

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the AGM meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2019 in the Church Rooms, Plummers Plain.

Present: Cllr Allen EA, Cllr Lloyd ML, Cllr Hinton AH, Cllr Ward JW, Cllr Peckham GP, Cllr Hough KH,
Cllr Lillywhite DW, Cllr Dawson MD.

Also present: Peter Knox (Clerk) PK, Cllr Toni Bradnum (District Councillor) TB, and two members of the public.

The meeting began at 19:30 hours.

083/19: Apologies for absence: There were no absentees.

084/19: Appointment of Chairman & Declaration of Acceptance of this office

Cllr Allen was the only candidate for the position. He was proposed by KH and seconded by GP. It was therefore agreed that Cllr. Ed Allen be elected Chair of the Parish Council for the ensuing municipal year. Cllr. Allen signed the declaration of office before taking his chair.

085/19: Appointment of Vice-Chairman

There were two nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. They were the incumbent Cllr Lloyd (Proposed by EA and seconded by GP) and Cllr Hinton (Proposed by KH and seconded by JW). The vote was tied however the Chairman used his casting vote in favour of Cllr Hinton. Cllr Lloyd at the same time resigned as Vice Chairman. It was therefore agreed that Cllr. Hinton be elected Vice-Chair of the Parish Council for the ensuing municipal year. Cllr Hinton signed the declaration of office before taking his chair.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Cllr Peckham to Cllr Lloyd for his hard work during the tenure as vice-chairman.

086/19: Co-option of vacant position to the Council

The Clerk reported that Horsham District Council had given permission to co-opt the vacant position on the Council. Initially an existing Councillor, Nick Tabor, had proffered his application to stand for the position. However, prior to the meeting he had rescinded his application. The Clerk will now advertise for a new councillor to take up the vacant position.

087/19: Appointments to committees

It was proposed by the Clerk that LBPC should appoint sub-committees to reduce the workload of the main council. The following sub-committees were proposed: -

- Neighbourhood Plan Working Party – leader Leslie Bamford
- Planning – No appointee
- Maintenance – No appointee
- Community Speed Watch (CSW) – Roger Warwick

088/19 Approval of annual accounts

The Clerk distributed to all Councillors the un-audited accounts for 2018-19.

089/19 Chairman's annual report

Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow councillors and elected officials here present, it gives me great pleasure to present the annual summary of the Lower Beeding Parish council, at our 2019 Annual General Meeting.

We are delighted to welcome new councillors this year, more of that during this evening's meeting. However, (and I say this with recent royal news front of mind) I am sorry to see the departure of the Tabors, but with the

imminent arrival of their first child we are very appreciative of their contribution to the Council and to the village with the new nursery. I have of course been advising them on names.....

We also said goodbye to the Rev. Mark Betson and his family and wish them all the very best in their new home. Mark's career will see him focusing on rural issues that he has a great insight upon from Lower Beeding. We will support Geoff and the Church Parochial Council in welcoming Mark's eventual successor.

I must also extend a big thank you to Liz Kitchen and Toni Bradnum for their continued support, and insight into both Horsham and West Sussex Council's.

The past 12 months has been a demanding period for the Parish to support its objectives and standing orders, in large part reflecting the national picture of a changing local government funding.

We have kept tight control of finances, in large part through the arrival of, and we are very pleased to welcome, our new Clerk Mr Peter Knox. Peter is well known to many of you, as a local resident of Church Lane, and has a good and growing understanding of the Council's business from his support of the Neighbourhood Plan. He brings a wealth of experience from running his own company and offers insights on an increasingly important area of health and safety.

Our stronger financial position has allowed us to make investments in time and financial resources to some new initiatives

1. Contribution to the redevelopment of the Church room and delivery of web access
2. Design and implementation from an accredited company of a new website with a focus on compliance with local government standards
3. Support of the Speedwatch campaign, which has seen over 260 letters issued by Sussex police to motorists speeding through the village
4. A continued plan of village maintenance and strategy to gain community support
5. Continued progress in support of the neighbourhood plan working group

Excitingly the Parish has seen investments in local businesses, with the heralded opening of Leonardslee and the spa development at South Lodge. We hope to see suitable residential developments as part of the Neighbourhood Plan, and welcome Toni's support in planning matters and the valuable time she has given to these issues.

Looking forward, and with Peter's help, we are keen to develop a new set of objectives for 2020 and beyond.

I am personally keen to ensure we have a better documented and understood Grants process for the Parish, particularly for local community groups and initiatives, focused on projects that see visible "capital" expenditure. In addition, building on the work done on road safety, and in fostering links with West Sussex and the police, I would like to develop a plan on physical crossings, notably from South Lodge to Leonardslee. This will not only help bring together and connect some of the footpaths and bridleways across the Parish, but also increased road safety.

I know I share a view from all Councillors that we need to do "more with less", but we are all committed to making Lower Beeding an even better place that balances the needs of all residents with a desire to improve the natural environment.

We had forwarded the Annual Governance statement for the FY 2018 to all Councillors prior to this meeting. The Annual Governance statement was approved and seconded.

090/19 Public Session – Council agree to adjourn proceedings for questions from members of the public.

Cllr Bradnum was congratulated by all members of the PC on her re-election to District Councillor for Nuthurst and Lower Beeding.

091/19 Planning Applications:

DC/19/0646 Horsham Coffee Roster Unit 14A Church Lane Estate Church Lane Plummers Plain RH13 6LU

Replacement of existing industrial buildings (Buildings A and B)

The PC object to this development on the grounds of access and the increase in size of the units. There is excess HGV traffic on Church Lane and Winterpit Lane currently. The PC made the point that both Lane's were unsuitable for heavy traffic. In addition, the units proposed were larger than the original units and therefore may attract larger businesses with the knock-on effect of more traffic.

The PC unanimously agreed this objection.

DC/19/0883 Warren Wood Hammerpond Rd Plummers Plain

Prior notification for proposed forestry building to provide timber processing and drying shed, machinery / implement store and staff welfare area.

The PC were against this development due to lack of

- Vehicular access
- Road is unsuitable
- No parking
- Environmental issues of cutting down trees without replacing them environmentally

The PC unanimously agreed this objection.

Date of the next meeting:

092/19 Next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 28th May 2019 in the Church Room, Plummers Plain at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 22:00 hours.

Lower Beeding Parish Council,

Email: clerk@lowerbeeding.com

Members of the public should be aware that being present at a meeting of the Council or one of it's Committees will be deemed as the person having given consent to being recorded (photograph, film or audio recording) at the meeting, by any person present.

Approved

Date