

Upper Beeding Parish Council

Minutes of the Upper Beeding Council meeting held at Beeding & Bramber Village Hall on Tuesday 26th November 2024 commencing at 7pm

Present: Councillors: S Birnstingl, F Bull, J Cannon, C Deadman, B Harber (Chair), F Heaver, T Kardos, S Teatum and C Warren

Also present: Parish Clerk: Stephen Keogh
M Croker (Horsham District Council)
R Noel (Horsham District Council)

C: 1124: 01 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. P Bull and J Edwards
West Sussex County Councillor. Cllr P. Linehan.

C: 1124:02 Declaration of Councillors personal or prejudicial interest

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

No further declarations received on this occasion.

C: 1124:03 Minutes of the last meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on [22nd October 2024](#)
Proposed Cllr F Heaver, seconded Cllr S Birnstingl and **AGREED**.

C: 1124:04 Public Adjournment

There were no questions from the public.

C: 1124:05 Update from County Councillor –

Cllr P Linehan was unavailable.

C: 1124:06 Update from District Councillor –

Mike Croker and Roger Noel, HDC Councillors.

Cllr M Croker gave a report.

Climate

- The Draft Climate Reduction Policy has been approved.
- Direct emissions to be Net Zero by 2030
- Indirect emissions to Net Zero by 2050.
- Offsetting may be available, but how this will be achieved is not clear.
- HDC staff to receive training in how to alter behaviour to achieve these levels.
- HDC Light vehicles to change to EV.
- HGV To change to recycled vegetable oil and EV where practical.
- Buildings to be upgraded with the least energy efficient being first.
- The HDC approved contractors list will also include those who are carbon neutral.
- Application for the Decarbonisation Fund to be completed.

Finance.

- It has been agreed to start the transition to food waste recycling.

- There is still yet to be any news on the Government’s financial settlement.
- No clarity on any support regarding the recent increase in employers NI Contributions
- Capitol Theatre had a budget for £11.5m for the refurbishment, the cost has now been raised to £13.5M so the project has been shelved until a new programme of works has been drafted. The Theatre would still close in April for new seating and new roof.

General

- Horsham Park may be passed to Fields in Trust to manage and develop. The costs savings which had been expected may not materialise.
- The Constitution Committee are reviewing the committee structure.
- Devolution has been discussed but is at the early stage.
- Reminder that here is a drop-in and presentation at the Village Hall to explain the Bramber Brooks project.

Cllr Noel

- Reminded the Members that the new seating in the Capitol Theatre would increase the capacity and therefore would go some way to reduce the need for Council funding.
- Explained that the Horsham Park transfer to Fields in Trust would not mean that the costs would reduce.
- Cllr Warren asked if the in-house grounds team would be reduced.
- Cllr Noel commented that this was one of the issues, the HDC team was not to be reduced, and the Fields in Trust would charge for their services.
- Cllr Warren asked if there was a possibility that the Parish Council could pass a motion that they did not agree with the transfer.
It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would not support the transfer to the Fields in Trust
- Employers NI Contributions increase may lead to redundancies.

Questions

- Cllr Birnstingl commented that as well as the heat pumps at the Capital, there was a need to review the heating and cooling stem as the theatre is #very warm on the summer.
- Cllr Warren asked if there was any justification in the theatre being developed at such a cost, when there are other cinemas in the Town.
- Cllr Noel commented that the Capital held some very niche events and festivals which the mainstream cinemas may not hold.
- Cllr Harber asked if the Members could confirm that a tender process had been carried out and the benefits of the development were clear.
- Cllr Noel explained that a theatre renovation company had carried out the tender process; this may be repeated with other companies included.

C: 1124:07 Neighbourhood Warden Report

The report, circulated with the agenda was **NOTED**.

Cllr Heaver commented that there had been a spate of thefts from work vans, some items had been taken. He also commented that there had been a threat of violence attached to these incidents.

The Clerk reminded Members that the contract expires at the end of March and that the service is to be reviewed.

- C: 1124: 08 Minutes** – To adopt the Minutes of the following Committees:
- i. The Minutes of the Facilities Committee held on Tuesday [12th November 2024](#) circulated with the Agenda were **ADOPTED**.
 - ii. The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on [Tuesday 19th November 2024](#) circulated with the Agenda were **ADOPTED**.
- C: 1124: 09 Committees**
- Committee Membership –**
The [membership](#) of the Committees was discussed
It was **AGREED** to add Cllr Birnstingl to the Community Committee and swap Cllr Cannon from the Facilities Committee to the Community Committee for the rest of the municipal year.
- It was **AGREED** to add Cllr Edwards to the Facilities Committee membership for the rest of the municipal year.
- C: 1124: 10 Clerk’s Report**
The Clerk’s [Report](#) circulated with the agenda, was **NOTED**.
The Clerk commented that the planning application for the improvements to the Parish Office at the Sports Hall, had been delayed as there were concerns regarding the subject of water neutrality.
- It was **AGREED** that the Christmas Office closure would be from Tuesday 24th December at 12.00 noon through to 9.00am Friday 3rd January 2025.
- 1124: 11 Consultation re Virtual Attendance at Meetings –**
The [consultation](#) document circulated with the agenda was **NOTED**.
IT was **AGREED** that the Clerk and Chair would complete the survey on Virtual Attendance highlighting the need for mainly in-person attendance, but understanding that there may be occasions when a virtual attendance may be acceptable.
It was **AGREED** that the Clerk and Chair would complete the survey on Proxy Voting highlighting that there should be no need for the proxy voting if the meeting is quorate.
- C: 1124: 12 Saltings Field Loop Pathway Upgrade –**
The [Update](#) on the Saltings Field Loop Pathway Upgrade circulated with the agenda was **NOTED**.
The Clerk commented that the contractor had recently confirmed that the works would commence on Monday 2nd December, this was still the case.
- C: 1124: 13 JPYC Meeting Minutes –**
The minutes from the meeting held on [30th October 2024](#) were **NOTED**
- The Clerk commented that there have been two well attended sessions at Upper Beeding on Thursdays.
- C: 1124: 14 2025/26 Budget –**
i. [Budget 2025/26](#)
The Budget as recommended by Finance Committee meeting held on 19th November 2024 was reviewed and discussed.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the proposed budget for 2025/26 of £257, 071 which includes a transfer of £10,000 to Earmarked Reserves for improved play equipment for the two play areas.

Proposed Cllr C Warren, seconded Cllr T Kardos and **AGREED**.

ii. **Charges**

It was **RESOLVED** that for the 2025/26 financial year the charges for the [sports hall hire](#) will increase by 50p per hour, and allotment rents for 2026 will increase by 5%.

Proposed Cllr C Warren, seconded Cllr T Kardos and **AGREED**.

- C: 1124: 15** **2025/26 Precept**
It was **RESOLVED** to submit the precept requirement for the 2025/26 financial year of £244, 901 (two hundred and forty-four thousand, nine hundred and one pounds) This will lead to an increase of £7.84 per year (15 pence per week) on a Band D property or approximately 5% (For comparison the current inflation rate (CPI) is over 2.5%)
Proposed Cllr Harber, seconded Cllr Kardos and **AGREED**
- C: 1124: 16** **Financial Update -**
Income and expenditure reports ([summary](#) and [detailed](#)) to date, circulated with the agenda; Councillors received and **NOTED**.
- C: 1124: 17** **Bank Reconciliation –**
Councillors received and **NOTED** the Bank Reconciliation for [October 2024](#).
- C: 1123: 18** **Payments List –**
Councillors received and **NOTED** the payments made in [October](#) for £23,444.92 in accordance with Financial Regulations.
- C: 1123: 19** **Climate Matters –**
Cllr Cannon commented that she had been made aware of a group called the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) who are involved in giving advice to residents on various benefits and suffering financial hardship, about energy saving, insulation and fuel poverty.
- C: 1023: 22** **Correspondence –**
Councillors received and **NOTED** the correspondence received during [November](#) 2024.
- C: 1023: 23** **Chair’s Announcements**
Cllr Harber commented that there are some issues regarding inappropriate motor vehicle use of the section of Smugglers Lane from Pound Lane to Manor Road, and he wanted to investigate the possibility of reducing the issues by making it a no through road.
Clerk to contact WSCC
- C: 1024: 24** **Matters raised by Councillors -** to receive matters for information or for discussion in future agendas.

Cllr F Bull

Attended the Community Market event at Ashington and was interested in a range of subjects.

The main ones for the Parish Council being the Community Transport Sussex and the local transport Forum.

Cllr Cannon

Pepperscoombe Lane verge was to have some areas cut back following the Clerk informing WSCC of the area being overgrown.

Cllr Birnstingl

The local Labour Party are to investigate the possibility of local authorities managing public bus services.

Cllr Teatum

Had also attended the Community Market event and was proposing to bring a report to the Community Committee.

Was also going to take on the co-ordination duties for the Speedwatch group. There are a number of local people interested in being involved.

There has also been a letter sent to Sussex Police asking for the mobile camera to attend the area.

Cllr Kardos

Was aware that the Solar Panel planning application at Horton Fram had been altered and new plans have been submitted.

The plans include surveys on reptiles and other species.

There is also a plan which shows improved planting at the boundary of the site, which may reduce the visual impact of the proposed development.

Cllr Kardos to investigate a planning meeting before the deadline for comments.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed:

Date: