

# Upper Beeding Parish Council

## Minutes of the Upper Beeding Council meeting held at Beeding & Bramber Village Hall on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 commencing at 7pm

**Present:** Councillors: S Birnstingl, F Bull, J Cannon, F Heaver, B Harber (UBPC Chair) and C Warren.

**Also present:** Parish Clerk: Stephen Keogh  
Horsham District Council: Mike Croker

**C: 0226: 01      Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. P Bull, C Deadman, J Edwards T Kardos and S Teatum  
County Councillor. P. Linehan.  
HDC Councillors: R Noel.

**C: 0226:02      Declaration of Councillors personal or prejudicial interest**

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

**C: 0226:03      Minutes of the last meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on held on [Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026](#).

Proposed Cllr F Heaver seconded Cllr J Cannon and **AGREED**.

**C: 0226:04      Public Adjournment.**

There were no Public in Attendance

**C: 0226:05      Update from County Councillor – to receive a report from Councillor Paul Linehan.**

Cllr P Linehan gave apologies.

**C: 0226:06      Update from District Councillors.**

**1.    LGR and Mayoral Elections:**

According to our HDC CEO, Jane Eaton, a date for the announcement of the Government's choice for the district combinations for the new Unitary Authorities in Sussex will be March 16<sup>th</sup>; unless there is another change. The result will be announced by the Government. The Mayoral elections have been postponed for this year; however, the County Council Elections are back on with the date set as May 7<sup>th</sup>. This will be electing our County Councillor for one year before it becomes a 'Shadow Authority'.

Once the new Unitaries have been announced in Sussex, there will be a Structural Changes Order made in Parliament, and this is expected to take nine months to complete. In the meantime, Horsham will be working with its new partners to put in place the different departments that will be required for the single Unitary Authority.

## **2. Budget:**

The District Budget that was voted through at Full Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. The Council has accepted all the proposed Parish precepts; and therefore, the full Council Tax has been confirmed as having a 2.94% rise.

The capital programme is now £35 million over the next two years, which will leave very little in our reserves when the Unitary takes place.

The spend will be 50 – 75% Districtwide with 1% in the south of the district.

There are differing viewpoints as to whether this is going to affect the way the Unitary is going to be governed. However, part of this year's rise from £16 to £21.2 million is the £2 million cost of the food waste collection service, starting in March.

Cllr Birnstingl asked if there was a way to include the Sports Hall on the list of projects.

Cllr Croker commented that he would investigate this.

## **3. Well-Being Strategy:**

Part of the Budget has been allocated to the 'Well Being Strategy' that is to be rolled out across the district. This has been put in place to remedy and hopefully offset the rapidly ageing population and by 2041 we are expecting that 30% of the population will be over 65, the current figure being only 23%. The rationale is that providing more appeal to residents to visit leisure centres will save medical costs in the long term and keep us all fit and healthy for longer. The HDC Sports and Leisure contract is due for renewal at the end of next year, but the costs of improving our estate to make it more attractive to Leisure Provision Companies has not yet been included in the budget.

## **4. Members' Briefings.**

Councillors have had briefings from Officers recently, the first being on the HDC Housing Strategy: The housing register shows that we will need 700 houses currently and that there is a shortfall of 470 nominated premises, and the demand for housing is principally due to the increasing complexity of homelessness cases. The district has an excellent housing provider and partnership with Saxon Weald but needs a mix of housing for our communities and Horsham is appealing to private landlords to come forward with suitable premises. The second briefing was on Electric Vehicle provision within our fleet of vehicles, which not only includes waste collections, but a fleet of vans used for collecting coffee pods, used batteries and textiles on a regular basis from residents. These smaller vehicles are now electric: our Country Warden and road sweeper vehicles are now all operated on HVO and the 26 and 16 tonne rubbish collection vehicles are also still on HVO. The aim is obviously to get all the vehicles operating as electric powered vehicles, but distance and terrain, especially in the rural areas where we are, is proving to be challenging. However, new electric technology is becoming available all the time and the aim is to get all vehicles electric powered by 2030.

## **5. Planning within the District.**

HDC, along with other LPAs have been set building targets – and after HDC's recent 'peer review' where HDC talked to different Councils in the southern half of the country. These high building figures are appearing everywhere. Planning Officers are striving to get as many applications approved as possible in the fear that any refusals will escalate to Appeal, where most Inspectors are finding in favour of the appellants and HDC ends up with costs awarded against it. Neighbourhood Plans are

becoming disregarded, and Officers are finding reasons to approve despite any local NP. The new NPPF seems to require NPs to be renewed, even if they are still in date. However, at the recent 'Meet the Leader' meeting in Steyning on the 11th of February, our 'Head of Place', Barbara Childs, advised local Parishes to wait until the new Local Plan, now re-energised with a new Inspector, Mr Jonathan Bore, comes to fruition before any further work on Neighbourhood Plans is undertaken. It was advised, at the Local Plan briefing the next day, 12th February, that Mr Bore is expecting the first meeting, not a hearing, but an exploratory meeting, to happen in April of this year. We were warned at this briefing that our housing numbers would have to significantly increase to comply with the new NPPF.

Cllr Heaver asked if the number of homes allocated, which may be 1500, will include the applications which have already in the planning process?

There has yet to be a definite number set as they are using different calculations regarding the provision.

May need two large developments to come forward to meet the need. This may include the creation of small towns.

Cllr Birnstingl asked whether the plan is for 2 years or longer as the District Council may not exist after 2029.

Cllr Croker explained that it would be 15-year plan.

#### 6. **Cemex.**

HDC have submitted a response to WSCC, even though it didn't offer overwhelming evidence against it, and Henfield PC has decided to re-evaluate their decision and object on the grounds of transport of materials through the village. Henfield suggested that Cemex use a more southerly route – not helpful to Upper Beeding, but still another objection. HDC have supported a wider Horsham District approach to preserving the river as it is, and this has also been backed up by Sussex Wildlife; there is now a weight of evidence against the project, and the best we can hope for is that WSCC will shelve it – at least until the new West Sussex Council is elected.

**C: 0226:07**

#### **Neighbourhood Warden Report**

Councillors received and **NOTED** the [January 2026](#) report and **NOTED** the [Steering Group Meeting](#) minutes.

Members asked the Clerk to ensure that he praises the quality of the reports at the next Steering Group meeting.

**C: 0226: 08**

#### **Committee minutes for adoption by Full Council:**

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to Adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting Held on [Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026](#).  
Proposed Cllr F Heaver seconded Cllr Warren and **AGREED**.
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to Adopt the minutes of the Facilities Committee Meeting Held on [Tuesday 3rd February 2026](#).  
Proposed Cllr F Bull seconded Cllr J Cannon and **AGREED**.
- iii. It was **RESOLVED** to Adopt the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting Held on [Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026](#).  
Proposed Cllr S Birnstingl seconded Cllr Warren and **AGREED**.

- C: 0226: 09      Joint Parish Youth Committee**  
It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the JPYC Meeting held on [Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026](#).  
Proposed Cllr F Heaver seconded Cllr Harber and **AGREED**.
- The Clerk gave a brief update on the service following the meeting.  
The Youth Leader has rescinded the resignation and has agreed to remain in post for the next year and fulfil the original contract.
- C: 0226: 10      Recommendations from The Facilities Committee**  
It was **RESOLVED** To Accept the recommendations from the Facilities Committee Meeting held on [Tuesday 3rd February](#).  
Proposed Cllr Warren seconded Cllr J Cannon and **AGREED**.
- C: 0226: 11      Recommendations from The Finance Committee**  
It was **RESOLVED** To Accept the recommendations from the Facilities Committee Meeting held on [Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February](#).  
Proposed Cllr R Harber seconded Cllr Birnstingl and **AGREED**.
- C: 0226: 12      [Local Government Reorganisation](#) – To consider LGR Update.**  
i.      [Local Elections](#).  
Councillors received and **NOTED** the report, circulated with the agenda, regarding the proposed County Council elections to be held in May 2026 and the decision to postpone the Mayoral Election, until the details regarding the Unitary Authority were clearer.
- C: 0226: 13      [Neighbourhood Planning](#)**  
Members discussed the [NPPF Consultation](#) and it was **AGREED** that at this stage no formal response was necessary.  
The Policies etc were still subject to change and the fact that there is no Local Plan negates the ability of the Parish to challenge them sufficiently.
- C:0226: 14      Clerks [Report](#)**  
The Clerk’s Report, circulated with the agenda, was **NOTED**.
- C: 0226: 15      Financial Update**  
Councillors received and **NOTED** the reports to date.([summary](#) and [detailed](#)) to date.
- C:0226: 16      Bank Reconciliation**  
Councillors received and **NOTED** the Bank Reconciliations for [January](#) 2026.
- C:0226: 17      Payments List**  
Councillors received and **NOTED** all payments made in [January](#) 2026 for £12,466.81 in accordance with the Financial Regulations.
- C: 0226: 18      Climate Matters**  
Cllr F Bull updated the Members on the upcoming Greening Steyning event Green Drinks on Wednesday 25th February
- C: 0226:19      Correspondence**  
Councillors received and noted the correspondence received during [January 2026](#)..

**C: 0226:20**

**Chair's Announcements**

Cllr Harber had no events of note to report at this time.

**C: 0226:21**

**Matters raised by Councillors**

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

**Cllr Heaver**

Reported that there were some issues regarding a property in Manor Road where the resident appears to have planted some reeds or similar in the verge.

The Clerk was asked to explain to WSCC and the Wardens that the resident may not be approachable.

The Steyning Surgery may be able to provide parking for the staff, to release spaces for additional disabled parking spaces.

**Cllr Warren**

Vandals had damaged the Buncton Church and they may need funding to carry out the repairs. Members agreed that this can be investigated once the details are publicised.

Cllr Warren also asked that anyone who has yet to comment on the Cemex planning application, do so as soon as possible.

**Cllr Cannon**

Commented that a resident has reported several grass verges being damaged in the Village by cars parking on the pavement.

Members discussed this issue as it has been highlighted on many occasions, due to the number of vehicles driving on the verges and the recent weather causing the verges to be unsuitable for driving on.

The Clerk would circulate the details for the reporting of these issues.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed:

Date: