

# LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th January 2025.

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

**Present:** Cllrs Bamford (Chair), Claridge, Allen, Fitzpatrick, Dunckley, Keen, Mercer, Smith.

**Also Present:** The Clerk, Cllr Livingstone, three members of the public.

**The Chair started the meeting at 7:00 pm**

**007/26 Apologies for absence: Cllr Raby.**

**008/26 Approval of minutes for:**

- November 2025 Parish Council meeting.
- January 2026 Precept / Planning Meeting.

Both sets of minutes were approved

Approved by: Cllr Mercer

Seconded by: Cllr Keen

**009/26 Meetings attended by Councillors.**

Cllr Mercer attended the HDC Planning Committee meeting on Stonehouse Farm.

Cllr Keen attended the No 17 bus service workshop.

Cllr Fitzpatrick attended the Lower Beeding Association (LBA) committee meeting.

**010/26 Declaration of Interests.**

Cllrs Bamford and Smith declared their interests in the Holy Trinity Primary School.

**011/26 Report from District Councillor.**

Cllr Livingstone reported the following:

**Council Tax:** It is expected that (Horsham District Council (HDC) will approve a balanced financial and capital budget for the year ahead and includes a significant £35 million capital investment programme over two years.

To help meet rising costs, fees and charges across Council services will increase, resulting in a modest £5.15 annual rise (2.94%) for a Band D property. HDC will again have the lowest Council Tax across Sussex.

**Capitol Theatre** - The final performance of the Horsham Panto on January 4th marks the beginning of a 10-month closure for the Capitol Theatre, which will undergo a major refurbishment. The last refurbishment took place in 2002, and the theatre is in dire need of updates to address various issues with the building.

**Housing and Homelessness strategy** - This new strategy, called **Homes for Tomorrow**, sets out the aims and objectives of how the Council will aim to prevent and reduce homelessness and deliver more affordable homes for residents of HDC over the next four years.

The strategy focusses on:

- Aiming to reduce rough sleeping numbers
- Aiming to prevent homelessness with early interventions before it becomes an emergency
- Reducing reliance on temporary accommodation
- Ensuring the Housing Register remains fair, transparent, and accessible
- Delivering more affordable homes that meet community needs across the District.

**012/26 Report from County Councillor** – Cllr Raby was not present at the meeting.

**013/26 Public Adjournment**

**To include:**

Transport Working Party (TWP) feedback – The PC congratulated the TWP on completion of the changes and reduction of speed limits throughout the Parish Highways. The TWP are now working on the installation of the Parish Gateways.

Martin Lyne (Chairman of Compton's Tennis Club) gave an outline on the club's intention to install two Padel Courts and to request a grant from the PC to help them finance the court and ancillary equipment. They would be asking for approx. £60k.

A general discussion followed on the suitability of the grant from our limited precept. It was suggested that the PC may assess the CIL funds availability when further donations are received.

#### **014/26 Other matters arising which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.**

##### **Updates:**

- **Stonehouse Farm (SF)** – Cllr Mercer thanked Cllr Livingstone for his support during the recent SF Planning Application at HDC. The Planning Committee approved the demolition of existing Jackson's Farm barns with the erection of three new dwellings. Decommissioning of the Anaerobic Digester with reusing the buildings for storage and office use.
- **Power Outage / Fires on power lines** – Cllr Mercer gave the PC a report on some vandalism and arson on some of the electric power lines. This has been reported to Sussex Police.
- **Cisswood House Hotel** – Cllr Smith reported there is no change in the hotel housing families.
- **Update on land purchase** – Cllr Keen stated there is no progress.
- **Playground Equipment repair and quote from Playdale.** – Cllr Claridge gave feedback on the perimeter fence and the quotes received. It was decided to award the project to Mr Michael Christian. A long standing member of the Parish and fencing contractor.
- **Bus Shelters** – Cllr Keen attended a workshop on the bus shelters and route of No17 bus. She forwarded to the PC her feedback to the workshop on the bus shelters in the Parish.
- **Grant for School Fencing** – The Clerk has received a grant application from the Holy Trinity Primary School for replacement of fencing and a new security gate. A Board of Governor's member of the school attended the meeting to discuss the application of £18,529. The Council asked had the school applied through the Ministry of Education or West Sussex County Council. The Council voted against this grant application due to the amount requested and that other avenues should be explored at first.
- **Parish fingerposts repair** – The council agreed to proceed with the proposed fingerpost refurbishment.
- **Warm Spaces** – The Clerk gave an overview of the attendance numbers at this winter's Warm Spaces venues at the Plough and Crabtree pubs. The attendance was below the footfall of last years and less than was predicted by the PC.

#### **015/26 Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to review for Lower Beeding Parish.

The following application is in Cowfold Parish but on the edge of our Parish boundary.

#### **DC/25/2079 Cotlands Paddock, Horsham Road, Cowfold, West Sussex.**

Use of land for the stationing of 4no. static caravans for (Gypsy and Traveller) residential purposes and associated day rooms.

Although this application is outside Lower Beeding Parish Council (LBPC) it is on the border of our Parish with Cowfold and we have had several comments from residents in the Parish objecting to this application.

The LBPC objected to the application on the following grounds:

The location of the proposed site is in an unsuitable location outside the BUAB. It is also located on a very busy 'A' road with a 60-mph speed limit on the road. It also has an unsuitable exit onto this road.

#### **016/26 Chair's announcements.**

The Chair announced that there will be a Quiz Night at the Village Hall on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January starting at 7pm with all proceeds going to the Holy Trinity Church.

#### **017/26 Approval of the Internal Audit Report.**

The report was approved.

Approved by: Cllr Claridge

Seconded by: Cllr Smith

**018/26 Approval of Hazard & Risk Assessment for 2025-26**

The report was approved.

Approved by: Cllr Bamford

Seconded by: Cllr Dunckley

**019/26 Accounts status as at end of January 2026**

- Transfer from Community Account to 32 Day Notice Account of £31,657.32.

Date	Accounts January 2026	AMOUNT £
<b>Balance at 31st December 2025</b>		
	Treasurers Account - Balance	£66,140.57
	Business Account - Balance	£20,603.86
	32 Day Notice Account	£10,642.68
06-Jan	HMRC 3Q NI & PAYE	£1,427.31
07-Jan	Replacement Defib Pads for The Plough	£95.94
08-Jan	Storage for Dec & Jan	£100.00
16-Jan	MAS Networks	£104.39
19-Jan	Bank Charges	£4.25
19-Jan	Transfer to 32 day Notice Account	£31,657.32
	<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>£33,389.21</b>
	Business Account	
09-Jan	Interest	£10.50
	32 Day Notice Account	
19-Jan	Transfer from Treasurers Acct	£31,657.32
27-Jan	Interest Dec & Jan	£64.55
<b>Balances at 19th January 2026</b>		
	Treasurers Account - Balance	£32,751.36
	Business Account - Balance	£20,614.36
	32 Day Notice Account	£42,364.55

**020/26 Outstanding payments.**

Date	Outstanding Payments	
	Clerk Salary	£1,200.00
	Expenses	£50.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,250.00</b>

**Date of the next meetings:**

**021/26 Planning –Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 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.*

**022/26 Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7:00 pm to be held in the Church Rooms Holy Trinity Church, Lower Beeding.**

**The meeting concluded at 9:20 pm**

**Peter Knox**

**Clerk to Lower Beeding Parish Council**

**Email: [clerk@lowerbeeding.com](mailto:clerk@lowerbeeding.com)**