

MINUTES OF BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL (BPC)
HELD IN BRAMBLE HALL ON
Wednesday 8TH February 2023 at 8pm

Present: Cllrs Alison Stevenson – Chair (AS), Lloyd Thompsett – Vice Chairman (LT), Manouchehr Nahvi (MN), Massi Smith (MS), Nicky Gould (NG), Helen Caudrey (HC), Paul Williams (PW).
Gary Marsh (GM) – Mid Sussex District Councillor and Bruce Forbes – West Sussex County Councillor.

Co-opted Cllrs: Nick Beecroft (NB) and Joanne Blundell (JB).

620. Declarations of personal or pecuniary interest

MS – Land adjacent to Balcombe House – Personal

621. Apologies for absence

Nick Mayor (NM) – Travelling.

622. To approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on 11th January 2023

The minutes for the meetings were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman.

623. Public Participation

- Cllr Gary Marsh updated the Councillors on the Refusal of the Lower Ricks. London Road proposed development DM/22/1794. 4 Reasons for refusal included: AONB, Setting, housing mix, and water supply. (The full document can be found on Mid Sussex District Council's website).
- Cllr GM agreed with Cllr AS that there is a disconnection currently between the Parish Councils and Mid Sussex District Council and Cllr AS spoke about the challenges of obtaining the Section 106 money allocated. Cllr GM provided a number of officer names with newly appointed Louise Duffiet (new MSDC Corporate Director) who will apparently be contacting Balcombe in the near future to organise a meeting.
- Cllr AS provided confirmation that MSDC will not be making any changes to the priority of schools with the Warden Park admissions policy (catchment area) and therefore Warden Park School places should remain as secure as present for Balcombe students.

624. Matters currently being pursued, report from the Clerk

- Clerk confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on the 17th May. Councillors will consider who they would like to bring in as speaker. 31st May will be the Annual Parish Council meeting.
- The Defibrillator on the wall of Bramble Hall requires new batteries and Clerk is unable to obtain these at present. The defib model has been discontinued and it was suggested to upgrade it at an approximate cost of £900. Cllr Gary Marsh offered to try and obtain a free replacement, the last having been gifted by HH Town Council following the L2B Bike ride.
- The Parish Council will be having a stand at the Fete on 15th July. Councillors to identify what they want to display etc. It was agreed that the Parish Council would cover the insurance cost associated with holding the Fete (amount agreed up to £200).
Obtaining quotes for work to maintain Bramble Hall were discussed and GM suggested an application be made to the MSDC Economic Community Fund.

Street Lights ongoing inspection and initial refurbishments ongoing with new supplier.
 No 46 at Peartree Cottage has asbestos, approx. cost to refurbish £171.25 plus Vat for but additional expenditure is likely to replace the lantern.
 EPC for the recreation ground pavilion will be done by MSDC.

Updates on Planning applications:

Number	Site/Address	Proposal	Decision/ Decision Date
DM/22/3766	15 Bramble Mead	Proposed single storey side extension, front porch extension, internal alterations.	Decision Date approved - 24 th January 2023
DM/22/3687	8 Oldlands Avenue	The insertion of 2x dormer windows to the front elevation.	Decision Date approved – 27 th January 2023

625. Planning - to consider the following applications:

Number	Site/Address	Proposal
DM/22/3823 Listed Building Consent	Little Bretts, Haywards Heath Road	Installation of new kitchen units and installation of a log burner.
Balcombe Parish Council would like to defer to the conservation officer.		
DM/22/3882 and DM/22/3885	Casteye Barn, Haywards Heath Road, RH17 6NZ	Installation of new front door configuration in place of existing W19 (an existing casement window opening with weatherboarded structural opening beneath). Description amended 19.01.2023 to include installation of new window openings, replacement of existing windows, partial conversion of existing garage, infill extension to unite the current dwelling and garage and flue to southwestern roof slope of main barn.
Balcombe Parish Council have no objections.		
DM/23/0206	Casteye Barn, Haywards Heath Road, RH17 6NZ	Application Type: Trees in a Conservation Area (G1) Sycamore Trees - Fell
Balcombe Parish Council would like to defer to the tree officer.		
DM/22/3481	Land Adjacent to Balcombe House, London Road	Application Type: Removal/Variation of Condition Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning approval DM/21/4235 - to allow amendments to the size and elevations of plots 6, 7 and 12. AMENDED PLANS received 18/1/2023 revising the design and scale of the rear extension to plots 6 and 7.
Balcombe Parish Council's comments are fundamentally the same as last time.		
DM/23/0034	Kibo House, Stockcroft Road, RH17 6HP	Oak (T1) raise crown by 2.5m and reduce remaining crown by 2m due to considerable growth and excessive shading.
BPC feel that the tree is a beautiful specimen and are concerned over the longevity of the tree due to excessive pruning.		
DM/22/3356	Rosewood Deanland Road	Removal/Variation of Condition Proposal:

		Variation of condition 4 of planning application DM/21/2265 to change the approved Tree Protection Plan. (Amended Planning Statement received 21.11.2022) (Revised description agreed 09.01.2023) (Revised plan received 17.01.2023)
Balcombe Parish Council would like to see a bigger variety tree planted to replace the one being removed. The tree should be given ample space for the roots. BPC have concerns over whether the hardstanding area being permeable as this area is prone to surface water run-off.		

626. To consider Planning Applications received after publication of Agenda.

None

627. To consider applications for casual vacancies and Co-option of new Councillors.

Joanne Blundell and Nicholas Beecroft were co-opted onto Balcombe Parish Council.

628. To receive an update from groups:

Recreation, Play, youth and halls: Communications continue with Stuart Brown (MSDC) with regards to upgrade of the play area on the Recreation ground. No further updates. Cllr GM was asked regarding the legal document requiring the location of a skatepark to be on the London Road, this requirement would need to be removed if the skatepark progresses. No further updates are available on the skatepark at this time, and a location is yet to be found. Cllr HC asked GM to inquire of MSDC if skate park allocation could be used for other similar sport facility since a location was proving difficult to find.

Cllr LT had spoken to Balcombe Primary School to ascertain whether they have been able to obtain their allocated Section 106 funding. They have made 2 applications and applied for new fencing and play equipment and are awaiting the invoice which was submitted in October 2022 to be paid.

Cllr LT stated that he will continue to support Warden Park School to try and resolve the issues they are experiencing with obtaining their allocated Section 106 funding; which is allocated to new buildings.

Neighbourhood Plan: No Further updates.

Planning & New Development: A meeting took place with Shanly Homes (Rectory Gardens development) on 20th January. Shanly have now reneged on their offer to pay legal fees/costs associated with obtaining the second entrance to the Village Car Park or to pursue the promised second entrance. Cllr GM offered to assist and take up the issue with the officer at MSDC. Balcombe Parish Council are yet to be consulted on the Village Car Park despite the legal document stating this. The legal document also states that BPC will adopt the car park once completed. BPC are reluctant to manage the car park without a separate entrance and had written to MSDC Cllrs Marsh and Edwards and to WSCC Cllr Forbes to explain the situation.

Transport: A meeting took place with Richard Speller (WSCC Highways) on Friday 27th January – Richard Speller (WSCC Highways manager) provided basic site sketches, and supported BPC with their two proposed Community Highways Schemes (A crossing for Balcombe Primary School and improvements to the Haywards Heath Footway). Operation Watershed (upgrade to highway network drainage/gulley's) was also discussed. Cllr HC has contacted MSDC officer Sue Furlong regarding the drainage on the Haywards Heath Road.

A community Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was also discussed to make the centre of the village and all associated roads 20mph. BPC to progress the discussed projects. Cllr Bruce Forbes has stated his support for the TRO for 20mph to be put forward. The removal of rippleprint adjacent to the entrance to the Station carpark was discussed. RS had agreed to investigate.

The Winter Plan was deferred for discussion at the catch-up session on Wed 22/2 and would be brought back to PC for acceptance.

Energy: No updates

Admin and Assurance: No updates provided.

629. Financial

- a. January Cash Book Receipts & Payment reports to be deferred to March meeting.

630. To review and approve prospective grant applications and add to budget from the following applicants (financial year 2023 - 2024):

- a.) Balcombe Primary School - £4801.39 – It was resolved to grant £4801 to the school towards online learning/ teaching material subscriptions.
b.) The Victory Hall Management Committee - £5000 – It was resolved to grant the Victory Hall £4000 towards the installation of new boilers and associated works.

631. To review Draft Budget for Financial Year 2023-2024

The budget was reviewed and finalised, and funding amounts were allocated to each category. Cllrs MS and LT were thanked for their work on the budget. The Budget was signed at the meeting.

632. Correspondence.

A number of correspondence items were shared with Councillors.

Cllrs MN gave a brief update on the likely increase in Aeroplanes over the Village due to likely changes to flight paths.

633. Exchange of information

Cllr AS stated that she felt a CAD plan was needed for the Village Car Park entrance if the Parish Council is going to pursue this.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.37pm

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE Wednesday 1st March 2022
at 8pm – Bramble Hall.**