

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29th April 2025.
The meeting was held at Holy Trinity Church Rooms, Lower Beeding.

Present: Cllrs Bamford (Chair), Mercer, Smith, Fitzpatrick, Keen, Claridge, Dunkley.

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

The Chair began the meeting at 19:00 hours.

053/25 Apologies for absence: Cllr Allen.

054/25 Approval of minutes for:

- March 2025 Parish Council meeting.

Approved: Cllr Mercer 2nd: Cllr Keen

055/25 Meetings attended by Councillors.

Cllrs Bamford & Claridge attended an inter-council meeting at Shermanbury Village Hall in relation to the effect of the Devolution Plan on Parish Councils.

056/25 Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Keen declared her interests in residing adjacent to Stonehouse Farm.

057/25 Report from District Councillor.

Cllr Livingstone reported the following:

Local Plan - The Planning Inspector concluded that the HDC Local Plan has failed the 'Duty to Cooperate' and advised HDC to withdraw the plan. HDC is extremely disappointed with the Examination feedback and the Inspector's conclusion for a number of reasons. The Inspector's letter and HDC's response are available on the HDC website. To make it very clear the inspector wants many more houses to be built in the district. HDC believe the Inspector has failed to understand the unique Water Neutrality situation that Horsham is in and are challenging this decision writing a letter of complaint to the Minister, Matthew Pennycook. The plan is for 13,000 houses to be built by 2040. It is important to understand that the Inspector wanted significantly more houses than that and for more sites to be developed.

HDC Constitution - The HDC Constitution change was approved at Full Council earlier this month.

It was also confirmed that I would sit on the much smaller single Planning Committee, covering the whole district. The council members on this committee will all undertake extensive training. So it will be a more professional committee with all committee members reading the officers' reports, studying the comments made for and against and visiting sites in most cases.

Neighbourhood Wardens - Thank you for the councillors that came to the meeting last month at HDC. I do understand this council may not wish to proceed at this time. Other Parish Councils have also stated they do not wish to proceed although one is still open to the use of Neighbourhood Wardens and is looking for new partners.

Local Government Reorganisation – Currently no decisive actions have been taken regarding the transition to a unitary authority. The West Sussex councils have submitted their draft interim plan for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) to the Minister for Local Government and English Devolution, Jim Mahon, outlining

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their progress and seeking guidance on several critical issues to ensure a successful final submission in September 2025.

058/25 Public Adjournment

To include:

- Transport Working Party feedback: Cllr Fitzpatrick reported that the batteries on the SID's (Speed Devices) need to be changed frequently and suggested the PC consider SID's with solar panels.
- Inter-Council meeting feedback – Cllrs Bamford and Claridge gave an update on their meeting at Shermanbury Village Hall on the future of Parishes within the new Devolution Framework.

059/25 Other matters arising which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Updates:

- Neighbourhood Wardens – The PC had a discussion regarding the requirement for NW in our Parish and it was voted unanimously against the need in our Parish.
- Replacement heaters in Church Room – Cllr Bamford informed the PC that an electrician had inspected the heaters in the Church Rooms and advised that they do not need updating. It was agreed that a system of remote operation should be installed so that the heating can be activated prior to all meetings.
- Internal Audit – The Clerk reported there would be a delay in the internal audit until 21st May.
- Church Rooms Wi-Fi Router Updated-The Clerk had received information from the Church saying that the router in the Church Rooms was inoperable. However, after testing it appears that there are sections of the Church were not receiving any signal. It was agreed by the PC that the Clerk would liaise with the PCC about a grant to upgrade the router.
- Sussex Police Visit at PC Meeting – The Clerk will invite Inspector Durkin to the next meeting.
- Sussex Police Rural Crime Team (RCT) Street Surgeries initiative. The PC agreed that they will invite the Rural Crime Team to the Village Fete in June. Cllr Fitzpatrick to facilitate the arrangement for the Crime Team.
- Neighbourhood portion of the CIL for The Gallops, Sandygate Lane Development. The Clerk reported that the CIL funds of £21,104.88 had been received.
- Maintenance update-The Clerk informed the PC that the Parish maintenance man (Charlie Joyce) has retired. The Clerk thanked him for his dedication over the years of working for the PC.

060/25 Planning Applications

DC/25/0403 Stonehouse Farm, Handcross Road, Plummers Plain, West Sussex.

Full Planning Application to form a comprehensive masterplan including:

1. Rationalisation and enhancement of existing commercial facilities (Use Classes E(g) B2 and B8 at Stonehouse Business Park including demolition of two buildings and their replacement with new Class E(g), B2 and B8 facilities. Extension of existing building to form a new office and wardens' accommodation. Existing mobile home removed.
2. Decommissioning of the Anaerobic Digester and re-use of the existing 2 nos buildings for storage and office uses (Class E (g) and B8) and the diversion of a public footpath.
3. Residential redevelopment of the Jacksons Farm site including the demolition of existing barns to provide 3no. dwellings with access, parking, and landscaping.

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The LBPC voted to **Support** the application following an engagement with the owner and adjacent neighbours (present at the Parish Council meeting). There were no objections from the neighbours with full support following a history of poor and inaccurate applications by the previous owner. The PC and neighbours commended the current owner for his liaison with the residents.

DC/24/1780 Maple Hill, Newells Lane, Lower Beeding, West Sussex.

Extending existing terrace awning over existing terrace and construction of a covered open walkway leading to a car port and new garage with overhead office room. Installation of weather protection awning to three exit doors. Replacement of double-glazed windows with triple glazed wood composite windows. Alterations to window positionings and size. Installation of additional roof lights and light shafts.

The LBPC had no comments on this application and voted to remain **Neutral**.

DC/25/0453 The Old Paddock, Leechpond Hill, Lower Beeding, West Sussex.

Demolition of existing redundant stables and construction of detached garage and storage building with room in the roof space. Erection of a two-storey side extension.

The LBPC commented that this application looked disproportionate in scale to the main house but had no further comments to make and voted to remain **Neutral**.

061/25 Chair's announcements.

The Chair advised the Council that there would be a Street Party at Holy Trinity Church on 5th May from 2-5pm. All are welcome to attend.

062/25 Approval of the revised Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

The revised documents were approved by Cllr Mercer and seconded by Cllr Smith.

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063/25 Accounts status as at end of April.

Date	Accounts April 2025	AMOUNT £
Balance at 31st March 2025		
	Treasurers Account - Balance	£37,699.85
	Business Account - Balance	£20,509.15
	32 Day Notice Account	£10,518.92
08-Apr	Zurich Insurance annual premium	£701.30
08-Apr	NALC & WSALC Annual Subs	£409.06
16-Apr	MAS Networks	£104.39
22-Apr	Bank Charges	£4.25
28-Apr	Precept 1st payment CREDIT	£19,535.00
28-Apr	CIL Funds CREDIT	£21,104.88
	Total Costs	£1,219.00
	Business Account	
31-Mar	Transfer from Treasurers Account	£10,000.00
09-Apr	Interest	£11.37
	32 Day Notice Account	
20-Mar	Interest	£17.36

Balances at 29th April 2025		
	Treasurers Account - Balance	£77,119.73
	Business Account - Balance	£20,509.15
	32 Day Notice Account	£10,536.28

064/25 Outstanding payments.

Date	Outstanding Payments	
	Clerks Salary - April	£1,250.00
	Expenses	£35.00
	Total	£1,285.00

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Date of the next meetings:

065/25 AGM –Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7:00 pm to be held in the Church Rooms Holy Trinity Church, Lower Beeding.

066/25 Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 27th May 2025 at 7:00 pm to be held in the Church Rooms Holy Trinity Church, Lower Beeding.

The meeting concluded at 20:50 hrs

Peter Knox

Clerk to Lower Beeding Parish Council

Email: clerk@lowerbeeding.com

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Addendum

Expenditure	Precept 2024/25	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Actual spend 2024/25	Budget Remaining
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	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	£ 1,191.35	£ 1,241.48	£ 1,066.13	£ 1,128.74	£ 14,439.75	£1,060.25
Clerks pension	£3,000						£ 1,381.68						£ 1,661.34	£ 3,043.02	-£43.02
PAYE / NI	£3,000				£ 1,169.37			£ 1,216.12			£ 1,305.48		£ 1,162.17	£ 4,853.14	-£1,853.14
Internal Audit	£650		£ 175.50											£ 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	£ 104.39	£ 104.39	£ 104.39	£ 104.39	£ 104.39	£ 1,252.68	£7.32
Website & Software	£80		£ 60.00		£ 279.99						£ 290.26			£ 630.25	-£550.25
Street Lighting	£200				£ 197.11									£ 197.11	£2.89
Waste Removal	£150	£ 162.00				£ 120.00	£163.80						£ 169.00	£ 614.80	-£464.80
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									£ 420.00	£ 420.00		£ 1,750.00	£ 2,590.00	£3,660.00
Church Room Rental	£600							£ 360.00					£ 360.00	£ 720.00	-£120.00
Other	£200	£ 1,704.00											£ 4.25	£ 1,708.25	-£1,508.25
Maintenance	£4,500	£ 88.51	£ 296.49	£ 115.99	£ 260.00	£ 260.00	£ 305.69						£ 180.00	£ 1,506.68	£2,993.32
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				£ 60.00					£ 120.00	£60.00
Expenses	£750	£ 98.11	£ 68.56	£ 84.74	£172.55	£ 65.58	£ 113.10	£ 28.58	£ 310.59	£ 53.78	£ 229.96	£ 15.59	£ 15.59	£ 1,256.73	-£506.73
Office Allowance	£960	£ 80.00	£ 80.00	£ 80.00	£ 80.00	£ 80.00	£ 80.00	£ 80.00	£ 80.00	£ 80.00	£ 80.00	£ 80.00	£ 80.00	£ 960.00	£0.00
Operating Costs	£17,490														
TOTAL	£38,990	£ 4,466.03	£ 2,085.71	£ 1,486.30	£ 3,787.86	£ 1,893.36	£ 3,613.96	£ 2,977.54	£ 1,947.89	£ 1,849.52	£ 3,671.57	£ 1,266.11	£ 6,615.48	£35,661.33	£3,328.67