

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th April 2025.

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

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

Also Present: The Clerk, Cllr Livingstone and one member of the public.

The Chair began the meeting at 7:00 pm

037/26 Apologies for absence: Cllrs Raby, Claridge, Smith.

038/26 Approval of minutes for:

- March 2026 Parish Council (PC) Meeting.

Approved by Cllr Fitzpatrick.

Seconded by Cllr Dunckley.

039/26 Meetings attended by Councillors.

There were no meetings attended by Councillors.

040/26 Declaration of Interests.

There were no Declarations announced.

041/26 Report from District Councillor.

Cllr Livingstone reported the following:

Food Waste - The roll out for food waste collections is almost complete and is the culmination of two years of planning and the execution of a large corporate project involving many departments across the Council.

All food waste bins have been delivered, and most households have had one or two collections already. We have so far collected over 112 tonnes of food waste, with more residents participating week by week.

Local Plan - The Local Plan examination is progressing as expected. The Inspector has confirmed that hearings will take place on 21 - 23 April (with 24 April held in reserve) and has now issued a final hearings agenda.

It is then expected that a 'main modifications' public consultation will take place over the summer, and further hearings will follow in September.

Local Government Reorganisation: There was an expected decision for late March as to how the unitary authorities would be set up. However, the Government has not made that decision for West Sussex and instead have confirmed they will be running a second consultation on plans covering the whole of Sussex.

The new consultation will see two variations on the proposals already submitted by Sussex local authorities. The first proposed modification is moving Chichester District Council into a unitary with Crawley Borough Council, Horsham District Council and Mid Sussex District Council. Leaving a second unitary in West Sussex comprising Arun District Council, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council.

The consultation will begin after the elections in May.

Stonehouse Farm (SF): Cllr Livingstone expressed his frustration at the ongoing process of finalising conditions for SF, noting that some restrictions were particularly limiting. He recommended that the Parish Council considers writing to the Head of Planning and Cabinet member for planning to review the restrictions that have been put in place.

042/26 Report from County Councillor.

Cllr Raby was absent from the meeting.

043/26 Public Adjournment

To include:

- Transport Working Party (TWP) reported that the sub-contractor for installing the SiD's posts and Gateway locations have been notified. They are waiting approval from WS Highways to proceed.
- Cllr Keri Fitzpatrick reported that due to work commitments she was reluctantly resigning from the PC. Cllr Keen will take over liaising with the LBA, while the Clerk will now be responsible for maintaining the defibrillators.
- The Chair thanked Cllr Fitzpatrick for her positive attitude on the PC with her invaluable work with the TWP.

Cllr Allen raised the topic of the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and how the LBPC should be prepared to meet the challenges of any major changes in the NPPF. This may include revisiting and updating the Lower Beeding Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

044/26 Other matters arising which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Updates:

- Brick Kiln Close Recreation Field – The Clerk reported the new avenue that was being taken to transfer the playing field adjacent to Brick Kiln Close from HDC to LBPC. Currently the responsibility to move this forward is with HDC legal department.
- Playground Update – Cllrs Claridge & Keen – there was no update.
- Projects for CIL – The Chair asked the PC for any ideas on utilising the current Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The Council discussed the possible uses of the funds and how the PC could get community involvement in any potential improvements.
- Financial Audit dates – The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit will take place on 8th May, before the AGM, and the external audit must be returned by 30th June 2026.
- Finger posts update – The Clerk informed the PC that the repairs to the finger posts in the Parish will go ahead in May 2026.

045/26 Planning Applications

DC/26/0466 High Beech Farm, Hammerpond Road Plummers Plain West Sussex

Demolition of existing stables and erection of a new 'Livestock' barn, and construction of a new gravel road.

The Parish Council made the following comments in **objecting** to this application.

The scale of the proposed barn is not justified by the declared agricultural use, and is out of keeping with the site's rural location in the AONB.

DC/26/0483 1 Stablehouse Bungalows Leechpond Hill Lower Beeding West Sussex

Conversion and extension of existing detached residential garage and storage building to self-contained residential dwellinghouse.

The Parish Council made the following comments in **objecting** to this application. This application is creating another house in the confines of the garden which is not in proportion to the main bungalow. The proposed building is also outside the BUAB and not included the Neighbourhood Plan.

046/26 Chair's announcements.

047/26 Approval of Annual Accounts for 2025-26

The accounts were not approved and will be scrutinised by the Council with a further meeting held at the end of April.

048/26 Accounts status as at end of April 2026

Date	Accounts March 2026	AMOUNT £
Balance 28th Feb 2026		
	Treasurers Account - Balance	£29,024.07
	Business Account - Balance	£20,623.68
	32 Day Notice Account	£42,502.17
16-Mar	MAS Networks	£104.39
17-Mar	Bank Charges	£4.25
24-Mar	Clerk Salary	£1,231.64
24-Mar	Clerks Pension	£2,100.00
24-Mar	Waste Bin emptying	£176.80
24-Mar	Storage for Feb & Mar	£100.00
24-Mar	Expenses	£43.79
24-Mar	Church Room rental 2025-26	£49.20
26-Mar	Expenses	£55.13
31-Mar	HMRC 4Q PAYE & NI	£1,478.74
	Total Costs	£5,343.94
	Business Account	
	Interest	£7.91
	32 Day Notice Account	
	Interest	£68.83
Balances at end of March 2026		
	Treasurers Account - Balance	£23,680.14
	Business Account - Balance	£20,631.59
	32 Day Notice Account	£42,433.34

049/26 Outstanding payments.

Date	Outstanding Payments	
01-Apr	Zurich Annual Insurance Policy	£721.18
03-Apr	Deposit for SiD's & Gateway installation	£2,317.20
	Total	£3,038.38

Date of the next meetings:

050/26 Planning –Tuesday 28th April 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.

051/26 Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7:00 pm to be held in the Church Rooms Holy Trinity Church, Lower Beeding.

The meeting concluded at 8:50 pm

Peter Knox

Clerk to Lower Beeding Parish Council

Email: clerk@lowerbeeding.com