

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 5th March 2025

Present Cllrs A Blakelock (Chair), S Blakelock, M Croker (Vice Chair), D Croker, M Tilley

Members of the public: two

34 Apologies for absence – Cllrs Bayford, Goodall, Green, Kitson.

35 Declarations of interest – none

36 Minutes of previous meeting

Draft minutes previously circulated by the clerk were agreed and signed by the Chair.

37 Matters arising

The Youth Service will begin planting the 3 planters in the car park this Easter.

We have been granted use and storage of the Coolham speed gun, to be returned upon request.

38 Public Session

A member of the public attended as a possible applicant for the clerk position.

A former councillor opined that the Bramber Emergency Plan needs to be updated. He has approached Tony Skelding at HDC who is willing to help review the plan. It was proposed to invite Tony to address the next Annual Parish Meeting to start the process. New volunteers will be needed and Cllr Tilley suggested we use the APM to that purpose. The Chair will try to find/use the previous clerk's e-mail contact list of parishioners in order to help publicise the APM. The Bramber Society members will also be contacted.

39 Climate Action Plan

Cllrs M Croker, A Blakelock and M Tilley attended a training day with One Planet. There is a PC/NC Climate Action Network mtg on 25th March for interested Parish Councillors.

40 Reports

a) **HDC** – HD Cllr Noel updated the parish council on HDC raising charges to balance their budget. The main rises are 2.99% car parking and garden waste collection charges. The next couple of months should see clarification of the revised Local Plan and how it can take account of the Inspector's demand for new higher housing allocations. Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation proposals remain just that, with no clarity as yet regarding future structures.

b) **SDCP White Bridge Link** – The Saltings Loop path has been well received but has thrown up a couple of extra risk assessments that need to be taken into account. Work on The White Bridge Link is expected this year. WSCC have budgeted for the bridge replacement and we are just awaiting a final negotiation from Southern Gas before work can begin.

c) **SDCP Local Walking Cycling Plan** – there has been no further meeting, the report is still in draft and consultations with WSCC, The Glebe Farm developers and local schools are ongoing.

d) **Neighbourhood Wardens** – no report received.

e) **Joint Parishes Cemetery Committee** – no meeting

- f) **Joint Parishes Youth Committee** – no meeting
- g) **HALC** – no meeting
- h) **English Heritage** – Cllr Green provided a report covering the planting of 22 trees in the new community orchard, with 8 more planned for next year. A wild meadow has been seeded and a new gate fitted at the southern end of the field.

English Heritage met with Cllr green and as a result have erected protective fencing around parts of the Castle gatehouse as a safety measure to protect against falling stonework.

- i) **Village Hall** – no meeting
- J) **Website** – nothing new to report
- k) **PPG** – Cllr Bayford provided a report covering the Pharmacy checking procedures for prescriptions. Next meeting on 29th April.

41 Finance and General Purposes

- a) **Payments** – outstanding payments: £144 HDC training, £169 dog waste collection, £151.20 toilet cleaning, £16 hall hire and £21.80 Steyning Centre hall hire.

All agreed unanimously.

- b) **Donation request**

The Parish Council usually thanks the Salvation Army for playing at the annual Christmas Carols in the carpark with a £50 donation. This has been overlooked for the last two years so a donation of £100 was agreed.

42 Planning

- a) The application CA/25/0026 to remove 3 fir trees at Tinkers Court in The Street was approved. Cllr M Croker agreed to forward our comments as “no objection” with a recommendation of mitigation by alternative planting.
- b) none

43 Highways and Public Rights of Way

- a) A 28 day notice inviting public comments is in place at the approximate site of a Village Gateway sign on Clays Hill. Quotes totalling £2,500 have been received for purchase and installation.
- b) Cllr M Croker to contact the Ranger regarding the very poor condition of the Downs Link surface between sharp bend south of the bridleway after the first A283 crossing south of the Bramber roundabout, and the Forest School site at Botolphs.

44 Councillor Training Requirements – none

45 Environment and Parish Action

A poster re spruce beetle has been put on the parish website.

Concerns about a barbed wire fence on both sides of the path from Beeding Bridge down to the caravan park were noted. Cllr Croker has responded to the concerned parishioner.

- 46 **Consultations** – the Chair raised the SDNP Plan which is currently inviting responses.
- 47 **Correspondence -**
- 48 **Items for inclusion on the next agenda** – Gateway wording
- 49 **Confidential discussion** – councillors discussed the hours, pay rate and job specification of prospective new clerk.
- 50 as above
- 51 **Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 9th April at 7pm at Beeding and Bramber Village Hall.