

# The Parish of Upper Beeding



## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
at 6:30pm in the Beeding & Bramber Village Hall.

### Present:

Parish Councillors: Bob Harber (Chairman), Simon Birnstingl, Frank Bull, Jill Cannon, Chris Deadman, Fred Heaver, Tom Kardos, Sean Teatum, Chris Warren

Parish Clerk: Stephen Keogh (minutes)

Cemetery Clerk: Colette Harber

Residents and members of the public: 18

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**2025:01**

### **Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council**

The Chair of the Parish Council welcomed all present and thanked everyone for attending especially to those presenting and the those providing information at the rear of the hall.

He also thanks the Councillors and Staff for their input to the evening and their work in the community.

**2025:02**

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from the following:

West Sussex County Councillor – Paul Linehan.

Horsham District Councillors: Mike Croker and Roger Noel

Parish Councillors – P Bull and J Edwards

**2025:03**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2024**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2024 were **AGREED**.

**2025:04**

### **West Sussex Recycling – Presentation by Sophie Goodall-Smith**

The WSCC recycling team is one of the top three in the UK and has won awards for the endeavour.

There is a need to change to way that recycling and saving energy is looked at and this team has tried to ensure that the items that are thrown away are reused as much as possible. There are 7 objectives.

Recycle, reuse, refill,

40% of the waste is food waste which can either be reduced by better management of the items or reused by the public.

One of the questions which the residents ask is where does it go?

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There is a new waste tracking system.  
76% of waste goes to UK.  
19% goes to Europe.  
5% is in the rest of the World.

There are no landfill sites in Sussex 3% of the waste goes to a location in Surry.  
Most of the items go to Ford Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) where the waste is broken down and passed through to the various types of waste.  
WSCC do have a contract with BIFFA for the management of the waste; they have agreed to reinvest in the recycling and waste management.  
This year there is movement towards providing a service for recycling food waste.

Home recycling can now take more of the items that previously were not eligible.  
This includes the toothpaste tubes, carton lids and pill blister packs.  
All colours of glass can be recycled together.  
The technology to separate the items has improved.  
The items need to be clean and not in plastic bags, they need to be loose.  
The amount of waste which can not be used or needs to go to landfill is down to 4%.  
53.7% is recyclable.  
The Recycling Centres repurpose resources. The booking scheme has meant no queueing and More control of the waste.

There are Re-use Centres – Billingshurst and Worthing  
Things are encouraged to be delivered which can be re-used.  
At some centres paint can be donated and re-used.

40% of the domestic waste is food waste. There are some areas where the household management can reduce their food waste..  
For example: Plan Meals, don't buy BOGOF unless there is a definite usage, casseroles and stews, Management of the freezer items

There are also Community Fridges. The items are free, and available for all.  
Donations are requested.

OLIO is a website which shows what is available and where. It is free of charge

Ways to recycle the items Include:  
Composting needs to be increased with a reduced composter available.  
Batteries need to be separate,  
Coffee pods can now be recycled,  
Small electricals and cables can be collected in future.  
Large items can be collected a small cost.  
Charities will take some items.  
Supermarkets are taking some soft plastics.  
Boots take medication and drug paraphernalia.

In summary WSCC are striving for the best service that can be provided;  
Recycle Reuse Refill.

## **Questions**

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Can plastic Plant pots be recycled?

Not currently. The best way is for them to be brought to garden centres and reused.

Cllr Harber then commented that there is also a charity which recycles and reuses bicycles and this can be made use of through the Clerk or Cllr Harber.

**2025: 04**

**Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner -Update by Katy Bourne OBE**

What is the role of the PCC?

The role started in 2012 where the first PCC was elected.

There was no blueprint, and no one had ever carried out a similar role, so it started from scratch and developed it as the years went by.

It is a political role, and the party of Katy Bourne has been in control for the past 12 years.

The role gives the people the voice and the opportunity to challenge the police to improve and cut crime.

The PCCs of Britain are the only role in the world who questions the police and drafts a strategic document which sets out the way the police will act and ask questions of the results etc.

The main concern for the PCC is looking after the victims.

The role has developed to provide organisations and volunteer groups to support the victims.

The PCC also looks after the funding, by increasing the precept to allow the employment of 3289; this is more officers than in 2012.

The PCC believe that there is a need for more police to be on the beat will increase the feeling of safety in the public. The confidence in the police is essential to allow public consent to the police carrying out their job. One of the reasons for the increased bodies endeavouring to raise the profile of the police is to reduce the likelihood of individuals carrying out smaller crimes rather than concentrate on those which are deemed to be more serious. This is to try to reduce the likelihood of progressing from smaller crimes to the larger ones if they are caught early.

**Questions**

Can the PCC explain the reason for the retire and rehire of a Chief Constable?

The PCC commented that the reason for the rehire, was due to the fact that there are many members of staff who have had the training and experience, but due to pension regulations have had to leave the force. The new regulations have allowed certain individuals to be rehired.

Why are the police not using a zero-tolerance policy to crime.

The PCC commented that at the current time this would not be way the PCC would like to go, and would rather try a broken window theory, that you ensure that the area is kept to a high standard and all drops in standards are checked before they get worse.

**2025: 05**

**Cllr. Mark Baynham - (Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation).**

There are two issues to be discussed.

Despite the proposals not being in the Labour Manifesto, there have been many comments regarding the proposal to devolve services.

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The proposed devolving of decisions from government to a local role and the reorganisation of the local government are different areas.

Currently a team of consultants are setting out the best options.

Devolution is not directly going to affect the residents as they may feel that the decisions of the government is closer, while the issues of the local government, Parish and District Council, may be more difficult to contact than previously.

Currently the proposals are to create all Sussex into a Strategic Authority with a Mayor and be responsible for many of the statutory services:

Transport  
Infrastructure  
Finance  
Social Services.

The proposals are for East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove as three strategic authorities.

The proposals for the change are due to be agreed in September.

Many of the changes will be finance based. The services which make any income will be kept by the Unitary Authority. Those services which are not statutory and may cost money may be devolved to the Towns and Parishes (Parks, Play areas, Cemetery Management)

There are not many areas where there will be savings made, as the majority of the costs are staff based and initially there would be a need to ensure that the level of service is kept.

Some Councils already work together.

The role of the Town and Parish Council would be likely unchanged.

The need for parish Councils to run non-statutory services would increase as they are not an income maker for the Unitary Authorities. Consequently, some assets will be passed to them.

The residents will not see a reduction in Council Tax, although there may be parity in all areas of a new authority. The current Horsham district council tax for the area is the lowest in Sussex.

The speed at which reorganisation happens may have a detrimental effect on the 43,000 employees.

### **Questions**

Cllr Birnstingl asked if there was an increase in democracy as this does not appear to be the case.

There appears to be no exact science for the process and there may be a democratic deficit in the future. This will have to be worked on to reduce the impact and increase the input from the public. There will also be a reduction in the number of Councillors.

Cllr Kardos asked if there were any plans to include the South Downs National Park Authority.

There appears to be no need or plans to change the SDNP currently.

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A resident asked if this has been done before where and was it a success?  
There are a number of examples such as Manchester, Liverpool Dorset and Cornwall, but these have all been done due to a request, so the authorities had already looked at the way it would work.

How will the Authority stop one area using the majority of resources?  
The Authority will have to look at this and set policies to reduce the possibility of this happening.

2025: 06 The Chair thanked all speakers, helpers and parishoners for their contributions to making the evening a success.