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

**Beeding and Bramber Village Hall**

**on Tuesday 23rd January 2024 commencing at 7pm**

**Present:** Councillors: F. Bull, P, Bull**,** S. Birnstingl, J Cannon, C Deadman, B Harber (UBPC Chairman),

S. Teatum and C. Warren.

Parish Clerk: S Keogh

**Members of the Public**: 6 residents from Small Dole were present.

**C: 0124:01 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. F Heaver, T Kardos and County Cllr. P. Linehan.

**C: 0124:02 Declaration of Councillors personal or prejudicial interest**

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

No further declarations received on this occasion.

**C: 0124:03 Minutes of the last meeting**

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on [19th December 2023](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/EbxzlS1nv_NKrWKc5ZK75xEBGu3zbOsZr5RmkYxbz1t2NQ)

Subject to the following minor changes.

**C: 1223:06** Cllr F Bull commented that there needed to be clarity regarding which Cllr Bull had made the comment.

**C: 1223: 06 –** Add - “The neighbourhood wardens also provide an added sense of security to the Community which is an enhancement and not a substitute for the police service”

**C: 1223:10** Third sentence replace “Steyning and District Climate Action Group" with "Horsham District Council Parish and Neighbourhood Climate Change Action Network”

Proposed: Cllr. F Bull; seconded: Cllr. S Birnstingl and agreed.

**C: 0124:04 Public Adjournment**

Members of the public had comments regarding the Local Plan.

**C: 0124:05 Report from District Councillors.**

Cllrs R Noel and Croker arrived at 8.20pm

The Members discussed the merits and the faults of the local plan, in particular the issues in Small Dole.

They reported that:

They had been vocal in arguing against the current local plan and had raised the issue of Neighbourhood Plans (NDP) being ignored.

Cllr Warren asked who can take the decision to ignore the democratically agreed Neighbourhood Development plans?

Cllr Noel supported the need for the NDP’s to be included in the decision process, but due to the decisions of the Government, this was becoming more difficult.

One additional issue was that with the Local Plan and the NDP, there was every chance that both allocated sites in Small Dole Oxcroft Farm (UBPC NDP) and Land West of Shoreham Road (HDC Local Plan), will be developed during the life of the plan.

Cllr Croker also highlighted that the NDP ran until 2031, while the local plan extended until 2040. This has led to nine-year demand for housing which had to be plugged.

The main issue is that the local authorities are making decisions, but these are then affected by the changes by the government.

The points raised regarding New Hall Lane and the development in Henfield would be discussed at the Henfield Paish council open meeting, which is taking place on 1st February.

It is expected that there would be a number of planning officers and cabinet members in attendance.

**C: 0124:06 Neighbourhood Wardens Report**

Councillors received and noted the monthly report for December 2023 provided by the Neighbourhood Wardens.

**C: 0124:07 Report from County Councillor**

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

Cllr Linehan was recovering from a medical procedure.

Councillors expressed their continuing disappointment at the non-attendance of County Cllr. Linehan.

The Clerk was asked to write to the County Councillor to ask for urgent works to be carried out to repair potholes at the following locations:

Wineham Lane

A283

Horn Lane – near Oreham Common

Albourne Road

And for the following roads to be investigated regarding the removal of cat’s eyes:

A283 Steyning to Wiston

**C: 1223:08** **HDC Local Plan –** to consider a response to the [Local Plan.](https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/read-the-current-local-plan)

1. Local Plan 2020 consultation [response](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/EfsNiw6qNtxHtDC5ZuB0__EBtRkWZdFgMY9DD4FtFo7FRA).
2. NDP – [Upper Beeding](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/UBPC/EYz0ymlmTDVPi9Z_ow9IGgMBEqI1HFPKAqGfkJaixVKnmg)

**\*Standing orders were suspended\***

The 6 residents were asked to speak about their concerns regarding development in Small Dole

One resident of New Hall Lane spoke for the group with a prepared statement.

The main concerns are:

SMD1, (Land West of the A2037 Shoreham Road)

* This site has already been considered over the last few years and rejected by both iterations of the Henfield Neighbourhood Plan, and, more importantly, by Horsham District Council itself as a formal planning application. DC/15/0353, a decision that HDC was prepared to defend at appeal (APP/Z3825/W/15/313049). (Wates withdrew). The decision notice / post Committee report should be noted in full, but the highlights are as follows:
* **Unsustainable location**. The DC/15/0353 conflicts with the aims of sustainable development with its need to minimise travel, and to reduce the reliance on the private car: If you live in Small Dole, which is categorised as a Smaller Village in the settlement hierarchy, you need access to a car.
* **Harm to the Landscape.**Horsham District’s landscape consultant and the South Downs National Park representative saw adverse landscape impacts on the surrounding countryside and the settlement character of Small Dole. (The site is very close to, and very visible from, the SDNP.)
* One proposed location had been the site of an application which only in December had been refused and the developer asked to remove the temporary structure which had been built. The site was deemed unsuitable for development of this nature. This site is now allocated as a traveller site for one structure.
* The location was not allocated in either of the NDPs for Small Dole or Henfield.
* The NDPs of both Upper Beeding and Henfield were being ignored; this needs to be explained.
* The location of the development is prime grade 2 agricultural land.
* Was not included in the housing needs analysis.
* The drains are struggling to cope with the current houses; more will cause addtional problems for residents.

**\*Standing orders were reinstated\***

The Chair explained that Henfield Parish Council were having an open meeting on 1st.

September and all were welcome to attend.

**C: 0124: 09 Clerk’s Report**

The Clerk’s report was received and noted.

Cllr Cannon was interested to find some plans of the Sports Hall. The Clerk would investigate.

The Chair reported that a car which had been left at the Waterworks Corner, due to having road tax and MOT, was not to be removed by Op Crackdown at the current time.

The Clerk would contact WSCC Highways and the Wardens to try to resolve the matter.

**C: 0124: 10 Riverside Walk –**

The Clerk’s Update on the proposals for the path [upgrade](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/ERHIOTERDpdPlXuVDAeMG28BjEQFULt1QJHU8bPWG7G_og) was **NOTED.**

There was a discussion regarding the HDC grant Funding and the selection of the contractor who had provided the lowest quotation.

Members would prefer to have more input to the selection but understood that for the grant process the lowest quotation would be preferred by the funder.

It was possible that another more expensive company could be used if necessary.

The Clerk commented that currently the lowest quotation had been provided by a contractor who was on the HDC approved contractor list and was currently carrying out works for WSCC, so was a good choice.

It was **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** that the selection of contractor was dictated by the funding process.

**C:0124: 11 Grant Request –** ([Grants Policy](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/UBPC/EQepr5bJRglBl3tKIu0xahcBA06ouGccrOkIGKLnCnIqLQ) )

Ass the Grants Policy was due for review, the Chair reported that the current version was sill useable.

It was **AGREED** that the Grants Policy was suitable at the current time and would be reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting In February.

1. Hogs Wallow

It was **RESOLVED** that the application for a grant for the goat and small animal enclosure would be rejected on this occasion. The project did not fulfil the requirements of the Councils Grant Policy, as it was not clear whether residents of the Parish would benefit from the project.

Proposed by Cllr. B Harber Seconded by Cllr. C Warren and **AGREED.**

1. 4Sight

It was **RESOLVED** that the application for a grant for the charity providing aid to those suffering sight loss, would be awarded with £500. The Clerk reported that twelve residents of the parish were being supported by 4sight.

Proposed by Cllr. B Harber Seconded by Cllr. C Cannon and **AGREED.**

**C: 0124: 12 Finance Reports** –

Councillors received and noted the income and expenditure [(summary](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/UBPC/Ed7Nm9xrWttIgrLUR0f5nHwBaaxKqJjcEzI70cVHD5YPEQ) and [detailed](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/UBPC/EYidK5tfQOxGvbgfTT-TrhIBuRQBIgnFMNndGO_Glg1lxg)) for year to date.

**C: 0124:13 Bank Reconciliation.**

Councillors **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the bank [reconciliation](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/UBPC/EYOewCKtCEpDgsT2wcjfsZoBYJ3uIg7Fr1hkJxFja3zBEg) for December

**C: 0124:14 Payments List** –

Councillors received and noted all payments made in [December](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/UBPC/EfXgz7W4ANhLtZJ0rY7-cGsB7tGtvF72r9G7BbDTRHRvYA) totalling £12,418.05 in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

**C: 0124:15 Correspondence**

Councillors received and noted [correspondence](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/Ed3ZeUi4fTFGsCPAmTItl7oBVUWU50fsnUJaQYW2U06VvQ) received during November and December 2023 which had been emailed in advance.

**C: 1223: 16 Chairman’s Announcements**

The Chair had attended the Riverside Walk meetings, and a CPR and defibrillator training at the Village Hall.

**C: 1223:17 Matters raised by Councillors**

**Cllr. Teatum**

Along with Cllr Heaver there has been some discussion regarding the possibility of using WhatsApp to help with looking for missing people.

Cllr Teatum discussed this with the leader of the Alzheimer’s Society and the possibility of helping those caring for relations suffering from Dementia.

The local health centre may be able to help set up and manage the service.

**Cllr F Bull**

The defibrillator, which is owned by the Football Club, is currently housed in the changing rooms and only available during training sessions and match day.

The first responders are looking at options to ensure that the defibrillator will be open to the public and there would also be maintenance available.

The Parish Council may be able to provide the funds for this.

**Cllr Cannon**

Had attended the last PPG meeting and had circulated the minutes before the meeting.

One of the items in the minutes was the need for more information screens in the Parish. They had investigated the Hyde Square Shops and the local pharmacy.

The screens need funding.

There is an also a need to circulate the local magazine, but the health centre does not have a distribution option in Small Dole as the village is split between the two health centres.

Cllr P Bull would look into the possibility of the magazines being delivered by the local shop.

There being no further business the meeting closed at9.00pm

Signed: Date: