

**MINUTES OF THE BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (BPC)
HELD IN BRAMBLE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 14th June 2023**

Present: Cllrs Alison Stevenson - Chairman (AS), Manouchehr Nahvi (MN), Massi Smith (MS), Nick Major (NM), Jo Blundell (JB), and Helen Caudrey (HC).
District Cllr Gary Marsh (GM).

690. Declarations of personal or pecuniary interest in any agenda item listed

Item 8, Casteys Barn – Cllr JB – personal interest/neighbour, and personal interest in FFBRA. Item 8, Cllr AS has a pecuniary interest in the Larches planning application. Item 8, Cllrs MS & HC - Honey Church – personal interests.

691. Apologies for absence

Paul Williams (PW), Nick Beecroft (NB), Nicky Gould (NG) and Lloyd Thompsett.
County Councillor Bruce Forbes – all travelling.

692. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th May 2023

The minutes were agreed a true reflection of the meeting. They were then signed by the chairman.

693. Public Participation

Eleven members of the public present. Mr Jon Millbanks – Treasurer of Frack Free Balcombe Residents Association (FFBRA) spoke for 3 minutes providing a further update of FFBRAs position in relation to the high court legal case, and financial situation. Mr Millbanks asked the Parish Council to consider the grant application favourably as an investment for the Parish to get the oil testing in Balcombe stopped.

Another resident also spoke with regards to her concerns if the exploration flow test works commences. The information shared was in relation to health studies, and results she has obtained. The main concerns were over air quality as a result of heavy axel vehicles and associated additional traffic on the London Road, an increase in noise and smells of diesel generators powering the flow testing.

A third resident spoke from a personal perspective of the potential consequences and negative health implications which may result from the initial flow testing site etc. All residents were thanked by the Parsh Council for their contributions.

Another resident spoke about the traffic on the London Road and the issues relating to the current speed being 50mph on that section. The resident is concerned with regards to the concealed entrances on the section beyond the village and aims to organise meetings with WSCC Highways and Mimms Davies MP.

694. Chairman's announcements

None

695. Matters currently being pursued, report from the Clerk

Repairs have been made to the pavilion roof – 4 tiles replaced. This was caused by youths climbing onto the roof. MSDC advised for signage to be placed on the pavilion. Clerk to order some no climbing and entry signs, as well as notices to state that anti-climb paint has now be applied to the roof.

696. Updates on Planning applications:

Number	Site/Address	Proposal	Decision/ Decision Date
DM/23/0986	Land At Bowders Farm, Haywards Heath Road	Erection of a 30m high lattice mast supporting two headframes. Installation of 12 no. antennas on both headframes. 16 no. Radio equipment cabinets. Creation of a dedicated compound secured by 1.8m high mesh link fencing and an access gate measuring 15m x 8m. Compound is to be levelled. Installation of 1 No. shared metre cabinet. New access track from Haywards Heath Road, 3m wide and extending along the farms site boundary. Other ancillary development thereto including RRUs, BOBs and MHAs.	Decision date 6 th June, Permission Granted.
DM/23/0444	Land Adj. To Station House, London Road	Erection of a Way Marker.	Permission Granted 1.06.2023
DM/23/0789	Great Coopers Corner Farm, Redbridge Lane.	External alterations to outbuilding including replacement and changes to fenestration, replacement of oak balcony, hipped to gabled. Extension of brick wall, creation of outdoor kitchen and shingle path.	Decision date 1 st June. Permission granted.
DM/22/3885 & 3882	Casteye Barn, Haywards Heath Road.	Installation of new front door configuration in place of existing W19 (an existing casement window opening with weatherboard 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.	Permission granted. Decision Date 24 th May 2023
DM/23/0633	Little Colliers Cottage, Mill Lane, RH17 6NP	Vary condition 2 relating to planning reference DM/22/2110 to allow for revised plans. Revised drawings, Heritage Statement and Materials Schedule received on 20/04/2023.	Permission granted 7 th June 2023
DM/22/3541	Land adj to Balcombe House, London Road	Discharge of Conditions 10 and 11 in relation to DM/21/4235	Withdrawn
DM/23/1070	Land West of Yew Tree Farm, London Road	Proposed modern agricultural steel framed building for storage of forage, fodder and conservation bales for sheep flock.	Decision date 17 th May. Permission Granted.
DM/23/0630	Land adj to Balcombe House, London Road.	Variation of condition 2 of planning approval DM/22/3481 – Rationalisation of the site layout to detach plots 8 and 9 which creates permeability between the plots and is reflective of the character of the building form and dwellings within the surrounding area and utilisation of space above the garages serving plots 8 and 9 resulting in better and more attractive environment for future occupiers.	Decision date 16 th May. Permission granted.

697. Planning - to consider the following applications:

Number	Site/Address	Proposal	Assigned
DM/23/1458	Brettsway, 1 Bretts Orchard.	Trees in a Conservation Area Magnolia T1 - Fell. Pear T2 - Fell.	
Cllrs agreed to defer this application until they had further looked at the trees.			

DM/23/1270	Kibo House Stockcroft Road	Hip to gable roof conversions to the front & Rear. Removal of dummy pitch with new flat roof canopy to ground floor front, rear and side elevations. Erection of first floor terrace with privacy screen to side elevations. Alterations to fenestration, external materials and internal alterations following previous approval (DM/22/2878).
The Parish Council is content with the changes to the application but suggests a condition is applied to maintain the upper section of the large front window as opaque glass, as shown on the current plans to avoid overlooking.		
DM/23/1391	Honeychurch, Stockcroft Road	Trees in a Conservation Area Proposal: Front garden - T1 - Lime Re-pollard to previous points, approx. 1.5m across entire crown. Rear garden: T2 - -Gingko Remove one low stem back to trunk. T3 - Ash Fell to ground level Site
BPC commented that they would like to see the removed Ash Trees replaced with alternative native species. BPC would like to defer to tree officer.		
DM/23/1289	Washlands, Brantridge Lane	Create a new access gateway to field with a new 5 bar gate and hardstanding area.
Washlands - In principle Balcombe Parish Council do not object to the planning application but commented that if possible the gate could be positioned further back towards the field this would enable a vehicle to turn or position themselves off the road whilst the gate is opened.		
DM/23/1131	The Larches, Deanland Road	Conifers (x21) - Fell. Young hollies to be pruned by approx. 2-3 metres. Removal of x1 multi-stemmed Holly and removal of x2 dead Field Maples.
Balcombe Parish Council would like to defer to the tree officer. The Applicant has advised the PC that the felled trees will be replaced with alternative native species, however this information could not be located at the time of the meeting on the related documents. In principle the PC do not have any concerns with the outlined tree works.		

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

Land adjacent to Balcombe House, discharging condition 21 of DM/23/0630.

The Cllrs asked the Clerk to respond to the Planning Officer assigned to the Shanly Development to try and organise a meeting to progress the situation.

699. To receive an update from: "Recreation, play, youth, halls", Neighbourhood Plan, Planning & New Development, Transport, Energy, Admin and Assurance.

Recreation, play, youth, halls – No updates

Neighbourhood Plan – Ongoing communication with relevant parties including Mid Sussex District Council, Shanly Homes etc to try and ascertain if a second/ car park entrance is feasible, however no updates at this time.

Planning & New Development – No updates.

Transport – The centre of the village survey continues to be live and over 100 people have completed it to date, and the majority have commented positively. The survey will continue to be live and promoted until after the Fete on Saturday 15th July.

Energy – The Street light contractors have discovered further issues and necessary upgrades to the streetlights on the Haywards Heath Road in order to bring them up to standard. A quote has been provided for the additional works and the Clerk will look to apply for a grant from Repower Balcombe.

Admin and Assurance – No updates.

700. To approve May's Cashbook and Receipts.

The cashbook receipts and payments were approved. Cllr LT to carryout a check of the financials for April, May and June in July.

701. Pavilion building - To approve the installation of an internal power socket

The Cllrs Resolved for G. Prevett to install the designated socket inside of the Pavilion Building at a cost of £320.

702. To consider purchasing refuge bins to replace missing ones in the following Locations at an estimated cost of up to £500:

- Church entrance layby (post fixing).
- Lower section of large layby (St Marys Church steps)

The Cllrs Resolved to purchase and install the bins. Clerk to order bins and fixings, and source someone to install.

703. To consider replacing the planters outside Bramble Hall – cost estimate up to £150.

The Cllrs Resolved to replace the planters. Clerk to source the planters and notify the gardeners once in situ, so that they can place plants in them.

704. To approve the purchase of a replacement defibrillator to replace existing one housed outside Bramble Hall.

The Councillors Resolved to purchase a replacement defibrillator up to the value of £1200 Ex VAT.

705. To receive an update on the progress of FFBRA's high court action to stop oil exploration in Balcombe.

This was provided earlier in the meeting by Mr Jon Millbanks, and information from FFBRA shared with Cllrs prior to the meeting.

706. To consider grant application from the following applicant:

Frack free Balcombe Residents Association (FFBRA) – total requested: £5000 -To help fund the legal costs of the judicial review against Angus Energy in the High Court.

The Cllrs initially voted to obtain confirmation from the Parish councillors to whether they wished to grant as a Parish Council. The grant was supported, and it was felt appropriate to grant under Section 137. The Parish Council voted and a grant of £2,500 was Approved in principle subject to legal advice from Mid Sussex District Council. The vote was 5 in favour and 1 abstained.

707. To consider the Co-option for the 1x Casual Vacancy of Parish Councillor in July onwards.

Cllrs agreed to advertise the position with a view to Co-opt in September; allowing time for interested applicants to come forward.

708. Correspondence

There had not been any further updates on the drainage issues on the Haywards Heath Road. Cllr Helen Caudrey to chase.

709. Exchange of Information.

School Fete – Friday 23rd June

Village Fete – Saturday 15th July, Clerk has shared a planning document to enable sufficient presence on the BPC stand on the day.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 10:14pm.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE Wednesday 5th July 2023 – at 8:00pm - Bramble Hall

Signed Chairman:

Date: