

Bramber Parish Council

Meeting Minutes **Wednesday 25 February 2015** at Bramber & Beeding Village Hall

PRESENT:

Messrs R. Potter (Chair), N. Mills, N. Stubbs, Mrs M. Goddard, Mrs S. Bignell and the clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor D. Barling, Mr P. Conroy (Warden) and Mr M. Tilley(website).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from HDC Councillors D. Coldwell and J. Goddard , Mrs D. Goodall and Ms J. Howley

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 January 2015 were agreed and signed.

Update on action points:

2.b Paul Conroy reported that as yet there had been no response from the manufacturer of the speed camera but he agreed to pursue it.

The Chairman said that Cali Sparks at West Sussex is following up the promise of speed checks on The Street once the improvements had been made.

9.a Nick Stubbs had looked into the proposed routes for new underground power lines and considered that these would be an improvement. There were no issues arising.

11. A notice regarding the protocol to be followed for requests to film/record council meetings had been prepared.

12. To date no further responses had been received from the Gatwick Airport Authority or from Operation Crackdown.

3. OPEN FORUM

There was no discussion.

4. REPORTS

County Council

Councillor Barling confirmed that the new lights in The Street were now in situ. He encouraged councillors to attend the next Chanctonbury Local Committee on Wednesday next 4th March when it will be held at the new Ashurst Village Hall. The agenda includes an update from the Policing Team as well as a list of grant applications which includes one from Beeding & Bramber Village Hall. Councillor Barling is now the Cabinet Member for Resident's Services. This covers thirteen specific areas including responsibility for the Fire Service. He reported that this service is being re-designed and although it was felt there was no merit in amalgamating with the East Sussex service there is now a joint control room at Haywards Heath which is proving very successful and will give an on-going economy of scale.

District Council

Councillor Coldwell sent the following report:

Tonight's Horsham District Council meeting includes the setting of the budget. It is expected to be approved as the council has managed to produce a balanced budget without any controversial matters in it. Presuming approval the Council's element of the council tax will be set and the recommendation is that there will be no increase. It is unlikely that there will be any objections to this recommendation which leaves the council tax, excluding the police and parish elements, unchanged for 5 years.

The housing strategy is on hold for a few months in response to the Inspector's findings that HDC was proposing too few homes. He suggested an annual target of 750 homes would be acceptable. Next month there is to be an additional council meeting, at which amended targets will be proposed and the bulk of the houses will be at Southwater, Billingshurst and the former Novartis site at Horsham which is to become part of Brighton University and which will generate 300 units of student accommodation.

Neighbourhood Wardens

Paul Conroy reported that it had been a generally quiet period with little anti-social behaviour to report. The wardens have continued to patrol local hotspots and have engaged with local youths but rarely in an enforcement capacity. They continue to pass on details of suspicious vehicles which generally move on when they arrive.

There have been two burglaries in the area recently involving premises being entered after a rear door or rear patio door window is broken and access gained when keys are left in the locks. Residents are encouraged to remove keys from the locks when they are out or at night. Jewellery was taken from one of the premises between 11.00 and 15.00. There was also a theft of a Karcher Pressure Washer.

Membership of Neighbourhood Watch is considered vital. Residents can join by going to the Sussex Police website and clicking onto Community Messaging.

Joint Parishes Burial Board

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting, the main subject of which was the proposed purchase of land adjacent to the cemetery. The land available would extend the life of the cemetery by a further ten years approximately and would be needed in eight-ten years time given current rates of usage.

Initial investigations into acquiring the potential for acquiring land had been made and discussions with the landowner had taken place.

Further work is to be done by the clerk to get more detail of the costs associated with the purchase. This will enable the Board to take decisions on reserves and charges. A separate meeting is to be held to discuss this and agree strategy.

Three proposed inscriptions were agreed and maintenance of cemetery continues to be satisfactory.

It had been reported that a keep-fit enthusiast had been using the cemetery and disturbing some of the visitors. The police are aware and monitoring.

5. FINANCE

The financial statement was presented and acceptance proposed by N. Stubbs and seconded by M. Goddard.

The clerk said that the council had still not been invoiced for the costs of the Wardens and that the refund of VAT was still awaited. She also distributed amendments to the

receipts page of the budget and confirmed that the precept for 2015-2016 will be £20,113 which includes the additional £500 approved at the last meeting.

6. PLANNING

a) Update:

New Applications

SDNP/14/06137/Hous and SDNP/15/00274/LIS

Ground source heating system (beneath ground), air heating system and replacement single glazing windows with thin double glazed units.

DC/15/0211 Plot 2, land South of Stortford, Coombe Drive

Minor amendment to previously approved dc/13/0701 (construction of 2 det. dwellings with associated landworks) to alter positions of velux roof lights, plot 2 only

DC/15/0325 Land East of little St Mary's The Street

Amended proposals for construction of a new dwelling (previous approval reference BM/26/99)

Granted

DC/14/2688 Downside, Maudlyn Close

Minor amendment to previously approved DC/11/00893 (proposed extensions, alterations and replacement garage) to include first floor front balcony, pitched roof to side utility room, alterations to front and rear extensions and detached double garage in lieu of single and to include a first floor front extension.

DC/14/2754 4, The Ridings

Two storey rear extension and some internal decoration

Withdrawn Application

DC/14/2738 3, The Ridings

First floor extension within the confines of the existing roof

b)

The council then considered the plans The Vicarage, Botolphs Road and for Plot 2, Coombe Drive.

Following detailed discussion of both proposals the Council's decision was no objections.

The clerk was asked to contact HDC to get the original plans for the plot East of Little St Mary's in order that the plans can be considered at the next planning meeting

Action Clerk

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

a) Report from Steering Group

Nick Mills reported that the Plan was now charging ahead with stakeholders letters being sent out and a call for sites to be made soon. The steering group still requires 2 Bramber residents and there is also no-one from the village on the Business and Community groups. There was a good response to the residents' survey with an overall rate of 24.2% . Bramber had a response of 36%.

b)Housing Survey

Information about this survey had been received from AiRs and was studied by the council. Councillors unanimously preferred to use a more personal method of publicising this rather than notices being put in papers etc. and want the date to be as late as possible.

The Chairman will write a letter to enclose with that from AiRs and the actual survey and the clerk will contact Tom Warder to find the latest date to fit in with the plan and to confirm to whom they are sent.

Action Chair&Clerk

8. PARISH PLAN UPDATE

The Chairman reported:

Communications- An update report had been produced for the March edition of Your Steyning

Traffic and Highways- Replacement lamp posts have been installed on The Street and embellishments are being fitted. SSE are currently considering if the posts can be lowered as they are obviously taller than the originals. Council is still awaiting response about checking the speeds on The Street after the re-design.

Housing Development- Land at the back of Little St Mary's is now being cleared for development. As the application was made over 15 years ago HDC were contacted to ensure all was in order. The site has been visited and confirmed that it is,

Results from the Neighbourhood Plan survey are now being analysed and will be reviewed by the members and used to input into the First Stage report.

Flood Planning- An update report on the Internal Drainage Board initiative is scheduled for March. Members of the Bramber flood plan group are looking at riparian land ownership in order to provide some useful input into the IDB thinking.

Operation Watershed has been approached to fund the refurbishment of the toilet to store flood kit.

The Chairman has been working with Emma, the youth worker about possible arrangements for a youth event and English Heritage have been contacted and require further information from us.

Business and Tourism- The paths on the Walks for All extension are being well used and many compliments have been received from users. Larger signs have been installed as there have been reports of cyclists and equestrians using the path.

WSSC have been contacted about the possibility of installing dog bins to help ensure the paths are kept clean for walkers.

Winter maintenance- Two salt bins have now been installed on the Annington Road.

9. TOILETS

A letter had been received from HDC regarding the lease of the toilet block which is due to run out in June. Papers had been considered by members and Nick Mills proposed that Bramber Parish Council is willing to agree a new lease on similar terms to the current one but for a term of 20 years (at present the lease only runs for a five year period). This was seconded by Sandra Bignell and carried unanimously.

Action:Clerk

10. ENVIRONMENT

The clerk had reported a broken step on the access to the footpath, which runs from near the Bramber roundabout to the top of Maudlin Lane, to the Access Ranger. It is listed on rota. However, the Council decided they would like it repaired sooner as it could become dangerous in wet weather. The clerk was instructed to contact Jaytec.

Action:Clerk

11. YOUTH PROVISION

Regular activities- Three youth groups continue to run at the Cuthman Centre as well as the Hub youth café in Upper Beeding. Emma also continues to mentor students through Steyning Grammar School on a referral basis.

Events- On 7 March a 5-a-side football team will compete in a tournament with Sussex clubs for young people. SAYS are also joining with Steyning Downlands Scheme's stargazing event in partnership with The Star Inn to hold an evening of stars and songs, showcasing young musical talent in the area. This will be followed by stargazing in the beer garden on 27 March.

New activities- A new LGBTQ group for young people will be starting shortly in the Steyning area, providing safe space for young people to meet together, discuss issues and support one another.

Youth Voice. We are looking for young people from the areas of Steyning, Bramber Ashurst and Wiston to join a steering group forum as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. We want local young people to be part of this project and have their say about the communities in which they live. Already SAYS has strong links to the Horsham Youth Council, the Youth Voice Network and the W Sussex Youth Cabinet and UK Youth parliament.

SAYS has just received a grant from Saxon Weald for £870 to purchase 2 reconditioned I-pads and an I-pad mini.

Maria Colenso is to join the youth work team and will be leading the Youth Café and Thursday nights at Cuthmans.

12. ELECTION

Parish election forms were distributed to councillors and are available from the clerk for any resident.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no further correspondence.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held on **Wed., 8th April 2015 at 7 p.m.** in Beeding & Bramber Village Hall.

A planning meeting will be held on **Wed. 18th March 2015 at 7 p.m.** also at Beeding & Bramber Village Hall.