

## ***Bramber Parish Council***

### *Meeting Minutes* **Wednesday 06 January 2016** at Bramber & Beeding Village Hall

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillors R. Potter (Chair), N. Stubbs, M. Tilley, M. Croker, Mrs D. Goodall, Mrs M. Goddard and the clerk.

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor David Barling, Paul Conroy and Michael Pearce (Neighbourhood Wardens) and 3 residents.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors N. Mills, J. Goddard and Ms J. Howley as well as District Councillor D. Coldwell.

#### **1 (b) WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Lynn Broome to the meeting and explained that she had just begun her role as tree warden for Bramber. Mrs Broome said that she had undertaken a training course and had made her first visit.

The Chairman thanked her for taking on this valuable task and said that the council looked forward to working with her.

#### **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were agreed and signed.

Matters Arising:

7. The SWAB Neighbourhood Plan newsletter had been distributed through Your Steyning and by Councillor Howley in Annington.
8. Mr. Kirchel's salary had been raised and he had sent thanks to the Council.

#### **3. OPEN FORUM**

A resident reported that the directions sign on the Walks for All footpath, which was broken by the contractors had still not been repaired. The council will contact Edburtons.

**Action: Clerk/Chair**

#### **4. REPORTS**

##### **County Council**

Councillor David Barling reported that the County Council finances are not in a healthy state. The council has managed not to increase council tax for the past 4 years but the government has made a substantial cut in the Rate Support grant this year which means a huge gap in the council's budget. This is compounded by the increased demand in children's services and also those for the elderly (over half of the West Sussex budget is spent on this age group). As services have already been cut to the bone it will be necessary to raise the council tax by 2% to cover Adult Services and the council is now faced with the choice of adding a further rise up to 1.99% rise or to cut services even further.

The Big Society Fund is to be retained and West Sussex County Council feels a new fund to allow Parish Councils and communities to undertake flood prevention work should now be set up from April 2016 onwards. Bramber Council will then put in a bid to have the flooding issue at the bottom of Maudlin Lane sorted out. Councillor Barling emphasised that there is no money available for Highways to change signs on the roundabout or Clays Hill.

### **Neighbourhood Wardens**

Paul Conroy gave the following report:

#### Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime

We have had various reports concerning the riding of motor-cycles in the Bramber Castle area and have stepped up our patrols and static monitoring of the area. Between Midnight and 1230 am on the 14<sup>th</sup> December a vehicle was driven illegally down the pathway from Bramber Castle Car Park and the Street. The posts and fence at the bottom of the pathway was damaged. A resident's vehicle sustained a smashed window and the handbrake released and the vehicle moved to allow the offending vehicle to leave the pathway. Police have interviewed the victim and we have spoken to the resident personally about the matter.

On two occasions persons unknown have entered St Nicolas' Church, burned candles and written offensive comments and left them on the Altar. We have received information concerning a youth known to us being seen with other youths going into the Church. We have passed on that information to the Neighbourhood Police Team. A car also collided into a Parked Car in the Street. We have information on the owner who has been interviewed by the Police.

Ten people have been recently sentenced as part of a network of criminals committing fraud offences across Surrey and Sussex which included victims from Steyning and Upper Beeding. We continue to patrol, respond to calls and check credentials of individuals going from door to door. Any suspicious activity will be reported to the Neighbourhood Policing Team. We would like to encourage residents to contact ourselves should they have any concerns regarding cold callers in the area.

There has been an increase in thefts from vehicles in the district and would advise residents to ensure all items of value should be removed when the vehicle is not in use.

Residents should be aware of a cold caller named Liam Phillips who is claiming to be working with Horsham District Council offering grants for home insulation. This is a bogus claim and he is not registered with H.D.C.

#### Community

We supported the annual Christmas Carol Singing in Bramber Car Park. P.C.S.O. Anika Clough was also in attendance.

### **5. FINANCE**

a) The financial statement showing a balance of £21,473.99(including the reserve of £10,000) was presented and proposed for acceptance by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Stubbs and agreed. The clerk said that, in addition, £2,637.34 has been claimed for VAT. The council still has to pay the Neighbourhood Wardens annual cost which will be in the region of £6,000.

b) The clerk reported that the budget forecast had been amended to take account of the fact that Horsham District Council had said that due to government cuts the

second half of the grant (£1,800) towards the neighbourhood plan would not now be paid.

c) Discussion took place about the amount of precept for next year. The total of precept and community grant received in the current year is £20,319. The community grant for next year has been cut by approximately 25% so the clerk advised that the council should at least, in view of ever increasing cuts by district and county, ensure that the total precept and grant is not reduced. After much consideration, it was proposed by Councillor Goodall and seconded by Councillor Croker that the precept should be raised to £20,876 (a rise of 3.8% and £50.78(Band D)). This was unanimously agreed and brings the total precept and grant to £21,000.

## **6. PLANNING**

a) Update

### **SDNP/15/05996/FUL**

Construction of 1 bedroom holiday flat above garage plus 2 first floor bedrooms above existing house to enable self catering flat to be created as part of existing house. Recommendation-no objections- but asked that a condition be made that if property returned to residential use a further application should be made.

### **New Applications**

#### **DC/15/2712**

#### **The Lodge, Little Drove**

Conversion of existing dwelling to two dwellings (resubmission of DC/15/1268)

#### **SDNP/15/06014/HOUS Tinpots Cottage, Botolphs Road Annington**

First floor extension over existing single-storey pitched roof to existing lobby

#### **SDNP/15/06339/HOUS 2 Annington Barn Annington Farm Botolphs Road**

Replacement windows and single door to dwelling

### **Decisions**

#### **DC/15/2411**

#### **Mountain Ash, Maudlyn Close**

Demolition of existing garage/utility space and the erection of new single-storey front and side extension to include a new garage

### **Permitted**

#### **DC/15/2444**

#### **37 Coombe Drove**

Surgery to 3 x Ash trees and 2 x Sycamore trees (Tree Preservation order)

### **Permitted**

b) The council then considered all three new applications as above and had no objections to any of the plans.

c) The council scrutinised an application for a definitive map modification order relating to a very short length of a footpath and again had no objections to this.

## **7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

In Councillor Mills' absence the Chairman reported that all households had received the recent newsletter giving details of the two open mornings which will display the proposed housing sites and green spaces on 16 and 23 January. Councillors are invited to attend on the 16<sup>th</sup> at 9.30a.m.

## **8. HIGHWAYS**

Councillor Goodall reported that it is possible to purchase signs which show both 30mph and 20 mph. There are two different signs-one showing if driver is speeding and one which shows the limit and says slow down. The latter uses less power. The

flashing sign costs £2344 plus the cost of the panel either £658 or £862 9 (depending on size) with fitting and poles extra. **Actions: Contact Upper Beeding (D.G.) Contact WSCC regarding S 106 and Highways re local contact (Clerk)**

## **9. ENVIRONMENT**

Councillor Croker spoke of an assessment being made to form a cycling strategy in the County. He asked that he be notified if the Council had not received an invitation to contribute by mid January. **Action: Clerk**

b) Concern was again expressed about the confusing signage on the footpaths. The Council had been informed that Jon Perks at WSCC is considering the issue of the signs at the A283 and the trail officer at SDNP has said that the sign at the Downs Link Way will be replaced as part of their on-going programme.

c) The Chairman has spoken to Martin Leigh-Pollitt about the dog fouling problem on the new Walks for All footpath. Bramber Council has a choice of putting up notices or providing bins. An enquiry about the cost of emptying bins will be made. **Action: Chair**

## **10. YOUTH PROVISION**

Council unanimously agreed to ratify the decision made at the previous planning meeting that it supports any decision made by the trustees re tendering for the new contract for the Steyning Area Youth Services.

## **11. PARISH PLAN UPDATE**

The Chairman will contact WSCC about the hedging along the A283. He also reported that the streams are very high at present and the Environment Agency has been contacted. A close eye is being kept. Councillor Potter also said that there had been a large amount of garbage and a post in the stream by St Mary's and that he and a group of volunteers had cleaned it up resulting in an increased flow. Councillor Croker said that now the foliage had been cut in Maudlin Lane it can be seen that about half a metre of the bank had slipped on to the carriageway.

## **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

a) A report showing the recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission had been received and Councillor Croker asked that this be distributed to all councillors.

b) A letter had been received from Jaytek advising of a price increase. The clerk reminded councillors of the Steyning Showcase on February 6<sup>th</sup>. We have been asked to provide two people to man the stall throughout the day. She will send a rota to complete nearer the date.

## **13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7 p.m.** in Beeding & Bramber Village Hall.

Councillor Stubbs gave apologies for this meeting.