

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2025.

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

Present: Cllrs Bamford (Chair), Claridge, Allen, Fitzpatrick, Duncley, Smith.

Also Present: The Clerk, Cllr Livingstone, Cllr Raby and four members of the public.

The Chair began the meeting at 7:00 pm

023/26 Apologies for absence: Cllrs Mercer & Keen.

024/26 Approval of minutes for:

- January 2026 Parish Council (PC) Meeting.

The minutes were approved by Cllr Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr Claridge.

025/26 Meetings attended by Councillors.

The Clerk attended two meetings:

1/ Community Governance Review. HDC are currently evaluating the Parish boundaries and the size of the Parish Councils as they have not been evaluated since 2013.

2/ Clerks Networking Day: Attended by over thirty Clerks. Main topics of the meeting were:

- Local Government Reorganisation by Cllr Leigh Whitehouse (Chief Executive WSCC).
- AI presentation and how it is used in Councils now and in the future.

026/26 Declaration of Interests.

There were no declarations.

027/26 Report from District Councillor.

Cllr Livingstone reported the following:

Local Plan: The re-examination of the Local Plan will go-ahead with a new inspector (Jonathon Bore). Now that water neutrality is no longer an issue It will be undertaken in two stages:

- The first stage in April will focus on housing requirements with examination hearings on this issue in April 2026. The outcomes from these hearings will guide subsequent site selection decisions.
- Stage Two will take place in September 2026 and will consider the Council's overall strategic approach, including the identification of specific development sites within the Plan.

Business Support: The Jobs & Skills Fair returns in September, at Horsham's Drill Hall. Following feedback from employers, we have moved the event from a Saturday to a Wednesday evening this year to make it even more accessible for businesses to attend.

Council Tax: There will be a £5.15 annual rise (2.94%) for a Band D property. HDC will again have the lowest Council Tax across Sussex. The budget includes a significant £35 million capital investment programme over two years. This will fund vital infrastructure improvements such as home repairs, disabled facility improvements and housing enabling grants, completion of a £10.2 million refurbishment of The Capitol Theatre.

Food Waste: The new food waste collections vehicles are test driving their new routes ahead of the launch of the new service later in the month.

028/26 Report from County Councillor.

Cllr Raby reported the following:

- He reported that the WSCC elections will go ahead on the 7th May for a two-year duration. The pre-election rules on governance will come into force on the 30th March (Six weeks before the elections).
- An assessment of Church Lane has been requested to West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Highways. However, the road classification and inspection frequency cannot change, as they are determined by national standards and engineering criteria. The Department of Transport (DfT) national funding announcements have not increased the budget provided to WSCC Highways.

A member of the public (Jerry Rivera) who resides on Church Lane distributed a report about the excessive use of the lane by supply vehicles.

A long discussion followed and Cllr Raby said he would contact highways about the issue and will revert to the PC about his findings.

029/26 Public Adjournment

Transport Working Party (TWP) feedback:

- Jacqui Dunning gave an overview of the current position of installing the Speed indication Signs (SiD's) and Parish Gateway signs. At present the TWP are still searching for a suitable contractor to complete the operation. The PC requested that the SiD's be installed as a priority.
- There was a general discussion regarding the Lower Beeding Community Speed Watch (CSW) and why it stopped over a year ago. The Clerk reported the lack of volunteers, difficulty of recording the data manually and the leader of the CSW resigned from the post.

030/26 Other matters arising which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Updates:

- Playground Equipment repair and quote from Playdale – Cllr Claridge no update.
- Potholes/Church Lane resurfacing. This was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- CIL funds – The Clerk distributed a current level of CIL funds available to the LBPC and the procedure for using the funds. Cllr Allen and the Clerk had prepared a procedure for the application and process for using the CIL funds. This policy will be forwarded to all Councillors and posted on the LCPC website.
- Projects for CIL – The Clerk reported that the Holy Trinity Church had enquired about resurfacing the car park at the rear of the church. The PC discussed the use of CIL funds and the possible infrastructure projects that the funds can be used for.
- Finger posts update. The Clerk reported that work on the finger posts will be completed in June as the contractor has a backlog of projects to complete before LBPC.

031/26 Planning Applications

DC/26/0160 Lyndhurst Fir Tree Close Plummers Plain Horsham West Sussex RH13 6NT

Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension. Internal and external alterations including replacing existing flat roof with a pitched roof.

The PC voted that they would remain 'Neutral' and had no comments to make.

032/26 Chair's announcements.

The Chair reminded all present that the next film night will be at the Village Hall on 21st March. The film will be 'Hamnet'.

033/26 Accounts status as of 9th March 2026

Date	Accounts March 2026	AMOUNT £
Balance at 28th February 2025		
	Treasurers Account - Balance	£29,024.07
	Business Account - Balance	£20,623.68
	32 Day Notice Account	£42,433.34
	All Estimates	
	Clerk Salary	£1,280.00
	Expenses	£85.00
	Storage for Feb & Mar	£100.00
	MAS Networks	£104.39
	Bank Charges	£4.25
	HMRC 4Q PAYE & NI	£1,416.00
	Clerks Pension	£1,885.00
	Waste Bin emptying	£176.80
	Church Room rental 2025-26	£49.20
	Total Costs	£5,100.64
	Business Account	
	Interest	£10.50
	32 Day Notice Account	
	Interest	£15.00
Estimated balances at end of March 2026		
	Treasurers Account - Balance	£23,923.43
	Business Account - Balance	£20,624.86
	32 Day Notice Account	£42,448.34

034/26 Outstanding payments.

There were no outstanding payments.

Date of the next meetings:

035/26 Planning –Tuesday 24th March 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.

036/26 Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7:00 pm to be held in the Church Rooms Holy Trinity Church, Lower Beeding.

The meeting concluded at 8:40 pm

Peter Knox

Clerk to Lower Beeding Parish Council

Email: clerk@lowerbeeding.com