

# MINUTES OF THE BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (BPC) HELD IN BRAMBLE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

Present: Lloyd Thompsett (LT), Nicky Gould (NG), Paul Williams (PW), Manouchehr Nahvi (MN), Nick Major (NM), Nick Beecroft (NB), Jo Blundell (JB), and Helen Caudrey (HC) – (apologised in advance for lateness), Massi Smith (MS), Ian Black (IB).

Mid Sussex District Councillor – Jenny Edwards

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

Cllr NB personal interest in item 8 - DM/23/2749 Worth Lodge.

**760. Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Alison Stevenson (AS) – unwell

Gary Marsh – Mid Sussex District Councillor

**761. Public Participation**

Julie Mitchell – Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator addressed the councillors about restarting the volunteer scheme that ran during the Covid 19 pandemic, and Julie would like to try and co-ordinate something again. A meeting is to be organised (Cllr MS offered to set up).

Julie also spoke about her concerns over Balcombe Surgery and the lack of staff, and availability of appointments/ lack of resources. Elderly residents of Balcombe struggle to get to the surgery in Hand Cross. Cllr JB spoke that she hopes to speak to the practice manager to try and improve the service for Balcombe residents.

**762. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

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

**763. Chairman's Announcements**

LT on behalf of BPC wanted to pay tribute to former Parish Councillor and Ranger Mike Talman who sadly passed away yesterday. BPC's thoughts and condolences are with his wife Penny and family.

**764. Matters currently being pursued, report from the Clerk**

Charlotte attended a Liaison meeting at Mid Sussex and with Cllr Jenny Edwards input updated the Cllrs about the progress of the District Plan and that it will be presented to Council in December. It will then be submitted to the independent planning inspector after it has been out for further consultation in January 24. Final version to be published early 2024 (exact date unknown at this time).

The Green Spaces contract is going through procurement and financial evaluation. Where new contractors take on areas there will be some cross over to avoid delays in works schedule.

MSDC have additional funding for Disabled Facilities Grants – this is to provide resources for people in their own homes.

**765. Updates on Planning applications:**

Number	Site/Address	Proposal	Decision/ Decision Date
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DM/23/2158	Robinshaw And Wayside House, Haywards Heath Road, RH17 6NJ	Proposed erection of four dwellings, two semi-detached and two detached properties as well as 6 parking spaces and a single-storey garage structure to the existing house at Upper Stumble. The two semi-detached properties will replace the bungalow at "Robin Shaw" and an upgraded access created to the two new detached properties to the land at the rear (west).	Application withdrawn
DM/23/2447	Abercorn, Stockcroft Road, RH17 6LL	Trees in a Conservation Area 1 x Lime - Reduce height by 3m, 1 x Yew - Light trim, 1 x Goat Willow - reduce by 3m.	No Objection – 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
DM/23/1709	15 Oldlands Avenue	Proposed new porch	Refusal: 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2023
DM/23/2090 Listed Building consent	Little Colliers Cottage, Mill Lane,	Change the window glazing bar pattern on windows, changed to horizontal bars only, to match the historic windows on the existing 17 <sup>th</sup> century cottage. change the paint colour of all the timber windows from white to kitchen green. The existing dilapidated roof and the new roof to be tiled in reclaimed handmade peg tiles.	Permission Granted: Decision Date: 5th October 2023

766. Planning - to consider the following applications:

Number	Site/Address	Proposal	Assigned
DM/23/1742	Land Adjacent to Balcombe House, London Road/Haywards Heath Road	Application Type: Removal/Variation of Condition Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning approval DM/23/0630 to Plots 13 and 14. AMENDED PLANS received 18/10/2023 showing single storey rear extensions to dwellings only.	LT
BPC's comments remain the same.			
DM/23/2559	Russettings Care Home, Mill Lane	Rear and side extensions, internal alterations, associated parking and landscaping.	AS
BPC are broadly in support of the application to increase the size and improve the facilities at R			
DM/23/2584	Midwicket, Redbridge Lane	Listed Building Consent Alterations to existing 'guest house' outbuilding within the curtilage of a Grade II listed dwelling to address water damage and improve energy performance. Strip existing spalled and damaged roof tiles, retaining sound tiles for reuse. Install breathable roof insulation to follow slope of roof.	PW

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		Re-tile roof. Install projecting gable-end canopy over entrance and replace existing windows.	
BPC in principle do not object to the planning application but commented that they would like to see the fenestration kept in keeping with the current design.			
DM/23/2618	Wellgrove Cottage, Stockcroft Road	Trees in a Conservation Area <b>Proposal:</b> T1 Conifer - Fell	HC
Balcombe Parish Council do not object to the fell of the conifer but would like to see the tree replaced with a smaller species.			

### 767. **To consider Planning Applications received after publication of Agenda.**

Number	Site/Address	Proposal	Assigned
DM/23/2749	Worth Lodge, High Street	Construction of detached garage with adjacent workshop and storage over.	IB
Balcombe Parish Council do not feel this is a complete application and more information is required. Drawings provided do not show the proposed elevation in comparison to the house. BPC have concerns over the space being used as habitable space.			

768. Changes to the working groups were unanimously agreed,
- a.) 'Schools' will be added to recreation, play, youth and halls.
  - b.) Transport changed to 'Traffic'
  - c.) 'Public Transport' working group to be created

### 769. **To receive an update from working groups:**

**Recreation, schools, play, youth, halls** – Cllr HC has contacted WSCC to try and see if they are able to help in resolving the issue of crossing the London Road safely during school drop off and collection times. Balcombe Primary currently only have a school crossing patrol person on a Friday. WSCC have agreed to undertake a site assessment and will respond based on the findings.

**Neighbourhood Plan** – no updates

**Planning & New Development** – Cllr NG noted that the hedge along the Haywards Heath Road (Shanly Development section) is full of brambles which are over hanging the pavement. Concerns over breach of working times were also raised. Cllr NG met the temporary site manager Robert Rankine on site and offered to contact him with the issues raised.

**Traffic** – A meeting is scheduled for Friday afternoon with Adam Denby from WSCC Highways to follow up on several transport related issues in Balcombe.

WSCC spent three days on the Haywards Heath Road, Deanland Road and adjoining roads carrying out CCTV investigations of the gullies and BPC are awaiting a report.

**Public Transport** – A meeting is scheduled for Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November. The Clerk and Cllr Gould asked if the group could investigate bus services, and enquire with the bus company to identify if the stop on the London Road by Stoney Lane is used.

**Energy** – FFBRA are in the process of deciding whether to appeal against the Judges decision to allow oil exploration in Lower Stumble. A few questions were asked and Cllr NB will go back to Sue Taylor to try and obtain answers.

**Admin and Assurance** – no updates received.

### 770. **Financial**

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a) **To approve Octobers Cashbook and Receipts.**

October's cashbook receipts and payments were approved. Expenditures included: Street Lights £870.74 for the quarterly maintenance, and repair of a streetlight.

771. a) It was resolved to accept the grant from Repower Balcombe for £5,000.

b) It was agreed to spend up to £2,000 to complete the remedial works for the next 16 LED lanterns to be upgraded.

772. **To review all Balcombe Parish Council Policies.**

This exercise was again postponed until the December meeting; to enable all Councillors to read the policies and documents. The policies have been allocated to councillors to lead on, and it was suggested that each policy be seconded by a different Parish Councillor in addition to the one assigned. The Clerk advised that the policies need to be reviewed regularly for internal audit requirements; even if no changes are made.

773. **Correspondence**

Information was shared with Cllrs in advance of the meeting. No additional topics were discussed.

774. **Exchange of Information.**

Balcombe School Christmas Fair - 2<sup>nd</sup> December (raise funds for the PTA)

Balcombe School in Consultation with Worth Academy Trust.

Apologies received from Cllr Nick Major in advance of the next BPC meeting.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.48pm

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
2023 – at 8:00pm – Bramble Hall**