**Minutes of the Upper Beeding Council meeting held at**

**Beeding & Bramber Village Hall**

**on Tuesday 14th January 2025 commencing at 7pm**

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

**Also present:**  Parish Clerk: Stephen Keogh

M Croker (Horsham District Council)

Alison Page and Michael Pearce (Community Wardens)

**C: 0125: 01 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. P Bull.

R Noel (Horsham District Council)

West Sussex County Councillor. Cllr P. Linehan.

**C: 0125: 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: 0125: 03 Minutes of the last meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on [17th December 2024](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/EVVpttICcehMoKzt6HPYArkBVC4ZL1kDaTNyOuFMeLbCOg)

Proposed Cllr J Cannon, seconded Cllr F Bull and **AGREED.**

**C: 0125: 04 Public Adjournment**

No Members of the public were present.

**C: 0125: 05 Update from County Councillor –**

Cllr P Linehan was unavailable.

**C: 0125: 06 Update from District Councillor –**

Mike Croker HDC Councillors.

**Local Plan:** (note: briefing for PCs on 28 Jan via Teams)

* hearings commenced on 10 December (for 4 week before / after Christmas)
* after 3 days (1st week) inspector has ‘significant concerns about the soundness of the plan (water neutrality and housing numbers)
* letter to council on 18 Dec: remaining hearing sessions cancelled, further explanation / where next letter awaited (‘as soon as I can’) officers have submitted explanatory papers on 16 topics including how housing numbers could be raised, subject to removal of water neutrality restriction, general disappointment that inspector didn’t raise concerns earlier given 5 months prior reading time. How independent?

**Water Neutrality (WN):**

* change in HDC planning policy to allow Grampian conditions on planning applications (previously had to demonstrate WN to get permission)

**Grampian conditions: No development shall commence until either:**

1. Details have been submitted to and been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority confirming that the necessary credits to achieve water neutrality have been secured via the Sussex North Offsetting Water Scheme.

Or

ii) A site-specific water neutrality mitigation scheme has been submitted to and been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Further condition to require proof of successful operation before any occupation.

**River Recovery Declaration (going to cabinet on 29 Jan):**

* resulting from a green motion 13 December 2023
* not the Rights for Rivers that group originally wanted, but
* commits HDC to work with many other groups to improve the condition of the Adur, Arun and Western Rother
* ‘It does not give rights to people, nor guarantee economic investment but provides a framework to enable and support a sustainable water environment for future generations.’

**Devolution:**

16 Dec: English Devolution White Paper published with central government’s preferences:

* Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCA)
* two-tier local government to go by 2028 i.e. no more District Councils; Unitary Authorities of 500,000 residents or more.
* 10 Jan: WSCC, ESCC, B&HCC write to MHCLG (response expected by end of Jan)
* wish to join Devolution Priority Programme as an MCA
* request postponement of 2025 county council elections
* anticipate 3 new unitary councils.

**Concerns:**

* cancellation of elections
* representation on new Unitary Authorities
* role of parishes
* fate of non-statutory services run by HDC e.g. sports and leisure.
* fate of HDC assets – parks, wildlife areas, buildings etc.

Members commented that there were some concerns regarding the subject of devolution, the main concern being that the potential lack of contact between these new authority Members and the residents.

The other issue may be that the Parish Councils may also be affected, and this may also alter the way the residents and Members interact.

The subject needs to have a major consultation period and there may also be a need to ensure that he public need to be involved at all stages.

Cllr Birnstingl highlighted the importance of local elected representatives. He asked for it to be minuted that Cllr Noel had been helpful when dealing with a family who had been left without an acceptable home after a fire.

**C: 0125: 07 Neighbourhood Warden Report**

The report for [December 2024](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/Ecyrqz6gcFJLp-dHNav8_-oBpCbdGFnEHzmOW_JYV-tQog) circulated with the agenda was **NOTED.**

The wardens were in attendance and presented their report.

Members were asked for questions.

Cllr Heaver asked if there was an update on the reported incident of oil being.

poured into the drain.

The Wardens reported that they had attended the location and discussed the issue, the resident had explained that they were storing the oil in cans and there was no proof of the oil being poured down the drain. They were informed that it would not be accepted.

Cllr Heaver highlighted the regulations regarding the storage of dangerous fluids and asked if they could monitor the situation.

Cllr Cannon asked if parking issues need to be reported to Operation Crackdown, as there is a particular vehicle parked close to a junction in Pepperscoombe Lane.

The Wardens agreed that the best option is to report to Operation Crackdown.

Cllr Heaver explained that he knew the driver and that he had been in an accident and currently may be unable to move the vehicle.

Cllr F Bull commented that there was an abandoned reported to HDC in December and this had been removed prior to the Christmas period. He asked if the vehicle abandoned at Golding Barn could be revisited.

The Clerk explained that there have been a number of agencies involved in the reporting of the vehicle. So far there have been a number of reasons given for the inability of the police or Council to remove the vehicle.

The wardens agreed to revisit the issue.

Cllr Cannon also commented that here are some occasions when there are vehicles parking in Church Lane on the virtual pavement. It was asked if these drivers can be reported and penalised.

The Wardens explained that the virtual pavement is advisory only and therefore can only be given a warning letter.

Cllr Birnstingl asked if the Wardens enjoyed a good relationship with the police.

The Wardens replied that in general they do have a good relationship, but there are occasions when information is not passed or not followed up.

The Clerk commented that the Police and Crime Commissioner had been invited to the Annual Parish Meeting in April or May, and they may wish to attend to comment on help they may need.

**C: 0125: 08 Neighbourhood Warden agreement**

It was **AGREED** to accept the proposed changes and sign the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme [Agreement](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/EUDQGZhKwLpDvRYu_P6IyE8BAEJJ_qTRKYe8ZjrrX_bRPg) for three years.

Members asked that the details of Appendix Two be clarified and that they may reference these powers in their future reports.

**C: 0125: 09 Annual Parish Meeting**

The proposed date for the meeting will; be dictated by the availability of the speakers. Katy Bourne, the Police and Crime Commissioner had been invited, and her acceptance is awaited. ([Report)](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/EY-p71oP4_ZJkYw6TDti_TIBhk3L6G_Lx7ejqlzXQYjyJA)

Members were asked to offer suggestions of speakers to attend.

**C: 0125: 10 Clerk’s Report**

The Clerk’s [Report](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/Eb_j5qAdzR5Gj5g9y0MMa0kBVlg6yyygo0IWat9thfWJrg) was **NOTED.**

**C: 0125: 11 Saltings Field Loop Pathway Upgrade**

The [Update](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/EY-p71oP4_ZJkYw6TDti_TIBhk3L6G_Lx7ejqlzXQYjyJA) on the Saltings Field Loop Pathway Upgrade circulated with the agenda was **NOTED.**

**C: 0125: 13 Grounds Maintenance Contract**

The [Report](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/EY-p71oP4_ZJkYw6TDti_TIBhk3L6G_Lx7ejqlzXQYjyJA) circulated with the Agenda was **NOTED.**

The proposed works on the three flower beds was discussed and the options of removal of the beds or the use of volunteers and local groups to carry out the works.

It was **AGREED** to defer the decision to the February meeting.

**C: 0125: 13 Financial Update**

Income and expenditure reports ([summary](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/UBPC/EZtzapdKeBRFkEO3nwXOAx0BkTaTpsUPtThLUrYVPVNM1A) and [detailed)](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/UBPC/ERcM47Vpy4lJj9HXvj9uIBUBwiepYCdYlm48uWPTCG8U8Q) to date, circulated with the agenda; Councillors received and **NOTED**.

**C: 0125: 14 Bank Reconciliation** –

Councillors received and **NOTED** the Bank Reconciliation for [December 2024](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/UBPC/EYdznzypu4VFsjB690UDvBsBwOh1g-vkdADoBPYi3GgJ0Q).

**C: 1225: 15 Payments List** –

Councillors received and **NOTED** the payments made in [December](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/UBPC/Ef-qqo05RbxCsglOlzHBXnsB4P6Sy2gHbPD7LiR6TSx4XA) for £19,072.81 in in accordance with Financial Regulations.

**C: 1225: 16 Climate Matters –**

The Joint Parish Climate Action Group had a meeting on Monday 13th January 2025.

The agenda included 3 main subjects.

The Cycling and Walking Strategy was discussed and included the results of the recent survey.

The report will be drafted and needs to be agreed by all the Parish Councils included in the report.

There are some decisions to be made regarding the process and the way the report will be adopted and which authority, should manage and monitor the strategy.

The Local Energy Advice Partnership are working with the JPCG to try to provide a service to the residents who are in need of help with energy, insulation and other advice.

Cllr Cannon has borrowed a thermal Imaging camera to see where the leaks and the energy failures are, and the advice will be given to the residents.

Cllr Birnstingl will help promote the project in his street and using WhatsApp.

Transport. Cllr Bull was keen to investigate the possibility of increased bus services in the area. There is a possibility of two an hour service to help service the villages.

**C: 1223: 17 Correspondence** –

Councillors received and **NOTED** the correspondence received during [December 2024.](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/EfWzBO6WnBBFhT2gkjNn588BVgbx1W1dOGTa8CG-mj5LLA)

**C: 0125: 18 Chair’s Announcements**

Cllr Harber reported that he was to attend two meetings in the next few weeks. The WSALC and HALC meetings may discuss the subject of Devolution and the input of the Parish Councils.

**C: 0125: 19 Matters raised by Councillors** - to receive matters for information or for discussion in future agendas.

**Cllr Cannon**

Has attended a meeting of the PPG.

The Upper Beeding surgery is currently closed for refurbishment.

Several new staff members who have started to work at the site prior to this closure.

Cllr Cannon also commented that the regular magazine provided by the PPG is still using a small font as the need to keep the costs down.

There being no further business the meeting closed at8.45pm

Signed: Date: