**Minutes of the Upper Beeding Parish Council meeting held at**

**Beeding and Bramber Village Hall**

**on Tuesday 14 February 2023 commencing at 7pm**

**Present:** Councillors:S. Birnstingl, J. Cannon, A. Chilver, C. Deadman, F. Heaver, B Harber (UBPC

Chairman), I. Ivatt, T. Kardos and C. Warren

**Also present:** Cemetery Clerk: Colette Harber

**Absent:** Cllrs I Allen, P.Bull

**Members of the Public**: 17 members of the Public present

**C:0232:01 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Steve Keogh, Upper Beeding Parish Clerk; County Cllr. P. Lineham; District Cllrs, M. Croker and R. Noel and Cllr S Teatum

**C:0223:02 Minutes of the last meeting**

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023 subject to noting that in Minute C:0123:05 it was Cllr Cannon who had asked ‘what would happen if there was not a Conservative majority after the elections’ and not Cllr. Warren as stated.

Proposed: Cllr J. Cannon; seconded: Cllr A. Chilver and agreed.

**C:0223:03 Declaration of Councillors personal or prejudicial interest**

The Chairman reminded councillors that previous declarations still stand (as defined under the Localism Act 2011). No further declarations received on this occasion.

**C:0223:04 Public Adjournment**

In welcoming members of the Public to the meeting, Cllr Harber suggested that, as all members of the Public wished to speak on the planning application **DC/21/2195 –** **Erection of 35No. Residential dwellings including access from Pound Lane**, and that with the agreement of all Councillors he would bring forward the matter as next business. All Agreed.

**C:0223:12 Planning**

1. **DC/21/2195-Erection of 35No. Residential dwellings including access from Pound Lane.**

Before inviting members of the public to speak, Cllr Kardos, Chairman of the Planning Committee, outlined the Parish Council’s objection to the application as discussed at the Parish Council Meeting in October 2021; it should be noted that the Parish Council’s current position had not changed.

Members of the Public expressed the following concerns, the:

* drawing water from a borehole would be a major obstacle
* water neutrality requirements
* need for a pumping station
* concerns that flooding in gardens could worsen as the water table is very high
* revised plans did not address the matter of affordable or sheltered housing
* legal requirements required by Reside Developments to notify all residents of the revised plans.
* perceived traffic problems along Hyde Lane especially if any of the emergency services needed to get through
* need for another Public Meeting with Reside Developments.
* understanding that UBPC had wanted to view plans for the development of the entire site known as Land East of Pound Lane before giving any further consideration to the revised plan.
* water leaking from a drain for the last three months which had not been mended and no body appeared to be taking responsibility
* lack of attendance by both District Councillors, indicating that they were not interested in the matter and enquired as to how they would be informed of the Parish Council’s decision.

*(Cllr Harber responded by informing the meeting that Cllr Noel had pre-arranged to attend the meeting of Woodmancote Parish Council and Cllr Croker had become ill earlier in the day).*

Members of the Public also enquired as to how they could voice their concerns at Horsham District Council after having sent in their objections to the plan in 2021.

In responding to the members of public, Councillors commented that the Parish Council:

* has always been very concerned re the usage of water within Upper Beeding as it has a long history of fresh water and sewer water problems, which need further investigation before any houses are built
* suggested that all interested members of the Public should lodge a formal objection to the revised plan
* wished to see an exclusion zone, via Smugglers Lane and Pound Lane, for all Works vehicles going to and from the site, which had not been addressed on revised plan
* expressed great concern and questioned the ways in which HDC Planning Department are able to carry out their work, given that HDC’s own plans had been put on hold.

In the discussion that ensued Councillors proposed that, when writing to HDC, the Parish Clerk should:

* re-state all the previous objections as detailed in the Minutes of October 2021
* express the Councils serious concerns relating to:
  + flooding
  + sewage
  + household water
  + access to the site
  + barring the use of Smugglers Lane and Pound Lane to any Works vehicles
  + south-west access to Smugglers Lane leading to Manor Road which was needed for convenient access to Steyning Grammar School
  + a permanent barrier across Smugglers Lane to prohibit through traffic

In closing the discussions, it was proposed that Upper Beeding Parish Council object most strongly once again to the revised planning application for **DC/21/2195-Erection of 35No. Residential dwellings including access from Pound Lane.**

Proposed Cllr Warren; Seconded Cllr Chilver Vote: all in favour

*At this juncture all bar one member of the Public left the meeting.*

It was also noted that Cllr Birnstingl would pass the photograph of the flooded garden to the Parish Clerk.

1. **CEMEX - pre-application request for the restored former Hales Landfill site to the south west of the settlement of Small Dole for the importation of circa 500,00m3 of inert material over a period of 5 years.**

Continuing with planning matters, Cllr Kardos opened the discussion relating to CEMEX, for which Councillors had received a copy of an email detailing a pre-application request for a consultation of the restored former Hales Landfill site to the south-west of the settlement of Small Dole

Cllr Warren reported that the landfill site, now owned by CEMEX had started operating during the 1960’s/70’s when sites for landfill were not controlled. The site had been restored and now produced good herbage and silage for farm animals.

However, he understood that the Environment Agency had notified the company that water, leachate and gas were leaking from the south end of the site.

He further explained that water courses ran north and south of the site and nitrates have, in the past, leached in to the water as it slopes down to the River Adur. He commented that half-a-million tons of inert material would, in effect, constitute a new landfill site.

He also felt that it was extremely important that Upper Beeding Parish Council should become involved in the consultation process. Initially a letter should be sent to Mike Elkington, at West Sussex County Council, with details of the local water courses and insisting that UBPC is involved.

He also suggested that both Upper Beeding Parish Council and Henfield Parish Council call a public meeting about CEMEX.

In the discussion that ensued, the Council supported a proposal to respond to the email by letter, agreeing to a meeting with Cemex; the words of the initial letter to be agreed on Monday 20 February.

Proposed: Cllr Warren; Seconded Cllr Heaver - all agreed

**C:0223:10 Planning Application DC/22/1683**

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the submission of the Parish Clerk’s letter, concerns raised earlier in the meeting, by the Public and by Councillors should also be passed to the District Councillors.

**C:0223:05 Neighbourhood Warden Report**

Councillors received and noted the monthly report provided by the Neighbourhood Wardens.

Concern was expressed that broken glass and empty vodka bottles had been found in the children’s play area and that the Wardens finish work at 7.00pm.

**C:0223:06 Report from District Councillors**

Both HDC District Councillors, Mike Croker and Roger Noel, were unable to attend the meeting but they had sent in written reports to all Parish Councillors. The Public were assured that both District Councillors would be informed of the concerns raised regarding the revised planning application taken earlier in the meeting together with the CEMEX pre-application of the former Hales Landfill site.

**C:0223:07 Report from County Councillor**

Due to the non-attendance of WSCC County Councillor, Paul Lineham, there was no report on this occasion.

Whilst expressing their continued disappointment at the non-attendance of County Cllr. Lineham, the Council expected to see him in-attendance at the next meeting.

**C:0223:08** **Facilities Committee – 7th February 2023 Minutes**

Councillors received and accepted the minutes of the Facilities Committee meeting held on 7th February 2023.

**C:0223:09 Facilities Committee Recommendations**

1. **Street Lighting**

It was noted that the Parish Clerk was awaiting a revised quotation, using an existing pole, and that the matter would be returned to the next Facilities meeting.

1. **Sports Hall Lighting**

Cllr Warren, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, recommended that the Parish Council replace the current lighting in the Sports Hall with a more energy efficient LED lighting as a matter of priority at a cost of £3,500, with the funds being taken, in the first instance, from the Section 106 fund for Leisure and Recreation.

Proposed: Cllr. Warren; Seconded: Cllr. Chilver

**C:0223:11 Clerk’s Report**

The Clerk’s report was received and noted.

Councillors requested to see the plans for the Crossings on the Shoreham Road, A283.

**C:0223:13 Annual Parish Meeting**

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 23 May 2023, the format of which would be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Warren suggested inviting an experienced representative from Southern Water to discuss the water and sewage problems within the Parish

Cllr Cannon reported that she and Cllr Birstingl had attended an entertaining and informative meeting of Wilder Horsham and suggested that Richard Black should be invited to the Annual Parish Meeting.

**C: 0223:14 Bank Reconciliation**

Councillors received and noted the Bank reconciliations up to 31st January 2023.

**C:0223: 15 Payments List**

Councillors received and noted all payments made in January 2023 for a total of £13,031.77 in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

**C:0223:16 Finance Reports**

Councillors received and noted the detailed income and expenditure reports up to January 2023 from which Chairman reported that net remaining expenditure was anticipated to be £56K; therefore the Council budget would be in line with the original projections.

**C:0223:17 Correspondence**

Councillors received and noted correspondence for January/February 2023.

**C:0223:18 Chairman’s Announcements**

1. **Local Parish Elections**

Councillors noted that they had been sent an email regarding the forthcoming Local Parish and District Council elections, to which the necessary election paperwork and forms were attached. To assist with the process, Cllr. Harber gave each Councillor, present at the meeting, a set of the election papers to fill in and return at the next full Council meeting.

Cllr Warren volunteered to give a set of papers to Cllr Bull and Cllr Harber would deliver a set of papers to Cllr Teatum. A set of election papers was also taken by the member of the Public present at the meeting.

Cllr Harber commented that he hoped that all existing Councillors would wish to re-stand for Upper Beeding Parish Council and also to encourage other local residents to consider standing. He also wished people to note that he would not be asking any Councillor to sign his nomination and would instead be asking members of the public.

He further commented that he would be asking the Parish Clerk to act as the collection point for the return of the nomination papers, checking them and then taking them to the Returning Officer at Horsham District Council.

**C:0223:19 Matters raised by Councillors**

The following matters were raised by Councillors for discussion at future meetings:-

1. **Small Dole Village Hall**

Cllr Ivatt reported that Small Village Hall would be putting up hanging posts outside the Hall at its own expense and would like Stonepit Nurseries to fill the baskets in the Spring.

1. **West Sussex County Council desktop traffic analysis**

Cllr Birnstingl expressed concern re the desktop analytical studies undertaken by West Sussex County Council to calculate the amount of traffic that could arrive in an area when a planning application for a large number of houses is received.

He strongly felt that, when Councillors had to make planning decisions on such larger scale applications, it might prove beneficial knowing the traffic assumptions used to reach the calculated traffic levels.

The Parish Clerk to discuss with the District Councillors.

There being no further business the meeting closed at8.47pm

Signed: Date: