

UPPER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 7:30pm in Small Dole Village Hall

Present: Councillors: S. Birnstingl (Chairman), I. Allen, V. Cook, S. Garrod, B. Harber, I. Ivatt, T Kardos, J Shaw, C. Verney, C. Warren.

Also, present: Clerk: Celia Price, District Councillors: Mike Croker and Roger Noel

Members of the public: 3

The Chairman reminded members of the public of the requirement that they limit their participation to the Public Adjournment section of the meeting.

C:0320:01 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Chilver.

C:0320:02 Declaration of Councillors personal or prejudicial interest

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

Cllr Shaw declared a personal interest in item C:0302:13 the grant application from the village hall.

C:0320:03 Public Adjournment

A resident from The Bostal gave an overview of safety concerns along with the condition and maintenance of the 'road'. Councillors will discuss this item as below C:0320:10 where there is a link to a supporting document from the resident.

C:0320:04 [Minutes of the last meeting](#)

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 4th February 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr Ivatt and agreed by all

C:0320:05 [Actions from previous minutes](#)

The action list was circulated prior to the meeting and the Clerk invited questions.

The Clerk noted that considerable time had been taken up by the Neighbourhood Plan and various emergency works due to the adverse weather conditions.

Questions were invited.

Cllr Garrod asked for an update regarding play area maintenance as highlighted by the annual ROSPA inspections. The Clerk confirmed that work has been carried out and weekly inspections continue.

C:0320:06 Steyning Grammar School

The Chairman welcomed Susan Gearing, Chair of the SGS Board of Governors who proceeded to verbally report on the plans for SGS including its 6th form, buildings and boarding facilities.

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SGS is one of the largest schools in the country (2300 pupils aged 11-18) and is one of the only state school facilities with a boarding provision as well as an on-site 6th form which is also unusual.

In summary:

- The Board of Governors undertook a strategic review following the resignation of the Headteacher. This was very comprehensive and took 6 months to complete.
- The school is currently Local Authority maintained but partners with a foundation that owns the buildings. It is also a voluntary controlled (church) school.
- The biggest challenge is the 6th form. Lack of facilities means subject choice is limited and there is a lot of competition. Two thirds of boarders are 6th form students.
- A decision in principle has been made to join Bohunt Academy and a consultation is currently taking place. The consultation ends on 11th March.
- The 6th Form will move to The Towers from September 2021. The next year will be used to improve facilities further to include more science provision and a student carpark as well as improved access visibility.
- The Church Street site will be sold and the money will be reinvested into SGS.

Questions were invited

Cllr Allen asked why an academy status was being considered and what will happen if the partnership with Bohunt doesn't proceed.

Sue Gearing replied advising that all potential partners were given a 'brief' very similar to a tender process; and the academies were in the best position to fulfil 'support and challenge' requirements, having better access to subject specialists and support as well as being able to support SEN (Special Educational Needs) and other key requirements. If the Bohunt partnership doesn't proceed other academy partnerships will be investigated.

Cllr Birnstingl asked about accountability.

Sue Gearing responded that SGS believe they will be more accountable as they will have the academy, foundation and church all as partners.

Cllr Birnstingl and Cllr Warren expressed concerns regarding transport and asked for clarification regarding transport plans.

Transport options are being considered very carefully. The Towers are donating their minibuses to SGS and there will be a shuttle service between the main school and The Towers site. Improvements to safer walking routes are also being considered and, as SGS is an Eco flag school it is very important to have sustainable options. SGS are also providing 6th form student parking spaces which will help students when considering 6th form options. Sue Gearing explained that there is no right to be taken to school after the age of 16 so it is important for all that transport solutions are viable.

SGS and UBPC agreed collaboration is very important and both parties will work together as much as possible.

District Councillor Croker asked if the whole of Church Street will be sold.

Sue Gearing explained that all the property on the left-hand side of the street will be sold. The site is a total 1.55 acres if the listed building is included and 1.25 acres if the listed building is excluded.

The Chairman thanked Sue Gearing for attending the meeting and for a very comprehensive update.

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Sue Gearing left the meeting.

C:0320:07 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Barling was not present.

C:0320:08 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Croker reported that the local plan consultation is well under way. The budget has been approved and there will be a 2% increase to band D properties.

The new “Discover Horsham” website is now live and includes Upper Beeding, although there is some missing information which he has asked the Clerk to provide.

Unfortunately, Horsham District Council are receiving more contaminated recycling and are considering various options to reduce this, especially in multi occupancy buildings.

Finally, planning approval has been received for the proposed new incinerator north of Horsham.

Cllr Noel added that he had attended a residents meeting at The Bostal and was involved in investigating solutions. He also stressed the importance of the Local Plan and urged everyone to attend the consultation meetings. The next one is in Henfield on Friday 13th March and senior officers from HDC will be there to answer questions.

Questions were invited and Cllr Allen asked if HDC have issued any guidance regarding the Coronavirus. The District Councillors responded that there has been nothing specific from HDC and it is important to follow the health service advice.

The Clerk asked if any progress has been made regarding the flooding in Priory Field from Saltings Field. Cllr Noel responded, advising the HDC are investigating this and he will follow up progress.

C:0320:09 Neighbourhood Wardens

The monthly report was circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors resolved to note the contents of the report.

Cllr Allen commented on the new format stating it was much clearer and more informative.

C:0320:10 [The Bostal](#)

Issues regarding the potholes and their impact on users of The Bostal were discussed at length. Whilst the Parish Council has no power to address the issues it was resolved that the Chairman will try and enlist the help of the Truleigh Hill project.

C:0320:11 [GDPR Policies](#)

The policies were reviewed, and it was resolved that these should be adopted.

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

C:0320:12 [Community Engagement](#)

Cllr Verney presented the proposed Community Engagement policy the contents of which were discussed. All agreed raising the profile of the Parish Council and community consultation is key. There has already been positive feedback regarding the newsletter and Cllr Shaw has received a good reception at The Hub where she has been available to discuss the NP.

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It was resolved that the working group continue with the project aiming to launch the policy and objectives at the Annual Parish Meeting on 29th April.

C:0320:13 Grant Application

A grant application from Beeding and Bramber Village Hall for their AiRS subscription of £144 was discussed. All agreed the service offered by AiRS is invaluable and access should be offered to Small Dole Village Hall as well.

It was resolved to award the grant.

Proposed Cllr Warren, seconded Cllr Harber and agreed by all except for Cllr Shaw who abstained.

Declaring interests was discussed. The Clerk advised that the declaration of any interest, whether personal or pecuniary, is completely at the discretion of each individual councillor. However, in the interests of transparency it is recommended all interests are disclosed and this does not necessarily result in not being able to vote on a motion.

C:0320:14 Memorial Field Maintenance

The proposed Memorial Field Maintenance was discussed and it was resolved to accept the quote from Grasstex. The Clerk will instruct the works.

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

C:0320:15 Inter Parish Group

Cllr Harber and Cllr Warren will attend the next meeting as, unfortunately, to date UBPC has not been represented. Feedback will be provided, and a review of membership will take place following the meeting.

C:0320:16 Horsham Local Plan

All agreed the site north east of Henfield will have a major impact on the area with the loss of amenity, increased flood risk, environmental impact and poor infrastructure as the main reasons for objection. It was resolved that Cllr Warren and the Clerk will draft a response to the Local Plan consultation which will be circulated to all councillors for comment prior to submission.

C:0320:17 Parish Office

Cllr Verney reported that various options have been investigated including a portacabin on the Memorial Field near the Sports Hall and rental of a room at the Gladys Bevan Hall (GBH). Initial feedback from GBH has been very positive and all agreed that this could be a very suitable option that should be pursued. Cllr Verney will continue with this project.

C:0320:18 Banners

The increased number of advertising banners at Sele Gardens was discussed. Initially banners were used for fundraising activities, but these have gradually been taken over by businesses and have grown in number.

The Clerk was asked to look at a fly-posting policy and investigate how other parishes deal with the issue. It was also agreed to include a question about this as part of the APM consultation/questionnaire to obtain residents views.

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C:0320:19 [Correspondence](#)

It was resolved to note the correspondence as circulated.

C:0320:20 **Finance Reports**

The Clerk reported that we are awaiting the HDC annual invoice for the Wardens, and several maintenance invoices are expected that will be the current year budget. Cllr Harber reported an expected surplus of £10k at the end of the financial year.

It was resolved to note the income and expenditure reports.

C:0220:21 **Schedule of payments**

It was resolved that the schedule of invoices for payments from 10th February to 3rd March 2020 as circulated totalling £30,354.83 be approved.

Proposed Cllr Ivatt seconded Cllr Kardos and agreed by all.

C:0220:22 **Bank Reconciliation**

Bank reconciliations for November 2019, December 2019 and January 2020 were circulated. Cllr Harber confirmed he has verified the reconciliations and bank statements.

It was resolved to note the bank reconciliations as presented.

C:0220:23 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised that he has received Cllr Cutts resignation; this is due to relocation and although it is disappointing to lose a Councillor, all wish Cllr Cutts and his family every success with their relocation and a vote of thanks was recorded.

C:0220:24 **Matters raised by Councillors**

Cllr Garrod requested clarification regarding a potential problem with staff pensions. The Clerk confirmed she is not aware of any issues and a monthly report is returned to the Pension Company which has not been queried.

Cllr Garrod also reported that approximately 25 children and their families attended an event on a Saturday morning to launch the new play area in Tottington Drive. This was very well received, and the children all loved the equipment. She suggested the addition of a picnic bench be added to a future agenda.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 9:30 pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Tuesday 7th April 2020 at 7:30pm**
In **Beeding and Bramber Village Hall**

Minutes signed by:

Date: