

Bramber Parish Council

Meeting Minutes **Wednesday 10 December 2014** at Bramber & Beeding Village Hall

PRESENT:

Messrs R.Potter (Chair), N.Mills , N.Stubbs, D.Moore , Mrs M.Goddard, Mrs D. Goodall, Mrs J. Howley and the clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from HDC Councillors D. Coldwell and J.Goddard and Mrs S. Bignell.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 October 2014 were read and signed.

Update on action points:

10.b Dudley Moore had reviewed and amended the contract with SSE regarding the flower baskets and it has been returned to the company for their agreement.

10.c It was proposed by Nick Stubbs and seconded by Nick Mills that the quote from Jaytec for refurbishment of the noticeboards be accepted and this was agreed unanimously.

13.a The clerk reported that Steyning Parish Council was bound by an agreement made with HDC, when the swimming pool was built to contribute £14,000 per year towards running costs. The Council agreed in principal to make a donation towards this but deferred setting the amount until the next meeting when the budget will be finalised.

3. OPEN FORUM

There were no issues raised.

4. REPORTS

County Council

Councillor David Barling reported that £350million had been allocated for the upgrade of the A27 and that when this takes place it should be beneficial to Steyning and Bramber as it will relieve traffic on the by-pass.

It is expected that at the next County Council meeting it will be decided to retain council tax at the existing level.

The meeting will also discuss the issue of Gatwick Airport on which council members hold two strong and opposing views. It should be good for employment but less so for the environment.

WSSC is currently carrying out a review of all its child services in the light of the child sexual exploitation issues in Rotherham.

The process of changing the lighting in The Street is being carried out at the moment and the design and positioning of the lights is being discussed with County.

Work is continuing on the Walks for All and Downslink projects but work had to be stopped in November due to the wet weather. The Bramber side is expected to be completed by Christmas.

The council was reminded that there is still some CLC money available for community organisations. The Chairman asked if his could be used to re-furbish the old ladies toilet to house the flood sacks but Councillor Barling said that Operation Watershed should be approached.

District Council

Adopt a Street. HDC has announced the 'Adopt a Street' programme some time back but the scheme will not be officially launched until the spring. The idea is that individuals, or groups of individuals, will adopt their street and will do what they can to keep that street looking good. HDC will provide the litter picking equipment, bin bags and hi-viz tabards and importantly some basic training. This will allow volunteers working by at the kerbsides to be covered by HDC insurance policies – but the training must be undertaken first. This initiative is complimentary to the environmental cleansing grant paid to some parishes.

Roads Sweeping. There have been some complaints re road sweeping and the problems caused by a) parked cars and b) leaves blocking drains. I have had some discussions with HDC officers about this, and whilst no conclusions have been reached so far, we are looking at having the sweepers come round at a more suitable time so that more kerbs can be reached. Another possibility is for notices to be posted so that streets might be clear. Clearly an on-going problem and perhaps the litter pickers employed could provide some assistance here.

Preferred Strategy. The inspector has completed his examination of the documents submitted and the process went through without significant problems. Naturally many speakers thought we had put too many houses into the plan and the developers thought the opposite! It is thought that the inspector might require the numbers to be revised upwards and we should know where we stand early in the new year.

Rural Car Parks. HDC has been looking parking in the market villages with a view towards having a season ticket system for the longer term parkers. This is already done a some parks with a ticket costing in some cases £21 per year. There is no intention to charge shoppers and we short term parking will be free – nothing decided yet but certainly the first two hours, possibly, three will be free. I would emphasise that we are in the early stage of discussions and that no decision will be made without the parishes concerned being consulted. UB and Bramber car parks are not being considered.

Neighbourhood Wardens

Paul Conroy gave the following report:

Anti-Social Behaviour

We continue to patrol known hotspots with the intention to disrupt drug dealing as reported in the previous months report. We have noticed a reduced presence of vehicles known to us in these areas in the past three weeks.

We also have carried out static monitoring of vehicles in the High Street following reports of one particular vehicle in particular that is known to us that has been seen traveling at speed.

We intervened with a small group of youths gathered in the car park area of Bramber Castle and confiscated some alcohol from an underage female. The group were known to us and we have sent information regarding the female to the anti-social behaviour team.

We have received various calls from residents across the three parishes regarding cold callers and sales teams that have been particularly pushy with old and vulnerable people. On one occasion a carer of an elderly man in Steyning called us to say that he was being pestered by a caller on his mobile no later than ten minutes after being on his doorstep.

We would like to encourage residents to call us if they have any concerns about high pressure sales techniques or phone 101 in our absence.

Community

We have now completed our NVQ Level 2 Mental Health Awareness course.

Paul also said that he and Michael do some work with Debbie in Upper Beeding with the older people and continue to support the youth club.

Joint Parishes Burial Board

Dudley Moore reported that in response to the question raised at the last meeting regarding the new constitution, all councils do need to agree in order for any money to be returned.

He said that the clerk to the board is wishing to speak to all the parishes involved about considering a future purchase of land. The clerk confirmed that she had sent her the date of the January meeting.

P.C.S.O.

The following report had been received from PCSO Tom Slaughter:

Crime Statistics for Bramber.

During the year from November 2013 there were a total of 17 crimes reported in Bramber, this is 7 less than the same period last year which is nearly a 30% reduction in crime for corresponding months.

Op Edisto & Counter Terrorist Chemical Legislation.

I have visited local banks and Post Offices regarding Operation Edisto (courier Fraud). Notices and leaflets have been left to warn customers not to give private and confidential information over the phone to fraudsters pretending to be police officers from the MET. Police officers will never ask for this bank account information over the phone.

Local hardware shops have been made aware of changes in legislation regarding the selling of explosive chemicals. These measures have been taken in order to minimise the risk of selling chemicals to terrorist organisations and places responsibility of shop owners to remain vigilant.

Neighbourhood Watch.

On Saturday 22/11/14, I held a meeting at the Steyning Centre for NHW Street Coordinators. During the meeting several ideas were raised and alongside NHW members I will be looking at ways of increasing coverage in Steyning, Bramber & Upper Beeding. During the presentation I was fortunate enough to have guest speaker Peter Wood, he was able to give an informative insight into Cyber Security and ways of protecting yourself online.

Please remember not to leave presents on shows, leave plenty of time for journeys in the cold weather and have a very happy, healthy Christmas & New Year.

Come and meet me.

Family and Children Centre, Upper Beeding 10:00 – 11:00 Thursday
11/12/2014.

Please come and speak to PCSO Tom Slaughter about any local concerns or issues you have.

PCSO Tom Slaughter 31379

Diana Goodall said that PCSO Slaughter had confirmed that he would be carrying out a speed check on Clays Hill but he did not say when this would be.

5. FINANCE

- a) The financial statement was presented and approved by the meeting.
- b) Councillors considered the budget for next year. A question was asked about the higher level of payment this year for electricity to the toilets. The clerk explained that this was due to a lower direct debit figure having been paid last year which did not cover the cost and had to be recouped this year. A reading of the meter will be done so that an accurate payment will be agreed next year. **Action: Clerk/Chair**

Councillors agreed to adopt the budget and set the precept at the January meeting when more costs will be available.

- c) The clerk reported that the term of investment for the contingency money had expired and asked the council if they wished the £10,000 to be re-invested. Lloyds were offering 0.7% for 6 months and 0.8% for a year. It was proposed by D.Moore that the money be retained in the current account and this was seconded by N.Stubbs and agreed unanimously.
- d) The Chairman asked if there were any ideas for applications for the CLC grant and members were asked to consider this.

6. PLANNING

- a) Update:

New Applications

DC/14/2341 Woodlea, The Street

Removal of existing concrete fence and posts due to demolition of buildings at Tinkers Court, The Street. Erection of new brick and pier wall to match opposite existing.

Granted

DC/14/2142 Yew Cottage, The Street

Single storey rear extension

Refused

DC/14/1863 Castle Inn Cottage, The Street

Proposed new garage and store

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Nick Mills reported that the Open Meeting had been very well attended and that there were now 60 people on 6 Focus Groups covering the areas of Housing, Heritage, Environment, Business&Economics, Transport/Accessibility and Community.

The Steering Group with input from the focus groups had designed the residents' survey which would be distributed to all households before the end of the year. It was hoped to receive a 30% response rate minimum. In order for the plan to be as accurate as possible it is necessary to know the existing housing needs in the area. All three other parishes have completed housing needs surveys and Bramber are required to do one as the questions in the residents' survey are insufficient. Roger Potter has negotiated to delay this until February/March in order that residents are not overloaded. This is to cost Bramber £1,075.

Nick also warned the council that costs for the plan are likely to have a shortfall of approximately £5,000 of which Bramber are required to pay 11.5%.

8. S106 FUNDING (CIL)

The Clerk reported that there is £6,250 still available.

She had attended a meeting with Upper Beeding PC and the hall management and it had been agreed that the cost of the new hall floor would be split three ways, between the two parish councils and the hall.

It was proposed by Roger Potter and seconded by Nick Stubbs that £2,500 be used from the S106 allocation to cover this. Adopted .

The process with HDC will be conducted by Upper Beeding.

9. S106 PARISH PLAN UPDATE

It was brought to the Council's attention that , at the public meeting prior to the works on The Street, traffic surveys would be completed both before and afterwards to check traffic speeds. The Chairman said he would check with the PCSO.

Action:Chair

Councillors agreed to turnover salt in the existing bins so it is ready for use.

Action:All

Action Areas:

B-Traffic and Highways

Replacement lamp posts are being installed.

H-Business and Tourism

Work on Walks for All and Downslink will be stopped temporarily before Christmas ensuring that works to the North of the by-pass are complete. Works will resume next year as weather allows.

I-Winter Maintenance

A new salt bin is to be installed in Annington.

I-Replacement Bollards

A further two bollards and one lamp post are due to be replaced as they were destroyed in a car accident.

10. ENVIRONMENT

Nothing further to report.

11. YOUTH PROVISION

The quarterly report from Emma, our Youth Worker had been circulated to councillors.

Emma is now an approved assessor for the silver and bronze Arts Awards. She continues to mentor, on a weekly basis, 4 young people referred to her and is now a steering group member of the Steyning Downlands Scheme with an emphasis on involving young people. The Cuthman based clubs continue to thrive with attendance of 30-40 per week. As well as a large number of activities, including sports and cooking, there have been several outings including a very successful trip to a driving track.

The Youth Café in Upper Beeding continues to do well and there are plans to extend provision in Upper Beeding.

12. RECORDING/FILMING OF MEETINGS

It was agreed that the protocol used by both Steyning and Upper Beeding Councils will be sent to councillors to consider with a view to possible adoption at the next meeting.

Action:Clerk

13. CORRESPONDENCE

a) A request for a donation from the Air Ambulance but in view of the large requirements of the budget at the present time this would be declined.

b) YMCA request for visit. Councillors asked for this to be forwarded to the Youth Worker.

Action:Clerk

c) A letter had been received confirming that PCSOs are now required to attend parish council meetings on a quarterly basis and that reports would be sent monthly.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 21 Jan. 2015** at 7.00 p.m.

A Planning Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 07 Jan. 2015** (if required)

