

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

Present: Carol Dutton (CD), Jackie Emery (JE), Simon Greenwood (SG), Lisa Greer (LG), Charles Metcalfe (CM), Max Preston Bell (MPB), Alison Stevenson (AS), Sue Taylor (ST) and Mark Whybrow (MW)

In attendance Rosemary Robertson (RR) Clerk to the Council

0697. Public Participation

A representative from the Victory Hall Management Committee (VHMC) thanked BPC for the donation for the roof repair.

0698. Declarations of personal or pecuniary interest

Cllr Greenwood declared pecuniary interest in Items 13 Joint Minerals Local Plan (0708) and 19 Energy Group (0714). Cllrs Emery, Greer, Metcalfe and Taylor declared a personal interest in Item 13 Joint Minerals Local Plan (0708) and 19 Energy Group (0714) as members of Frack Free Balcombe Residents' Association. Cllr Dutton declared a personal interest in Item 7 Planning Forest Farm & Halings (0703).

0699. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Gould and Flint.

0700. To approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on 17 January

The Minutes 17 January were signed as a true record.

0701. Matters currently being pursued, report from the Clerk

0679 Joy Dyson at MSDC was pleased to be asked to talk at the Annual Parish Meeting and if she was unable to attend she had promised to find an alternative speaker

0680 A letter had gone to the VHMC and the roofing contractor to authorise the work

0688 Rubbish Freighters confirmed as 20 May and 14 October.

0686 Thanks were extended to Cllr Whybrow for setting up emails and RR urged all to begin using the dedicated Balcombe Parish Council email address.

The following planning applications have been granted:-

0682 DM/17/5113 The Old Rectory, Mill Lane

0702. Urgent Matters

There would be a review of information within the Welcome Packs at the March meeting in view of the advice given on the enclosure of FFBRA leaflets.

0703. Planning - to consider the following applications

DM/17/4778 Forest Farm, Paddockhurst Lane - Conversion of existing redundant buildings into a single dwelling and removal of existing temporary accommodation -

No substantial objection however we would want to see the conditions relating to the previous application reinstated, and would once again note that the design leaves much to be desired.

DM/18/0290 The Briars, Stockcroft Road - (Trees 2, 3, 4, 11, 12 and 13) - Fell. (Trees 14/15 Large Laurel - Cut back off existing garage by 3m - No objection, noting that these particular trees are in understandable locations and are dense and overgrown: it is good to see that the garden will not be totally denuded

DM/18/0254 Halings, Handcross Road - Install 36 solar panels in a stand-alone 10.8kWp system in the garden within the curtilage of the property- No objection

0704. Financial – January Cash Book Receipts & Payments

January Cash Book Receipts and Payments were circulated and noted.

0705. Decision on Budget 2018/19

Figures circulated by Cllr Flint were reviewed and amendments noted for Rubbish Freighter, Election, salaries, Youth Club: a break-down into annual spend on Traffic was requested. Budget to be finalised in March with Reserves Policy showing specifics.

0706. To consider request to adopt Brantridge Park Drive as road name for apartments

MSDC had requested the above road name be adopted for the Brantridge apartments so that residents could register for Council Tax etc. Councillors were in agreement.

0707. An update on General Data Protection Regulation compliancy

RR had attended the SSALC course and highlighted the need to think carefully about the retention of any personal information, and obtaining the necessary permissions to collect data. Policy was in a state of flux until the bill actually goes through in May and there is still conflicting advice on whether a Clerk can be the Data Protection Officer: there was a possibility that MSDC may offer this service.

Cllr Greenwood left the room.

0708. To discuss the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan consultation

Cllr Taylor referred to the complex nature of the consultation and suggested that BPC should perhaps seek professional advice. The Energy Group are meeting to review the document. It was agreed to put all such consultations on the website.

Cllr Greenwood re-entered

0709. To clarify the legality of short term loans to the Victory Hall

RR had clarified with the VAT Office that if we gift money to the Victory Hall and do not receive anything back we can reclaim the VAT. We are not allowed to pay bills for the Victory Hall by way of a short term loan, reclaim VAT and then accept the net amount back.

0710. To discuss a litter-picking initiative in February

A villager had started organising a litter pick in February and had contacted MSDC for equipment. Since then the roads have been cleared but thanks will be extended to him.

0711. Consultation on the draft Public Rights of Way Management Plan

Cllr Greenwood had perused the document and found nothing to object to.

0712. To consider a projector purchase to facilitate planning application discussions

Concern about competition with the school hall was mentioned. Cllr Whybrow will cost the equipment and RR the installation. The URC Southern Synod was in broad agreement but would want to see further details. Costs will be analysed.

0713. Progression of WWI centenary plans

The order for the Royal British Legion Silent Soldier was progressing. MPB had spoken with Julie & Luna Rezac and had discussed a range of options. The PCC were very supportive and MPB will progress the project for October/November display.

0714. Reports from Groups

Plans & Neighbourhood Plan

ST attended the District Plan public examination discussing the proposal for 500 houses in Hassocks (150 are within their Neighbourhood Plan); accusations of undermining Localism were made and it was argued that this number would be detrimental.

Julian Smith is organising an event for villagers to comment on proposals for the rectory site, possibly 14 March 4.30 – 7.45 pm in Bramble Hall.

Youth, Recreation & Wellbeing

JE is attending MSDC Wellbeing meetings and will ask to join the Balcombe Patient Participation Group, especially in view of proposed cuts to Surgery opening hours. The Ambulance Service has advised that Defib cabinets should not be locked.

Traffic

Data from the January 2018 road survey on the B2036 had revealed a 12% decrease in traffic volumes since October 2013, perhaps due to Lower Stumble activity or the months chosen. WSCC use the standard 3.5 tonne threshold to classify HGVs so larger vehicles must be listed in future Lower Stumble traffic management plans.

Energy Group

ST delivered a brief report (SG granted dispensation to stay). Angus Energy is taking over as the operator at Lower Stumble but has to be approved by the Oil & Gas Authority. There will be more transparency because they are a listed company.

Public Transport

The ticket machines are still faulty but London Bridge staff are aware.

Access & Rural

Balcombe Estate is investigating the flooded mineral stream boardwalk.

Security

There had been thefts of lead locally and various scams were in operation.

0715. Correspondence

M2 A resident in Foxwells had complained to MSDC about The Laurels contravening their planning permission.

W5 The WSCC Chairman had written regarding Sussex Day on 16 June 2018

O9 Liz Bennett (Ansty Clerk) invited collaboration between parishes on traffic issues in view of the Northern Arc development etc. BPC had agreed.

O16 SSE can convert the faulty light on the HH Road to LED at a cost of £346 + VAT for a “cold” light conversion, the price of the “warm” version is being sought. It was agreed that this would be a useful exercise.

0716. Exchange of Information

The Stoolball Club has folded because of lack of members.

Neil’s Club social in Balcombe Club raised over £500.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.57 pm.

**THE NEXT REGULAR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY
14 MARCH 2018 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

Signed..... **Date: 14 March 2018**