

CLERKS BACKGROUND REPORT

29th April 2025 Parish Council meeting

Highlights

Reference

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

Updates:

Stonehouse Farm – Cllr Mercer

Land Acquisition update

Following the last meeting Cllr Allen was waiting for Emma Grundy (HDC Asset Manager) to confirm the transfer of land to LBPC.

Neighbourhood Wardens

The Clerk has received confirmation that both Cowfold and Nuthurst PC's voted against proceeding with the NW initiative. Does the Council wish to discuss if LBPC want to deliberate on the NW's.

Replacement heaters in Church Room

Cllrs Bamford & Keen were looking at sourcing options and also the possibility of a grant from HDC.

Internal Audit – delay

The Clerk has been in contact with the internal auditor regarding further signed document requirement therefore the internal audit will now be rescheduled for 21st May.

Church Rooms Wi-Fi Router Updated

Msg received from Josh Hough of MAS Networks. 'Last week there was an issue with a firmware patch needing to be applied to draytek routers, which we fixed ASAP, and this brought up the fact that actually, the technology used for your broadband, Fibre to the Cabinet, is going obsolete. In lower beeding, we are able to offer 1gb internet vs your current c. 70mb.

The quote for the upgrades is as follows

For Lower Beeding Parish Council, you currently pay £27 + VAT per month, the price would increase to £45 + VAT per month for 1GB Fibre, of course there are other packages in between that we can look at for a lower price and less speed.

We would also need to upgrade your equipment, which I believe Mike had discussed too. I'm not sure who would ultimately be responsible for this bit...

- Unifi Express Router - £95 + VAT
- 2 x Ubiquiti U7 Pro Access Points @ £152 each = £304 + VAT
- Setup £80 + VAT

Total cost = £475 + VAT

Do we want to proceed?

Sussex Police Visit at PC Meeting

From Cllr Livingstone 'I've been informed that the Horsham Neighbourhood Police Inspector Neil Durkan is happy to visit parish council meetings if invited to talk about specific issues or more generally. Parish councils should email him if they want him to come along?'

Shall I invite him?

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Sussex Police Rural Crime Team (RCT) Street Surgeries initiative

E-Mail from PC Jenny Edge Rural Crime Team Coordinator Sussex Police Rural Crime Team as follows:

We're currently reaching out to parish councils to see if they'd like to bring one of these sessions to their local area. The aim is to provide a visible, approachable police presence in rural communities and offer reassurance, advice, and support.

As we start booking in Street Surgeries for the year ahead, we fully appreciate how busy parish calendars and village spaces can be. That's why we're contacting you early—to give you the opportunity to pencil in a date that works best for your parish and residents.

There are two ways you can take part:

- Host a Street Surgery in your parish – ideally with access to a location where we can park our large engagement van (such as a village hall or public car park). We don't need access to indoor facilities.
 - Join a neighbouring parish's event and help promote it locally to your residents.
- If you'd like to be involved, just let us know whether you'd prefer to host or attend. I'll then send over a list of available dates for you to choose from, and we'll do our best to accommodate your request.

Neighbourhood portion of the CIL for The Gallops, Sandygate Lane Development.

On 29th we will receive £21,104.88 of CIL funds from the above in addition we will also receive our first Precept payment of £19,535/- for a total of £40,639.88.

Maintenance update-

The Clerk. I have been informed by Charlie Joyce that he is retiring from the maintenance and light clearance duties. Options discussed.

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

One of the comments from our last internal audit was that although the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders had been reviewed and updated by the Clerk. They had not been approved by the PC. There I have updated the FR's & SO's for 2025 and I need the Council to recommend them before I post them on the website.

Regards

Peter Knox (Clerk to Lower Beeding Parish Council)