

Upper Beeding Parish Council

Minutes of the Upper Beeding Parish Council meeting held at Beeding and Bramber Village Hall on Tuesday 19th December 2023 commencing at 7pm

Present: Councillors: F. Bull, S. Birnstingl, C Deadman, F. Heaver, B Harber (UBPC Chairman), S. Teatum and C. Warren.

Members of the Public: No members of the Public were present.

C: 1223:01 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. P. Bull, J Cannon, T Kardos and County Cllr. P. Linehan.

C: 1223:02 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: 1223:03 Minutes of the last meeting

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on [28th November 2023](#).

Proposed: Cllr. F Heaver; seconded: Cllr. S Birnstingl and agreed.

C: 1223:04 Public Adjournment

No members of the public were present.

C: 1223:05 Report from District Councillors.

Cllr R Noel reported that:

- The Finance the medium term is uncertain, there are still some costs to be finalised including food recycling, building maintenance and decarbonisation.
- There would be price increases for car parking, green waste and other services in 2024.
- There will also be an increase to the Council Tax support.

Cllr Croker reported a new project called the River Initiative. This would be to work to improve the rivers in the district.

The Chair thanked Cllrs Croker and R Noe for their reports and their activity through the year.

Cllr Heaver reported that he had requested more information regarding 'Non-Consent' Land and the sale of Christmas Trees and Fireworks in the Parish when it was stated that no permission had been given to traders along the A283.

No answer had been received at the present time.

Cllr. Heaver had also been disappointed to hear that there are several new initiatives which the Police and Crime Commissioner was proposing, which provides no answers to the way the police can successfully carry out their role.

Members felt that this subject may be better tackled during the 2024 Police and Crime Commissioner Elections.

C: 1223:06 Neighbourhood Wardens Report

Councillors received and noted the monthly report for October 2023 provided by the Neighbourhood Wardens.

In the discussion that ensued the Clerk explained that he had asked the Neighbourhood Wardens to include a any feedback from the police or some form of update on the issues reported to them by the Wardens.

Cllr. Heaver was not sure that the Wardens were the correct level of authority to deal with the issues they are expected to fulfil. They were just a liaison between the residents and the services, and the same thing could be done by the resident directly.

Cllr F Bull stated that he felt that they weren't there to replace the police, but to have a uniformed presence for residents to speak to, if there was an issue.

The neighbourhood wardens also provide an added sense of security to the Community which is an enhancement and not a substitute for the police service."

The Chair explained that criminal activity was only a small part of the role.

It was **AGREED** that in order to have a discussion about the wardens the item should be on the agenda and the correct information available to the Members.

C: 1223:07 Report from County Councillor

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

Cllr Linehan was recovering from a medical procedure.

Councillors expressed their continuing disappointment at the non-attendance of County Cllr. Linehan.

The Clerk reported that he had been present at the White Bridge Working party and was supportive of the project.

C: 1223:08 HDC Local Plan

- The Local Plan has been sent to all Parishes. The consultation will be running through to March 2024
- Cllr R Noel explained the decision-making procedure at Horsham.
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In the discussion that ensued, Cllrs raised:

- The possible development of a traveller site in Small Dole which has been refused permission in the past.
- There appears to be a shortage of travellers sites in the district which may be why this area has been selected.
- The inconsistency in the report regarding the use of Neighbourhood plans in their decisions.

- Cllr Noel explained that there is also some discrepancy with the planning system, the Local Plan is for 13 years while a Neighbourhood Plan is reviewed after five years. This may be one reason that the system may look flawed.

After the discussion it was **AGREED** that the local Plan needs to be on the agenda for the January Full Council meeting with a response to be agreed in February.

C: 1223: 09 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received and noted.

Saltings Field.

The Clerk updated Members regarding the possibility of the Saltings Field being returned to HDC and that there is a possibility that this could be in the near future. The Clerk also explained that the Council Telephone number was out of action while the new service is transferred to the Sports Hall location.

- The Christmas closure was accepted,
- installation of the new BT Broadband service would be on 27th December.

C: 1223:10 Community Committee – 5th December 2023 Minutes

Councillors received and accepted the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on [5th December 2023](#)

Proposed: Cllr Warren; seconded Cllr Teatum. And **AGREED**.

The Council welcome the work of Cllr J Cannon and F Bull on the Horsham District Council Parish and Neighbourhood Climate Change Action Network.

The Clerk commented that they would be welcome to report to the Council and although this is currently an unofficial partnership, there may be occasions when support from the Parish Council could be necessary.

C: 1223:11 Community Committee Recommendations

Councillors **RECEIVED** and **AGREED** the [recommendations](#) from the meeting held on 5th December 2023.

Proposed: Cllr Birnstingl; seconded: Cllr F Heaver

Councillors also discussed:

The support for the Joint Parish Youth Committee.

Cllr F Bul was still keen to see some form of accounts, budget proposal or budget costs for the service.

He Clerk explained that a spreadsheet is being calculated, but while final sessions numbers and locations are being discussed these costs are still unknown.

C: 1223: 12 Joint Parish Youth Committee –

The draft Minutes from the Meeting held on [November 22nd 2023](#) were **ACCEPTED** and the recommendations **APPROVED**.

In the discussion that followed:

The issue of the term of contract was discussed. It was felt that the support should be given to the group and there is every hope that the project would be a success with a contract of 3 years being recommended in the first instance.

The Memo of Understanding (MOU) was discussed with the clarification that the MOU would be agreed by Council annually, but the supervision of the staff would be carried out by one of the Parishes for a two year period, this task would be assigned to the three Clerks on a rotational basis.

Cllr Bull also asked for a condition to be added indicating that there were quarterly reports to Council which would include the accounts.

The MOU was **ACCEPTED** subject to the condition being included.

Cllr Heaver was concerned that there may be a group in the area in a better position to make the service a success. If this is the case, there seems to be no reason why this should be duplicated.

The Clerk was also cautious about the after-school club taking any potential users of the service.

On a positive note, there was a feeling that the work to improve the office could be included as set up costs for the youth service as the Sports Hall/Council office would be the base for the service.

Members **AGREED** to support the provision of a Youth service in the area, initially a one-year agreement.

This support was on condition that there are regular reports.

C: 1223: 13 Riverside Walk –

The Chair gave an update on the proposals for the path upgrade.

The Saltings Field Pathway Loop was to apply for a grant through HDC.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund, this needed the agreed construction costs to be included, for this reason there was a tender exercise being carried out.

C:1223: 14 Planning Committee Minutes

Councillors **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** the [minutes](#) of the meeting held on 5th December 2023

C:1223: 15 Grant Request –

It was **RESOLVED** to award the Steyning & District Good Neighbours Association ([SGN](#)) a grant of £250

Proposed - Cllr. C Warren, seconded – Cllr F Bull and **AGREED**

C: 1223: 16 Finance Reports –

Councillors received and noted the income and expenditure ([summary](#) and [detailed](#)) for year to date.

C: 1223:17 Bank Reconciliation.

Councillors **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the Bank reconciliations for [November](#)

C: 1223:18 Payments List –

Councillors received and noted all payments made in [November](#) totalling £12,686.80 in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

C: 1223:19 Correspondence

Councillors received and noted [correspondence](#) received during November and December 2023 which had been emailed in advance.

C: 1223: 20 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair had attended the Riverside Walk meetings.

Had attended the Steyning and District Partnership WP9 regarding the White Bridge Link Meeting.

C: 1223:21 Matters raised by Councillors

Members took the opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed:

Date: