

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 14th May 2024.
The meeting was held at Holy Trinity Church Rooms, Lower Beeding.

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

Also present: Peter Knox (Clerk).

The Chair began the meeting at 19:05 hours.

063/24 Apologies for absence: Cllrs Mercer, Smith, Fitzpatrick, Cannom

064/24 Appointment of Chair.

The Parish Council voted Cllr Bamford to continue as Chair of the Council. Cllr Bamford signed the Declaration of Office for 2024-25

Proposed: Cllr Allen Seconded: Cllr Scrase-Dickins

065/24 Appointment of Vice-Chair.

The Parish Council voted Cllr Scrase-Dickins as Vice-Chair of the Council. Cllr Scrase-Dickins signed the Declaration of Office for 2024-25

Proposed: Cllr Bamford Seconded: Cllr Keen

066/24 Appointment of Councillors.

All of the current Councillors will stand for the forthcoming year. All Cllrs were asked to review their 'Declarations of Interest' and respond, via email, to The Clerk if there are any changes.

067/24 Co-option of vacant position(s) to the Council.

There is a current vacancy on the PC after the recent resignation of Cllr Lillywhite. The vacancy has been advertised. If there are no applications the PC may co-opt the position.

068/24 Declaration of Interests and notification of any change of interests.

As in minute ref 066/24.

070/24 Approval of Working Groups

- Transport Working Party (TWP) the group consisting of Cllr Fitzgerald and Jacqui Dunning were endorsed for another year and thanked by the PC for their dedication in the past year.
- Cllr Allen suggested that a new group be established to handle all facilities in the Parish including the acquisition of the new land. The Facilities Working Party (FWP) will initially consist of Cllrs Allen and Keen.

071/24 Approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2023-24.

As the internal audit had only been submitted to the PC on 13th May the Chair requested that the AGAR be reviewed before the next PC meeting and approved at the PC meeting.

072/24 Chair's annual report.

On the Parish Council (PC) in 2023 we welcomed two new fantastic members, James Cannom and Annette Keen. Welcome officially to you both and thank you for your contributions so far. Cllr Dennis Livingstone, we welcome you at the district level as well, and we thank you for your consistent attendance at the meetings and for your follow through with our (probably seemingly unending) requests. Along with new councillors we will soon have a new look to our council website, a new lower speed limit throughout portions of our roads in the parish (fingers crossed!) and we have finally seen the installation of the much-awaited Speed Indication Devices (SIDS). I think that last accomplishment and those involved in bringing it into reality needs a much-deserved round of applause.

In 2023 we, as a nation, along with the commonwealth, welcomed King Charles to the throne. And we have his official royal picture here to look over us in the parish room. Along with new royal leadership in our nation, we have

new leadership here on the council. I was honoured to be asked to serve as the new chair this year, and I am thrilled to be joined by councillor Scrase-Dickins as the vice chair. To quote Margret Thatcher at this time if I may, "Ask a man if you want something said, ask a woman if you want something done." Obviously, I make the comment light heartedly, and truly we could not ask for a more hard-working and proactive group of councillors one and all here for Lower Beeding.

So, a few specific thank-you's :

Councillor Allen, your leadership as chair over the last 8 years has provided a tight and steady ship as we move forward. Councillor Mercer, your knowledge and expertise around all things planning has proved to be invaluable to this council and to the parish residents specifically, but not limited to, the issues surrounding Stonehouse Farm. Councillor Smith, thank you for taking the lead on liaising with Cisswood Hotel and to Councillor Fitzpatrick for working closely with Jaquie and the Transport Working Party. Your team have made both small and mighty steps towards making the highways in our community safer. Thank you.

We continue to work well as a team to support residents around tricky issues including planning applications at Leonardslee Gardens and the quagmire that is water neutrality. I couldn't ask to work with a more dedicated group. Of course, none of us could make any of this work as well as it does without Pete Knox as our formidable Clerk.

Thank you, Peter, for your patience with all of us.

Now maybe you are thinking that I am being a bit over the top with all of the accolades:

I will close with quote from another great lady, the late Queen Elizabeth II, on being asked in an interview who inspires her:

"To be inspirational you don't have to save lives or win medals. I often draw strength from meeting ordinary people doing extraordinary things: volunteers, carers, community organisers and good neighbours: unsung heroes whose quiet dedication makes them special. They are inspiration to those who know them."

Thank you, everyone and have a wonderful 2024; the year of the Dragon!

073/24 Public Session – The Parish Council agrees to adjourn proceedings for questions from members of the public.

There were no members of the public present.

Date of the next meeting.

074/24 Next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 28th May 2024 at 7 pm in the Holy Trinity Church Rooms, Lower Beeding.

The meeting closed at 21:15 hours.

Peter Knox

Clerk to Lower Beeding Parish Council

Email: clerk@lowerbeeding.com