

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30th April 2024.
The meeting was held at Holy Trinity Church Rooms, Lower Beeding.

Present: Cllrs Bamford (Chair), Scrase-Dickins, Smith, Keen, Cannom, Allen, Mercer.

Also present: Peter Knox (Clerk), Cllr Livingstone and eighteen members of the public.

The Chair began the meeting at 19:00 hours.

069/24 Apologies for absence: Cllrs Nagel and Fitzpatrick

070/24 Approval of minutes for:

- March 2024 Parish Council Meeting.
- April 2024 Planning Meeting.

The minutes were approved by: Cllr Scrase-Dickins and seconded by Cllr Bamford.

071/24 Meetings attended by Councillors.

- Cllr Scrase-Dickins and Cllr Livingstone met Mr Adam Streeter of Leonardslee Gardens (LLG) about the long-awaited hedging on the boundary fence adjacent to the Brighton Rd. In addition, Mr Streeter was encouraged by the Cllrs to improve the liaison between LLG the LBPC and local residents for any future plans LLC had. Mr Streeter agreed to improve communications with the neighbours of LLG.
- The Clerk attended a Clerks Forum via Zoom.
- Cllrs Mercer and Keen attended a presentation by the Hunter Group on their future plans for Stonehouse Farm.

072/24 Declaration of Interests.

There were no declarations.

073/24 Report from District Councillor.

Cllr Livingstone reported the following:

Commercial Waste - It is a requirement under the Environment Act 2021 for businesses to recycle all recyclable waste. As part of the Governments Simpler Recycling announcement on the implementation of the Act. All businesses will require food waste collection (except those with ten employees or less). Although there is no legal obligation for HDC to provide this service it was decided to offer this additional service alongside the current commercial waste service. The Council approved the commercial food waste collection, and it will come into operation in March 2025. Commercial Waste is a profitable service for the Council and provides a useful revenue stream.

Domestic Food Waste - Additionally HDC is now required to provide domestic food waste collection for Horsham District residents by 31st March 2026. The collection frequencies will be as follows –

- Residual waste – fortnightly - green bin
- Dry Mixed recycling – fortnightly – blue bin
- Garden waste – fortnightly – brown bin
- Food waste – weekly.

It was considered by consultants to see if it was possible for three weekly collections for residual waste, but it was concluded that this would be unacceptable to residents who use nappies etc and also the small size of our current green bins could lead to waste overflows.

Isolated Property waste rounds - The Council is required to collect waste from all domestic properties. However, the current vehicles are large and have to navigate some very narrow lanes in certain rural areas and there have been problems in regard to access and resultant damage to collection vehicles.

Therefore, Council approved the purchase of a small collection vehicle possibly electric powered for waste collection from difficult to access locations.

Proportional Representation – Cllr Livingstone proffered a motion to the Leader of the Council to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for local elections in England. The motion was accepted by Council by a majority.

074/24 Report from County Councillor.

Councillor Nagel was not present at the meeting.

075/24 Other matters arising which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Updates:

- Cisswood House Hotel
Cllr Smith gave an update on the current status and future of Cisswood House Hotel.
- Stonehouse Farm
Cllr Mercer gave an update on SF with many of the neighbours of the farm present at the meeting. The Hunter Group (HG) held a meeting on the 27th April which outlined their plans for the far, The meeting was well attended with approximately 60-70 in attendance. Cllr Mercer outlined some of the topics discussed including:
 - ❖ Green Energy Plans.
 - ❖ Proposal for up to fifteen lodges.
 - ❖ Use of digester.
- Holy Trinity School applications.
The head teacher at Holy Trinity primary school had reported a very low intake of new students and asked the PC for help in encouraging HDC to allow additional signage for the school. Cllr Livingstone said he would investigate why the signs were refused by HDC.
- LBPC website.
The Clerk forwarded a quote from Vision ICT on an upgrade for the Lower Beeding website. Cllr Allen and the Clerk will further explore the options open to the PC.
- Request from PCC for increase in rent.
The Clerk had received a request from the Church to increase the monthly rent on the Church Rooms. The PC agreed to increase the rent by £10/- per month from April 2024.
- Recreation land acquisition – Cllrs Allen & Keen.
The PC discussed the options for the proposed acquisition and the next steps. Cllr Scrase-Dickins said she will hold off on preparing the mail drop until the transfer had been completed.
- Internal Audit date.
The annual internal audit will be carried out on 10th May.
- Councillor resignation.
The Clerk had received an email from Cllr Lillywhite with immediate effect. The Clerk will advertise the vacant position via the normal channels and report back to the PC.
- Defib replacement in Plough public house.
The defib has now been installed in the vestibule at the front of the Plough Pub and is accessible 24/7. The defib has also been registered with the Sussex Ambulance Service.

076/24 Planning Applications

DC/24/0568 High Beech, Mill Lane, Lower Beeding, West Sussex.

Demolition and erection of a new residential dwelling and the erection of an office / leisure room.

There was no objection, and the PC supported this application.

077/24 Public Adjournment

There was a general discussion on Stonehouse Farm from the public including some of their objections to the proposed changes and plans made by Hunter-Nash Group.

To include Transport Working Party feedback.

078/24 Chair's announcements.

The Chair had no further comments to make.

079/24 Accounts status as at end of April 2024.

Date	Accounts April 2024	AMOUNT £
Balance at 26th March 2024		
	Treasurers Account - Balance	£42,623.56
	Business Account - Balance	£10,381.97
	32 Day Notice Account	£10,258.16
08-Apr	Zurich Insurance Premium	£682.36
08-Apr	WSALC & NALC annual fees	£383.06
08-Apr	DEFIB Shop - replacement Defib for Plough Pub	£1,704.00
16-Apr	MAS Networks	£104.39
26-Apr	Clerks Salary April	£1,243.60
26-Apr	Clerks Expenses April	£98.11
26-Apr	Clerks Garden Waste bins for maintenance team	£162.00
26-Apr	Mr V Joyce - Charlie Joyce Parish Maintenance	£88.51
29-Apr	1st Precept Payment for 2024-25	+£19,495.00
	Total Costs	+£15,028.97
	Business Account	
09-Apr	Interest	£10.72
	32 Day Notice Account	
23-Apr	Interest	£23.25
Balances at 29th April 2024		
	Treasurers Account - Balance	£57,652.53
	Business Account - Balance	£10,392.69
	32 Day Notice Account	£10,283.41

080/24 Outstanding payments.

Date	Outstanding Payments	
	Total	£0.00

081/24 Approval of accounts for financial year 2023-24

The accounts were approved by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Allen.

Date of the next meetings:

082/24 AGM & Planning Meeting –Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 7:00 pm to be held in the Church Rooms Holy Trinity Church, Lower Beeding

Please note that the planning meetings will only take place if there are any applications to discuss.

083/24 Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 28th May 2024 at 7:00 pm to be held in the Church Rooms Holy Trinity Church, Lower Beeding

The meeting closed at 21:00 hours.

Peter Knox

Clerk to Lower Beeding Parish Council

Email: clerk@lowerbeeding.com