing list and used for temporary accommodation and resettlement for refugees.
Central Government will pay 50% of the cost.
The homes will eventually move to the general pool.
Capital Strategy has been agreed, new Auditor has also been agreed.
Two motions have been agreed: support for Climate and Nature Bill; and to request that the Government investigate the possibility of Proportional Representation for local council elections.
- C: 0424:06 Neighbourhood Wardens Report**
Councillors **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the monthly report for [March 2024](#) provided by the Neighbourhood Wardens.
Proposed: Cllr C Cannon seconded: Cllr. F Bull and agreed.
Admin duties: The Clerk reported that at a recent Wardens Steering Group meeting there had been some comments about the amount of time spent performing admin duties by the wardens and had asked for a brief summary on the kind of works completed each month. This was circulated with the agenda (admin [report](#))
- C: 0424:07 Planning Application Consultation - [DC/24/0374](#) - Small Dole Solar Farm.**
Cllr Kardos took the chair as Planning Committee chair.
Concerns were raised regarding the name change or the company change, from Viridor to Valencia.
Cllr Warren asked for an explanation of the change, as residents affected have not been informed.
Cllr R Noel explained that HDC, as the planning authority, are responsible for the surface plan, WSCC would be responsible for any planning application for the waste below surface as they have a responsibility for Waste Management.
- Cllr Kardos laid out the basis of the plan.
The site was closed and there were conditions in place. A restoration scheme was in place to return the land to a useable state with conservation measures and leisure amenity.
There are footpaths available and the fishing pond already there.
- Cllr Birnstingl reported that leachate is a constant concern as it runs into the water course.

The application in principle is to be supported, however the location is not acceptable.

It was **AGREED** to **OBJECT** to the application for the following reasons:

The concerns of the location close to the Grade 2 listed building

The site is a SSSI.

Loss of historic trees and hedgerow

Support the WSCC concerns regarding the flooding and the affect of the panels on the flood management.

Possible loss of amenity due to the loss of access through footpaths.

Loss of visible amenity, as the panels will be visible from the SDNP and all roads.

Noise pollution caused by the wind and rain on the panels.

Incongruous to the street scene.

There are concerns regarding the structure being compromised by the digging of the foundations of the panels.

WSCC need to be involved as the waste management authority.

There are concerns regarding the decomposing waste under the surface, methane gas, leachate seeping into the local water course.

C: 0424: 08

Report from County Councillor

Due to the non-attendance of WSCC County Councillor, Paul Linehan, there was no report on this occasion.

Cllr Warren asked that it be noted that the Parish Council are not confident that the concerns of the Parish are being represented.

C: 0424:09

Clerk's Report

The report from the [Clerk](#), circulated with the agenda was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.

C:0424: 10

Facilities Committee Meeting

Councillors **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** the minutes of the Facilities Committee meeting held on [2nd April 2024](#).

Proposed: Cllr C Warren seconded: Cllr. Heaver and agreed.

C: 0424: 11

JYPC Minutes –

Councillors **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the minutes of the JYPC Meeting Held on [10th April](#) and [22nd April](#) 2024 and the recommendations within.

Proposed: Cllr F Heaver seconded: Cllr. Warren and agreed.

The Clerk reported that the Youth Worker has been appointed and there is a hope that they will start on 23rd May 2024.

C: 0424: 12

Riverside Walk Project –

To Ratify the selection of Landbuild as Contractor to create the footpath.

[Tender analysis & Programme of works.](#)

Councillors **NOTED** the report and support documents circulated with the agenda.

The Clerk updated the Members of the decision regarding the contractor.

The working group had carried out a tender analysis to prove that this was the best value tender.

The HDC Funder had given the funds based on the lowest quotation, by Landbuild.

It was **AGREED** to ratify the decision of the Working Group to select Landbuild as the preferred contractor for the Saltings Loop Footpath Upgrade, as the best value tender.

Proposed: Cllr Harber seconded: Cllr. P Bull and agreed.

- C: 0424: 13 Finance Committee Meeting –**
Councillors **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Minutes the meeting held on [9th April 2024](#)
Proposed: Cllr Birnstingl seconded Cllr. Cannon and agreed.
- C: 0424: 14 Audit Report-**
Councillors **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the [Recommendations](#) from the Meeting held on 12th March 2024.
Proposed: Cllr Harber seconded: Cllr. Kardos and agreed.
- C: 0424: 15 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/24 –**
The 9 statements in section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return were reviewed.
It was resolved to approve the Council’s response to be ‘yes’ for all of the statements 1- 9 To approve the annual governance statement [section 1](#) of the AGAR.

Cllr Harber proposed, seconded Cllr Warren and **RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Clerk sign section 1.
- C: 0424:16 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/24 –**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and that this be signed by the Chairman, noting this had been signed by the RFO prior to presentation as required [section 2](#) of the AGAR..
Proposed Cllr Heaver, seconded Cllr Kardos and resolved.
- C: 0424: 17 Notice of Public Rights and Publication**
The Notice of Public Rights and Publication was **NOTED**.
The Chairman confirmed the 'Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Return' has been prepared and will be displayed on the village noticeboard and Parish Council website on 4th June 2024.
- C: 0424: 18 Finance Reports –**
Councillors **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the income and expenditure ([summary](#) and [detailed](#)) for year ending 31st March 2025
- C: 0424: 19 Bank Reconciliation –**
Councillors **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the [bank reconciliation](#) for March 2024.
- C: 0424: 20 Payments List –**
Councillors **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the payments made in [March 2024](#) totalling £43,159.67 in accordance with the Financial Regulations.
- C: 0424: 21 Correspondence –**
Councillors **NOTED** [correspondence](#) received.
- C: 0424: 22 Chair’s Announcements –** to receive any announcements and matters from the Chair.
Cllr Harber Noted the receipt of the SDNP Survey and asked Cllr F Bull to complete it for the Council.
- C: 0424: 23 Climate Matters**

Cllr F Bull commented that although it was not supported on this occasion, the solar farm project would be a good opportunity to provide green energy, but the application was not suitable.

He also commented that the riverside walk – Saltings Loop Footpath Upgrade should be celebrated as this will directly affect the Councils green credentials.

C: 0424: 24 **Matters raised by Councillors** - to receive matters for information or for discussion in future agendas.

Cllr F Bull

Asked that the defibrillator project be added to the next available agenda for decision. The Clerk reported that this matter was to be discussed at the Community Committee meeting on 7th May 2024.

Cllr Cannon

Asked if the Football Club changing rooms and storage building could be added to the project to improve the environmental impact of the Council.

Cllr Heaver

Asked if Members had any advice on the upcoming Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

This was discussed but no advice was available.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed:

Date: