# LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The meeting was held at Holy Trinity Church Rooms, Lower Beeding.

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

#### Also present: The Clerk (Peter Knox), three members of the public.

The Chair began the meeting at 19:00 hours.

#### 006/25 Apologies for absence: Cllrs Livingstone, Claridge,

#### 007/25 Approval of minutes for:

•	November 2024 PC meeting.	
	Approved by: Cllr Mercer	Seconded: Cllr Bamford
•	December 2024 Planning meeting.	
	Approved by: Cllr Keen	Seconded: Cllr Mercer
•	January 2025 Precept meeting.	
	Approved by: Cllr Fitzpatrick	Seconded: Cllr Keen

#### 008/25 Meetings attended by Councillors.

Cllr Mercer attended an online meeting on the current status of the Local Plan. There is still no progress on the approval of the plan from the Government Inspector.

#### 009/25 Declaration of Interests.

There were no declarations.

#### 010/25 Report from District Councillor.

Cllr Livingstone was not present but had sent an overview to The Clerk to read out as follows:

#### • English Devolution Bill - White Paper

The White Paper was issued in the latter part of December and will impact how local government is structured. It means that possibly Horsham District Council will in the future cease to be a separate entity. The plan is for there to be a number of strategic authorities and sitting under these will possibly be unitary authorities. The current thinking is that the County Councils of East and West Sussex will join together with perhaps Brighton and Hove to become the strategic authority for Sussex. Strategic Authorities will possibly also have a mayor.

The unitary authorities if they are to be established will cover populations of 500,000 or more. Currently Horsham District has a population of 150,000 so it will be necessary to join with other neighbouring authority areas to achieve the required population size.

#### • Horsham District Local Plan

The new Horsham District Local Plan has been submitted for inspection. The hearings with a government inspector commenced in December 2024, but were shortly afterwards suspended. This is believed to be for technical reasons although at this time the reasons have not been made clear to the Council. HDC has yet to hear back from the Inspector regarding when we expect to hear more details from him.

#### • Neighbourhood Wardens (NW)

Cllr Livingstone is still trying to arrange a joint meeting with other parishes councils at HDC offices, on the vital support NW's provide. However, he has been unsuccessful thus far.

#### • Leonardslee Gardens

Residents living near Leonardslee have expressed significant dissatisfaction regarding the noise and disturbances associated with the recent Christmas Illuminations event at the venue. Numerous complaints have been lodged, suggesting that the level of disruption experienced was excessive and unwarranted.

In response to these concerns, He has actively engaged with various council officials, including officers and cabinet members from both planning and licensing departments. My discussions have emphasized the importance of supporting local residents while maintaining the viability of the Leonardslee business. To address these issues systematically, he has organized a joint meeting with relevant senior officers and council cabinet members (licensing and planning) scheduled for the second week of February. This meeting aims to review specific concerns raised by residents and develop an actionable plan to implement reasonable operational limitations on future events at Leonardslee Gardens.

# 011/25 Public Adjournment

To include:

 Cllr Cotton (Chair of Nuthurst Parish Council) gave an overview on the Proposed Speed Reduction for Monks Gate / A281 Brighton Rd. As part of the requested road for speed reduction is within the Lower Beeding Parish Boundary Cllr Cotton was asking for consent from the LBPC to process the application to the Highways Department.

After a lengthy discussion. The LBPC voted as follows:

Approved = 5 Abstained = 2 Against = 2. The motion was therefore carried.

- Transport Working Party (Cllr Fitzpatrick & Jacqui Dunning) feedback: There was a general discussion on the TWP's meeting with George Fort (Assistant Area Highway Manager based in Horsham) GF. The topics under consideration with GF were Speed Reduction throughout the Parish / Village Gateways and installation / new SID posts and their installation. The meeting was very positive and the TWP team will liaise with GF on implementation of the plans.
- Cllr Keen highlighted the numerous fly tipping spots within the Parish since the NewYear.

#### 012/25 Other matters arising which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

#### Updates:

- Stonehouse Farm (SF) Clir Mercer reported that there will be another public meeting to be held on the site on 15<sup>th</sup> February, to explain the latest plans of SF for the foreseeable future. There are also plans for a small development of new houses at Jacksons Farm on Hammerpond Road. He also updated the PC on other issues pertaining to SF i.e. Change of use for the bio-digester / and proposed lodges at the lakeside.
- Land Acquisition update Cllr Allen stated that there was very little progress with the acquisition of the land adjacent to the children's playground. The legal transfer is held up in the HDC Legal Department.
- Warm Spaces winter 2024-25 statistics The Clerk gave a summary of the costs and headcount for attendance at the Warm Spaces initiative held at The Plough pub throughout December and January.
- **Defib for Village Hall grant request from LBA The Clerk** reported that he had received the full grant application for a defib at the Village Hall. Following a debate on the grant, Cllr Fitzpatrick stated that as the price may have increased since the last defib was purchased. She said she would get an up-to-date costing.
- **Replacement heaters in Church Room The Chair** suggested that the PC should fund replacement wall heaters for the Church Room as the current units are outdated. The Chair will investigate the options and report back to the PC.
- **Parish Website Cllr Mercer** informed the PC that there were security issues with the SSL certificate on the Lower Beeding website. He will contact the relevant parties to add the licence.
- Meeting Attendance and Apologies for Absence The Clerk informed the PC that it was important for all Councillors to inform the Clerk or Chair if they cannot attend a meeting. The Clerk stressed that it was crucial that a quorum must be achieved at every meeting, and it is common courtesy so that the meeting is organised correctly.

#### 013/25 Planning Applications

# DC/25/0025 Leonardslee Gardens, Brighton Road, Lower Beeding, West Sussex RH13 6PP.

Non-Material Amendment to previously approved application DC/22/2229 (Construction of enlarged and rationalised car park overflow car parking) relating to provision of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points from pre-construction stage to after completion of works and the location and specification of the chargers.

## The LBPC voted unanimously against this application on the following grounds:

- The application is incomplete as it should include a provision for the installation of electrical vehicle charging points (EV). Currently this has not been completed.
- The EV charging infrastructure has not been installed including the overflow car park. Therefore, until the EV points have been installed this application should not be approved.

## 014/25 Chair's announcements.

The Chair had no further announcements.

# 015/25 3Q (End of 2024) Financial Results.

#### See Addendum

## 116/25 Accounts status as at end of January.

Date	Accounts January 2025	AMOUNT £
Balance a	t 30th November 2024	
	Treasurers Account - Balance	£61,101.53
	Business Account - Balance	£10,463.62
	32 Day Notice Account	£10,408.18
16-Dec	MAS Networks	£104.39
24-Dec	Plough Pub - Warm Spaces	£420.00
24-Dec	Clerk Salary - December	£1,271.35
24-Dec	Clerks Expenses - December	£53.78
02-Jan	HMRC PAYE & NI 3Q 2024	£1,305.48
02-Jan	Vision ICT	£290.26
16-Jan	MAS Networks	£104.39
	Total Costs	£3,549.65

	Business Account	
09-Dec	Interest	£8.03
09-Jan	Interest	£8.89

32 Day Notice Account	
Interest	£67.10

# Balances at 28th January 2025

Treasurers Account - Balance	£57,551.88
Business Account - Balance	£10,480.54
32 Day Notice Account	£10,475.28

017/25 Outstanding payments.

Date	Outstanding Payments	
	Clerk Salary	£1,250.00
	Clerk Expenses	£75.00
	Plough Pub - Warm Spaces	£420.00
	Total	£1,745.00

Date of the next meetings:

# 018/25 Planning Meetings –Tuesday 11th February 2025 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.

# 019/25 Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7:00 pm to be held in the Church Rooms Holy Trinity Church, Lower Beeding.

The meeting was concluded at 21:05 hrs

Peter Knox

**Clerk to Lower Beeding Parish Council** 

Email: <u>clerk@lowerbeeding.com</u>

# ADDENDUM

LBPC Income & Expenditur	e 2024 / 25																			
		20	24																	
Expenditure	Precept 2024/25		April	May		June		July		August		September		October	November ACTUAL		December	Actual spend 2024/25		Budget Remaining
			ACTUAL			ACTUAL	ACTUAL		ACTUAL		ACTUAL		ACTUAL				ACTUAL			
Clerks salary	£15,500	£	1,163.60	£ 1,300	).77	£ 1,101.18	£	1,188.45	£	1,263.39	£	1,213.30	£	1,188.45	£1,392	91 f	1,191.35	£	11,003.40	£4,496.60
Clerks pension	£3,000										£	1,381.68						£	1,381.68	£1,618.32
PAYE / NI	£3,000						£	1,169.37					£	1,216.12				£	2,385.49	£614.51
Internal Audit	£650			£ 175	5.50													£	175.50	£474.50
External Audit	£260										£	252.00						£	252.00	£8.00
MAS Networks	£1,260	£	104.39	£ 104	.39	£ 104.39	£	104.39	£	104.39	£	104.39	£	104.39	£ 104.	9 £	104.39	£	939.51	£320.49
Website & Software	£80			£ 60	0.00		£	279.99										£	339.99	-£259.99
Street Lighting	£200						£	197.11										£	197.11	£2.89
Waste Removal	£150	£	162.00						£	120.00		£163.80						£	445.80	-£295.80
Insurance	£700	£	682.36															£	682.36	£17.64
Training	£150						£	168.00										£	168.00	-£18.00
SALC/HALC/NALC subs	£450	£	383.06															£	383.06	£66.94
Grants	£6,250																	£		£6,250.00
Church Room Rental	£600												£	360.00				£	360.00	£240.00
Other	£200	£	1,704.00															£	1,704.00	-£1,504.00
Maintenance	£4,500	£	88.51	£ 296	5.49	£ 115.99	£	260.00	£	260.00	£	305.69						£	1,326.68	£3,173.32
Traffic management	£0																	£		£0.00
Neighbourhood Plan	£0																	£		£0.00
Playground inspection report	£150						£	108.00										£	108.00	£42.00
Payroll costs	£180						£	60.00							£ 60.0	00		£	120.00	£60.00
Expenses	£750	£	98.11	£ 68	8.56	£ 84.74		£172.55	£	65.58	£	113.10	£	28.58	£ 310.5	59 £	53.78	£	995.59	-£245.59
Office Allowance	£960	£	80.00	£ 80	0.00	£ 80.00	£	80.00	£	80.00	£	80.00	£	80.00	£ 80.0	00 £	104.39	£	744.39	£215.61
Operating Costs	£17,490						-									+				
TOTAL	£38,990	£	4,466.03	£ 2,085	.71	£ 1,486.30	£	3,787.86	£1	1,893.36	£	3,613.96	£	2,977.54	£ 1,947.8	9 f	1,453.91	1	23,712.56	£15,277.44