

MINUTES OF THE BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (BPC) HELD IN BRAMBLE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 7th February 2024

Present: Cllrs Alison Stevenson (AS) – Chairman, Lloyd Thompsett (LT), Paul Williams (PW), Manouchehr Nahvi (MN), Jo Blundell (JB), Helen Caudrey (HC), Nicky Gould (NG), and Ian Black (IB).

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

None

801. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Massi Smith (MS), Nick Major (NM) and Nick Beecroft (NB).

802. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January 2024

The minutes were approved and signed by the chairman

803. Public Participation

None

804. Matters currently being pursued, report from the Clerk

- Clerk has again asked contractor ‘Street Lights’ to escalate the ongoing issue with UK Power Networks of the missing Lantern outside the Telephone exchange on Stockcroft Road.
- The Street Lights contractors have confirmed receipt of the secondary isolation parts from the supplier, in readiness for the installation of the 16 new LED lanterns. Unfortunately, the contractor has informed BPC that there will be some further delays in installing the lanterns due to emergency repairs on two of their cherry pickers.
- WSCC Councillor Bruce Forbes has offered to request the scoring matrix/information from WSCC with regards to the rejection of the 20 mph Community Highways Scheme.

805. Updates on Planning applications:

Number	Site/Address	Proposal	Decision/ Decision Date
DM/23/2941 Listed Building Consent	White House, Brantridge Lane	Installation of a chairlift on a staircase in a grade ii listed building. please note amended	Permission Granted Decision date 16 th Jan 2024
DM/22/3310	1 Box Cottages, High Street	Temporary change of use for a 9-month period of intended cattle shed to provide accommodation and temporary stationing of shipping container providing storage during building works to house, following the 9-month period the cattle shed, and storage barn are to be retained on site for agricultural purposes. (retrospective) (amended description).	Permission Granted Decision Date: 23 rd Jan 2024
DM/24/0007	Land to the front of 18 and	Trees - 3 X Lime trees – Trim growth back to pollard points.	Consent granted 31 st Jan 2024

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	19 Oldlands Avenue		
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806. Planning - to consider the following applications:

Number	Site/Address	Proposal	Assigned
DM/23/2559	Russettings Care Home, Mill Lane	Rear and side extensions, internal alterations, associated parking and landscaping. Amended elevations (removing tree detail) and site/block plan with drainage detail received on 04.01.2024.	NG & AS
Balcombe Parish Council commented that their previous comments still stand. BPC added that they wish to thank Russettings for making the alterations to the elevations on the plans to ensure the trees do not obscure the elevations.			
DM/24/0209	Avon House, Stockcroft Road	Application Type: Trees in a Conservation Area Proposal: (T1) Silver Birch - reduce crown by 5-8m.	HC
Balcombe Parish Council's do not object to the pollarding of the tree, however BPC felt 5-8 meters excessive.			

807. Financial - (item brought forward from Agenda order)

a.) To approve January's Cashbook and Receipts.

January's Cashbook and Receipts was approved. Payments included a payment to Street Lights for the repair of a lamppost No.32 on Newlands - £117.30, and £30 to ICO for Data Protection Regulations.

808. To consider the following Grant Applications for Financial Year 24-25 (item brought forward from Agenda order):

- a. **Balcombe C of E Primary School** – It was resolved to grant the requested amount of £3928.60 towards teacher and pupil online learning/teaching resources.
- b. **The Victory Hall/Balcombe Club** – It was resolved to grant the Victory Hall Committee £4000, wish a request to receive a breakdown at the end of the financial year of what the grant money was used for.

809. To consider quotations received & approve repairs to the pavilion rear roof (item brought forward from Agenda order):

Two quotes had been obtained and shared with the councillors. The Clerk is awaiting a third quote/estimate. Sadly, although nine companies had been contacted only 3 are likely to provide quotations. The insurance company have been contacted and a possible claim started. All quotes and images obtained will be provided to the insurance company. No decision was made at the meeting – Clerk to keep Cllrs updated regarding progress and continue to liaise with insurance company.

810. To approve quotation from Street Light Contractor to prune ivy/vegetation from a number of lampposts - £880 + VAT (item brought forward from Agenda order):

It was approved to instruct contractor Street Lights to carry out the necessary pruning works to the 17 posts and lanterns as per quotation.

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811. Receive an update from: "Recreation, play, youth, halls, schools/ Neighbourhood Plan/ Planning & New Development/ Traffic/ Public Transport/ Energy/ Admin and Assurance/Health.

Recreation, play, youth, halls, schools – Cllr LT received a response from Rob Anderton from MSDC regarding the recreation ground. They hope to set up an in person meeting to discuss the play facilities.

- Cllr HC received communications from WSCC to say that they had someone apply for the role of school patrol person. They hope to progress to the interview stage soon.
- HC received a response from the Co-ordinator of Operation Watershed with the outcome of the CCTV investigation works carried out along the lower section of Deanland Road and around the junction with the Haywards Heath Road. Further jetting of the gullies has been carried out since too, and this has resulted in little flooding around this previously problematic area of the village. No blockages or broken pipes were identified and WSCC will therefore continue to carry out jetting twice yearly. They did report however that the blockages were mainly caused by materials such as shingle washing down to lower Deanland Road and the Haywards Heath Road from Victoria Road.

Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr AS offered to draft a response to Mid Sussex' District Plan 2021-2039 (Regulation 19 draft, which is open for public consultation for the final stage prior to completion).

Planning & New Development – Clerk chased Shanly Homes' with regards to the request to obtain a draft copy of the management plan/legal information in relation to the possible transfer of the village car park to the Parish Council; Shanly Homes/ MSDC are yet to provide this.

Traffic – Clerk to ask WSCC Cllr Bruce Forbes to obtain a formal response to the village 20mph Community Highway Scheme (CHS) and ask for the scoring matrix in order to understand the criteria for a successful application. Adam Denby (WSCC Highways Manager) confirmed verbally that The Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) application for the north of the village is able to be implemented, and speed reduced to 40mph (Cowdray Arms junction to current 40mph - before the approach to the village). However, the residents of the London Road also want to make a CHS application for this to be reduced to 30mph and in order for the application to progress BPC are required to approve it. Cllr LT confirmed he had responded to WSCC.

BPC will also request from WSCC the scoring for the centre of the village in order to try to progress the centre of the village enhancement scheme.

Public Transport – Concerns were raised over the Balcombe ticket office sometimes being closed (likely due to staff absence/ or providing cover for Three Bridges station). This means there is not any help available at the station.

Energy – FFBRA are still awaiting an update as to if their appeal to the High Court will be heard. Clerk contacted WSCC to see if the Minerals Planning Department would be providing a liaison person/s should the appeal be rejected, and Angus Energy commence the oil exploration at Lower Stumble. WSCC's response was "Although there was a planning condition attached to the planning permission granted by the County Council in 2018 that required the operator to establish a liaison group, no such condition was attached to the permission granted on appeal in February 2023. Therefore, if that permission is implemented, the County Council cannot legally require the operator to establish and operate one".

Admin and Assurance – An action point of the interim internal audit was to increase the fidelity Amount based on the total funds the Parish Council currently have in the bank accounts. Clerk to ensure this is increased when the Parish insurance is renewed in June.

Health - Cllr JB confirmed that a Patient Participation meeting is being held and facilitated by the surgery in Handcross on 12th February. Cllr JB to attend and feedback to BPC.

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812. Correspondence

Information was shared with Cllrs in advance of the meeting.

813. Exchange of Information

A date of 21st February was proposed for an informal catch-up meeting of the Parish Councillors.

The Balcombe Fete Committee have confirmed the Fete on Sunday the 13th of July. BPC to have a stall.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.53pm

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE
Wednesday 6th March 2024 – at 8:00pm - Bramble Hall

Signed Chairman: Date: