

Upper Beeding Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held virtually using Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 16th June at 7pm

Present: Councillors: S. Birnstingl (Chairman), I. Allen, A. Chilver, B. Harber, F. Heaver, I. Ivatt, T Kardos, L. Newton, J. Shaw, S. Teatum, C. Verney, C. Warren, D Wood.

Also, present: Clerk: Celia Price, County Councillor: David Barling, District Councillors: Mike Croker and Roger Noel

Members of the public: None

C:0620:01 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Garrod.

C:0620:02 Declaration of Councillors personal or prejudicial interest

The Chairman reminded councillors that previous declarations still stand (as defined under the Localism Act 2011).

C:0620:03 Minutes of the last meeting -

The minutes of the meeting dated [19th May 2020](#) were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr Chilver, seconded Cllr Ivatt and agreed by all.

C:0620:04 Co-option of a Parish Councillor(s)

An application had been circulated prior to the meeting and questions were invited.

Sean Teatum, proposed by Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr Verney, and agreed by all, was duly elected as Parish Councillor.

C:0620:05 Public Adjournment

There were none present.

C:0620:06 Neighbourhood Warden Report

It was resolved to note receipt of the Neighbourhood Warden Report for [May](#). Questions and comments were invited. Cllr Wood reported that she has been having regularly contact with the wardens and explained the difficulties of working singularly rather than within a pair. Social distancing regulations have resulted in an entirely different way of working. A vote of thanks was recorded to the Wardens.

C:0620:07 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Barling advised that WSCC continue to cope well with the challenges imposed by the Covid-19 crisis with most staff working effectively from home.

He reported that a virtual meeting of the full council meeting was scheduled for 17th July at 10:30am.

Finance will be a big issue for WSCC, and it is estimated that Covid-19 will cost the County Council between £80 and £85 million. To date £35m has been received from Central Government resulting in a huge shortfall. Priority will be for Children's Services and residents can expect a further drop in non-essential services.

Cllr Barling reported that in line with Government guidelines WSCC have reopened Primary Schools.

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Questions and comments were invited from councillors and the following was raised:

Cllr Verney asked what percentage of primary school children have returned to school.

Whilst Cllr Barling did not have exact numbers, he was able to confirm that attendance is good.

Cllr Allen and Cllr Birnstingl asked what the commitment is from the Government for excess spending and what would happen if the shortfall is not met.

Cllr Barling responded that it was impossible to answer at this stage, however WSCC are actively lobbying for funding and priorities will have to be set. It is currently estimated that the national shortfall will be around £750 million.

C:0620:08 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Croker reported that Horsham District Council are also experiencing a shortfall in revenue which could end up being between £3 and £8 million. The initial impact has been on some capital schemes and these have been out on hold with a planned review in July.

There is a huge drop in parking revenue and parking discs will be extended until June 2021.

Officers are analysing the responses to the Local Plan which has received a lot of comments, particularly regarding the land north east of Henfield. HDC are in discussions with Central Government about housing targets although the expected response is to build out of recession.

HDC have been collecting 'side waste' during lockdown, but this will stop and only bags within bins will be collected going forward.

Cllr Noel reiterated the work being done by HDC officers on the Local Plan. He also reported continued regular contact with the planning enforcement officer concerning the land opposite Tottington Drive. It has been confirmed that with a B8 licence caravans and containers may be kept on site. The site will continue to be monitored.

Advising that both The Rising Sun and The Castle's licences include the sale of alcohol to be consumed off the premises, therefore no licensing laws have been breached.

Questions and comments were invited from councillors and the following were raised:

Cllr Allen asked if 'template' comments made in response to the Local Plan consultation would be disregarded. Cllr Croker confirmed that all relevant planning comments would be considered, and all responses are logged.

Cllr Allen also asked that the green agenda is not lost, and Cllr Croker agreed that it should continue to be a priority for HDC.

Cllr Ivatt thanked Cllr Noel for his continued help and support regarding the land opposite Tottington Drive in Small Dole.

C:0620:09 Clerk's Report

A written [Clerk's Report](#) was circulated prior to the meeting. Questions were invited and comments were invited. Cllr Shaw expressed thanks from Beeding in Bloom to all those who volunteered at the 'Make a Difference Day' with a special thanks to all councillors who supported the event. Cllr Harber asked if the cleansing grant received was the full amount for the year. The Clerk responded that it is the first half.

It was resolved to note the contents of the report.

C:0620:10 Covid-19

The continued closure of play areas and the sports hall was discussed. It was resolved that risk assessment need to be carried out prior to opening. The Clerk asked for assistance and Cllr Kardos, Cllr Allen and District Council Noel volunteered.

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C:0620:11 Finance reports

Income and expenditure reports ([detailed](#) and [summary](#)) were received and noted.

C:0620:12 Bank Reconciliations

Bank reconciliations for [April](#) and [May](#) were received and noted. Cllr Harber reminded Councillors that the bank balance is mainly made up of cemetery funds and the intention is to move this to a separate bank account.

C:0620:13 Payments

The [Payments List](#) for payments made between 1st April and 7th June totalling £27806.46 was received and noted in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

Proposed Cllr Chilver, seconded Cllr Warren and agreed by all.

C:0620:14 [Committee Structure](#)

The proposed new committee structure was discussed. It was agreed this be adopted with a review before the end of the Council year to May 2021.

Proposed Cllr Allen, seconded Cllr Chilver and agreed by all.

C:0620:15 Outdoor Cinema Event

Cllr Newton presented a proposal for an outdoor cinema event to be held at the end of August. The proposal was discussed at length with questions raised and answered. Councillors agreed the event is a great idea, but concerns were raised regarding finance, date, location and Covid restrictions. All agreed further investigation is needed. Cllr Chilver, Cllr Shaw Cllr Teatum and Cllr Verney led by Cllr Newton will collate further information to present to the Council at the next meeting.

C:0620:16 [Correspondence](#)

It was resolved to receive and note the correspondence as circulated.

C:0620:17 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had no announcements.

C:0620:18 Matters raised by Councillors

Cllr Warren expressed ongoing concern regarding the lack of footpath at the Henfield Road end of Hyde Street and requested this be followed up with Cllr Barling.

Cllr Ivatt reported that Small Dole in Bloom is proving to be successful again this year with the planters and hanging baskets fully stocked.

Cllr Allen reiterated concerns regarding funding cuts and urged everyone's awareness.

Cllr Wood requested dementia awareness be added to a future agenda with a view to becoming a dementia friendly community.

Cllr Shaw expressed thanks to the Clerk and her family for helping at the 'Make a Difference Day'.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 8:40pm

Minutes Signed By:

Date: