

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th October 2025

The Meeting was held at Holy Trinity Church Rooms, Lower Beeding

Present: Cllrs Claridge (Vice-Chair), Allen, Dunckley, Keen, Fitzpatrick

Also Present: The Clerk (Peter Knox), Cllrs Livingston & Raby and four members of the public,

The Vice-Chair started the meeting at 7:00 pm

124/25 Apologies for absence: Cllrs Bamford, Smith.

125/25 Approval of minutes for:

- September 2025 Parish Council meeting.
Due to certain errors in the minutes. The September PC meeting will be reviewed in November.
- October 2025 Planning Meeting.
The minutes were approved by Cllr Keen Seconded by Cllr Dunckley

126/25 Meetings attended by Councillors.

There were no meetings attended by Councillors.

127/25 Declaration of Interests.

There were no declarations.

128/25 Report from District Councillor.

Cllr Livingstone reported the following:

Water Neutrality - Water neutrality restrictions were imposed by Natural England's Position Statement in September 2021. Since then, HDC have worked closely for four years with the Government, neighbouring affected councils and partners to find a solution that enables much-needed development whilst protecting the environment. HDC planned to adopt its Sussex North Water Certification Scheme (SNWCS). However, it was held back on advice from government about some forthcoming changes in the offing. A hurried announcement was made last week from the government, and it seems there will be a managed exit from water neutrality.

HDC are assuming that Natural England's current Position Statement will change as a result of this announcement. The implications are that there could be a rise in speculative developments within our district and without an approved Local Plan it will be very difficult to resist many of these. Water Neutrality issues were previously preventing some applications coming forward, this situation could now change.

Cisswood House Hotel (CHH) – The hotel was originally used for asylum seeking and immigrant families only but over the past few months the hotel has accommodated single adult males, which is unsuitable for them due to it's remote location.

HDC will push to have the hotel returned to family accommodation as soon as they can.

Stonehouse Farm - I have received an email from Senior Planning Officer Adrian Smith stating they are aiming for the second committee meeting in November. Once the PC have notification of the meeting The Clerk will alert the residents and PC regarding the extent of the Parish presence at the meeting.

Inclusivity - I have had concerns for some time for those who are elderly and disabled are being excluded where simple changes may make a big difference to their lives.

For example, too many applications come forward to the planning committee cramming three storey buildings on small plots to maximise profits for the developers. No consideration is given to those in our society who would find it difficult or in many cases impossible to live in these houses.

The HDC annual plan for the next year will also contain a section specifically to support provisions for access and inclusion for elderly and disabled persons. There are many areas within our district where we can encourage improvements, and he would be interested in hearing any views on where we can advance inclusivity within our parish and district.

129/25 Report from County Councillor.

Cllr Raby reported the following:

He thanked the Transport Working Party (TWP) for their time and effort for bringing him up to date with the current TRO (Transport Regulation Order) application and speeding issues in the Parish.

The next issue raised was the current situation with the CHH. WSCC have not received specific information from the Home Office on the changes being made on type of migrants housed in the CHH.

The Clerk stated his general frustration on lack of information being passed onto the PC from the Home Office / WSCC.

A general discussion resulted from comments made by the public about the unease that many female residents felt about single males currently being housed in the hotel.

- Cllr Raby said he would pass the WSCC focal point onto the Clerk.
- Cllr Allen requested that information on the numbers and nationality be passed onto the PC.
- The Clerk stated that he would contact Inspector Durkin at Horsham Police to update him on the current situation with the hotel and residents' security concerns.
- All present were encouraged to contact the police immediately if there was an incident.

130/25 Public Adjournment

Cllr Fitzpatrick gave an update on the TWP. She had been in contact with George Ford of WS Highways regarding the current TRO for the Parish. There was no definite date given by Highways.

She also outlined the speeding issues in the Parish and will liaise with Cllr Raby about highways issues in the Parish.

131/25 Other matters arising which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Updates:

- **Co-option of James Mercer to the Parish Council** - Mr Mercer was unanimously voted back onto the Parish Council.
- **Update on land purchase** – Cllr Allen has forwarded all of the relevant documentation to The Clerk for distribution to Cllrs Claridge and Keen. Both Cllrs will now try to take the issue to the next stage in the land purchase.
- **Playground Equipment repair and quote from Playdale.**– Cllr Claridge reported that he had received some correspondence from Playdale on the repair of the existing playground equipment.
- **Bus Shelters** – Cllr Keen and The Clerk will attend a District Council meeting regarding the bus routes and the existing bus stops in the Parish. Cllr Keen is the focal point for any comments that the PC wish to make.
- **Grant for LBA Solar Panels** – The Clerk has received a grant application from the Lower Beeding association for £5,000/- for solar panel installation on the Village Hall. The PC requested if a representative of the LBA could be present at the next meeting to discuss the grant. The Clerk to

follow up.

- **Parish fingerposts repair** – The Clerk has been in contact with a company who are repairing all of the existing finger posts in the Parishes in West Sussex. They completed a report of the four posts in the Parish. The Clerk is waiting for the final quote before presenting it to the PC.
- **Grit Bins** – The Clerk reported that all of the grit bins in the Parish have been filled in preparation for winter.
- **Remembrance Wreath** – The Clerk has purchased the wreath which will be laid during the Remembrance service in the Holy Trinity Church by Cllr Smith on behalf of the Parish Residents.
- **Warm Spaces (WS)** – The Clerk raised the topic of continuing the Warm Spaces initiative this forthcoming winter in the Plough Public House. The PC discussed the pros and cons of the WS. It was decided that this winter it would be split between the Plough and Crabtree public houses. The Clerk to contact both managers to arrange it starting in December.

132/25 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to review.

133/25 Vice-Chair's announcements.

The Vice-Chair had no further announcements.

134/25 Approval of the External Audit Report.

The EAR was approved by Cllr Kitpatrick and seconded by Cllr Keen.

135/25 Accounts status as at end of October.

Three payments have been received:

- Second precept payment for £19,535.00.
- Second Environmental Grant for £816.46.
- CIL payment for DC/22/0708 Sandygate Lane Development for £10,552.44.

Date	Accounts October 2025	AMOUNT £
Balance at 16th September 2025		
	Treasurers Account - Balance	£54,255.19
	Business Account - Balance	£20,573.06
	32 Day Notice Account	£10,628.83
03-Oct	HMRC PAYE & NI 2Q Payment	£1,505.37
03-Oct	Clerk Salary - September	£1,260.96
03-Oct	Clerl 1H Pension	£2,046.53
03-Oct	Expenses - September	£99.88
03-Oct	Maintenance - September	£175.00
28-Aug	Expenses - July	£123.69
15-Oct	Maintenance - October	£300.00
16-Oct	MAS Networks	£104.39
20-Oct	Bank Charges	£4.25
	Total Costs	£5,620.07
CREDIT		
29-Sep	2nd Precept Payment	£19,535.00
06-Oct	Environmental Payment	£816.46
	Business Account	
09-Oct	Interest	£10.15
	32 Day Notice Account	
Balances at 15th September 2025		
	Treasurers Account - Balance	£69,090.27
	Business Account - Balance	£20,583.21
	32 Day Notice Account	£10,628.83

136/25 Outstanding payments.

Date	Outstanding Payments	
	Clerk Salary	£1,200.00
	Expenses	£75.00
	Storage Oct/Nov	£100.00
	Total	£1,375.00

Date of the next meetings:

137/25 Planning –Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 7:00 pm to be held in the Church Rooms Holy Trinity Church, Lower Beeding.

Please note that Planning Meetings will only take place if there are any applications to review.

138/25 Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 25th November 2025 at 7:00 pm to be held in the Church Rooms Holy Trinity Church, Lower Beeding.

The meeting concluded at 9:10 pm

Peter Knox

Clerk to Lower Beeding Parish Council

Email: clerk@lowerbeeding.com