

Upper Beeding Parish Council

Minutes of the Upper Beeding Council meeting held at Beeding & Bramber Village Hall on Tuesday 24th March 2026 commencing at 7pm

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

Also present: Parish Clerk: Stephen Keogh
Horsham District Councils: Mike Croker and R Noel
One member of the Public

C: 0326: 01 Apologies for absence

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

C: 0326:02 Declaration of Councillors personal or prejudicial interest

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

C: 0326:03 Minutes of the last meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on held on [Tuesday 24th February 2026](#)

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

C: 0326:04 Public Adjournment.

There were no questions from the Public, the resident was a candidate for the upcoming County Council Elections.

C: 0326:05 Update from County Councillor.

Cllr P Linehan gave apologies.

C: 0326:06 Update from District Councillors.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- Horsham expected to receive update **tomorrow at 10:10am.**
- Announcement to the public expected **after PMQs.**
- Possibility LGR is delayed or cancelled (20% likelihood).

Draft Local Plan

- Hearings to begin **Tuesday 21 April for three days** (Friday reserved).
- Focus on establishing housing need; further work expected later in the year.
- New inspector: **Jonathan Bohr.**
- Hearings will be livestreamed.

Budget and Scrutiny Committee Updates

- Operational surplus slightly under **£1m.**

- Year-end forecast: **£0.5m surplus**, subject to global economic impacts.
- Horsham Park protected under *Fields in Trust* scheme (green areas only).
- Anti-social behaviour policy updated.
- Horsham remains *safest district in West Sussex*.

Notes Raised by Councillors

- Encouragement for residents to report minor offences via formal channels rather than social media.
- Discussion regarding grant applications for potential sports hall redevelopment

C: 0326:07 Neighbourhood Warden Report

Councillors received and **NOTED** the [February 2026](#) report

- Both wardens are now active again.
- Parish received **£3,500 rebate** due to temporary single-warden coverage.
- Invoice for current year paid.

C: 0326: 08 Committee minutes for adoption by Full Council:

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to Adopt the minutes of the Community Committee Meeting Held on [Tuesday 10th March 2026](#).
Proposed Cllr F Heaver seconded Cllr Birnstingl and **AGREED**.
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to Adopt the minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting Held on [Tuesday 17th March 2026](#)
Proposed Cllr F Bull seconded Cllr J Cannon and **AGREED**.

C: 0326: 09 Recommendations from The Community Committee

It was **RESOLVED** To Accept the recommendations from the Community Committee Meeting held on [Tuesday 10th March](#) Proposed Cllr F Heaver seconded Cllr Harber and **AGREED**.

- Review of outside bodies: some organisations to be removed (Neighbourhood Watch, Beeding in Bloom).
- Parish stall confirmed for **27 June event** at the school. Request for councillor help on the day. Youth club collaboration welcomed.
- Magazine submissions due **8 April**. Proposal for adding warden details and remit.

C: 0326: 10 Recommendations from The Staffing Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** To Accept the recommendations from the from the Staffing Committee Meeting held on [Tuesday 17th March](#).
Proposed Cllr Warren seconded Cllr J Cannon and **AGREED**.

- Staff Handbook adopted.
- Laptop purchase approved for the Maintenance Manager.
- Recognition for employee long service: – Caretaker 30 years' service. £50 garden voucher agreed.

C: 0326: 11 Steyning and District Partnership

- i. The Notes from Sustainable Transport Group - Working Party 9 Working Party 9 Meeting held on [Wednesday 4th March](#) Were **NOTED**.
Work to continue on riverside path from Dawn Crescent to Botolphs Bridge.

Path suitable for walking only due to width and height constraints.

- ii. The Notes from Sustainable Travel Steering Group – Meeting held on [6th March 2026](#) Were **NOTED**.

Positive response from Highways on Castle Lane pedestrian crossing proposal.
Further discussion pending on cycle route feasibility from Dacre Gardens.

C: 0326: 12 Local Police Inspector Briefing Notes

The [Briefing](#) notes circulated with the Agenda were **NOTED**.

- PCSOs being restructured but Upper Beeding provision unchanged.
- Inspector Durkin may attend the Annual Parish Meeting.
- Ongoing trial of live facial recognition in the district (related to CCTV upgrades).

C:0326: 14 [Clerks Report](#)

The Clerk's Report, circulated with the agenda, was **NOTED**.

C: 0326: 15 Financial Update

Councillors received and **NOTED** the Income and expenditure Reports ([summary](#) and [detailed](#)) to date .

- Year-end figures expected to match budget plans closely.
- EDF rogue meter issue:
 - Meter believed not to exist; charges estimated for **12–13 years**.
 - Potential refund may exceed **£16,000**.
 - Investigation ongoing.

C:0326: 16 Bank Reconciliation

Councillors received and **NOTED** the Bank Reconciliations for [February 2026](#).

C:0326: 17 Payments List

Councillors received and **NOTED** all payments made in [February 2026](#) for £30,828.27 in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

C: 0326: 18 Climate Matters

- Upcoming *Green Drinks* talk on AI.
- Eco Open House Day on **12 April** across Worthing, Shoreham & Upper Beeding.
- Two participating properties in Upper Beeding.

C: 0326:19 Correspondence

Councillors received and noted the correspondence received during [February 2026](#) .

C: 0326:20 Chair's Announcements

Cllr Harber has attended the HALC Meeting:

- Planning system changes indicate faster, more centralised decision-making.
- Concerns noted that neighbourhood plans are being increasingly overridden.
- Discussion of emergency planning responsibilities—parishes may need greater preparedness.

C: 0326:21 Matters raised by Councillors

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

Cllr Heaver

Commented that the salt bin near to the Church is empty.
This will be reported as part of the winter preparation.

Cllr F Bull

Re-raised concern about unsafe speed limit on Henfield Road
The limit currently goes from 60mph to 30mph abruptly.
Pathways and verges unsafe for pedestrians.
Parish to lobby county again.

Cllr Birnstingl

Has re-raised the concern of mobile coverage in the area.
There is still an issue that if there is an emergency there is no way that some of the technology requires wi-fi and this is affected once a power cut happens.
Cllr Kardos agreed to pass on information regarding the local coverage at Fulking.

Cllr Cannon

Concern about waste burning—Clerk contacted District Council.

Update from PPG:

Nurse Pauline retired.

Parking issues at Steyning Medical Centre unresolved; waiting on LGR outcomes.

Suggestion to highlight community groups and staff roles in parish newsletter (“Day in the Life”).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm

Signed:

Date: