

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2015 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

Present: Cllrs Alison Stevenson (AS), Rodney Saunders (RS), Catherine Dennison (CD), Simon Greenwood (SG), Katherine Daniel (KD), Peter Huxley (PH)  
In attendance Rosemary Robertson (RR) Clerk to the Council.

**3566. Public Participation**

Those present did not wish to speak: John Butcher indicated that he was observing.

**3567. Declaration of personal or prejudicial interest**

Cllr Greenwood declared a prejudicial interest in Item 9 (3573) Oil Exploration.

**3568. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Robin Williamson (RW), Alan Dearden (AD), Carol Jarvest (CJ), and Kevin Bottomley (KB).

**3569 To approve Minutes of the Meetings held on 18 & 26 March 2015**

The Minutes (circulated) were approved & signed by the Chair as a true record.

**3570. Clerk's Report on Matters Arising**

**3523** remedial work on the Haywards Heath Road footpath had been completed and residents had expressed their thanks: not all the path had been tackled.

**3520** Rubbish Freighters were booked for 28 June

**3430** There had been no update about Greentrees Bridleway

**3548** Stillfield & Cobo both passed

**3551** Annual Parish Meeting went well and the bee talk was very interesting

**3565** A cheque for the Scouts had been issued.

**3571. Financial**

Cash Book Receipts & Payments for March 2015 were noted as presented by the RFO and unanimously approved. RBS Software had attended to close down the Accounts for 14/15 and Rosy Telford would commence the audit shortly. Figures would be signed off at the May meeting. The external auditors were once again Littlejohns. The Audit Sub Committee (PH, SG, RW & RR) were due to meet 7 May at 8.00 pm. The RFO noted that the final Chairman's allowance for Alison Stevenson would be paid this month. SG asked that unclaimed Youth Club funds from 14/15 be carried into the budget for 15/16, this was agreed by Councillors. As the newly appointed RFO RR indicated that the format for Accounts presentation at meetings would be decided by the next Council.

**3572. Election Up-date**

Councillors remain in office until the fourth day after the election. There are 20 candidates standing as Parish Councillors. All candidates had been invited to write 100 words for the Parish Magazine and a household flyer was being organised by Sue Taylor.

**3573. Report from Oil Exploration Working Group Leader**

Nothing to report.

**3574. To confirm the organisation of the annual BPC Superstars event**

RR highlighted that this BPC event was happening in May and mentioned that Paul Nolan and John Greetham had stepped forward to help organise.

**3575. Consider request from Stockcroft Road Maintenance Fund for a charge**

RR had been approached informally by Mike Anderson to ask if a fee could be added to any invoices for the Recreation Ground to cover the cost of parking because Stockcroft Road was a private road maintained by its residents. It was questioned whether this was a matter for Balcombe Parish Council: no decision could be taken. Bookings and payments were made through the Clerk.

**3576. Victory Hall Management Committee (VHMC) Update**

The rewriting of the governance for the VHMC was ongoing. In view of the fact that RS would no longer be a Councillor and his presence was valued he had been co-opted onto the Committee. He had advised that a new Parish Council representative would be appointed from the new Council.

**3577. Neighbourhood Plan**

Nothing to report but CD had started writing the consultation report.

**3578. Safety & Security**

Vandalism at the Balcombe Tennis Club had been reported, damage uncertain.

**3579. Young People**

The AGM is at the end of this month.

**3580. Facilities & Amenities**

New battery needed in smoke alarm in Bramble Hall.

**3581. Rail Issues**

It was noted that the palisade fence had been taken down and new unsightly modern fencing had been put up. AS asked that KB write a letter to complain that there had been continued undermining of the character and heritage of our Victorian station with no recognition of the rural character of the area. The ticket machine was working better, and the office open for more hours but the waiting room heater was still not working and there was an appalling level of service because of the London Bridge works. KB had written to Network Rail.

**3582. Bramble Hall**

One neighbour was disgruntled because he perceived that the sale of his house was being impeded by the Hall. He may contact the URC direct and had asked for a copy of the Premises Licence. It was a matter for the new council. He had thanked the Council for the no-parking signs and was in the process of installing a proper driveway. The Clerk was handling the issue tactfully.

**3583. Traffic Matters**

Posts and signs had been put up in Newlands to indicate no parking. Lines were due to be painted next week. RS hoped that it would be completed before he retired as Councillor. The signs were already having an effect. AS praised RS's efforts in the last four years. RS regretted the failure to get a Stop sign at Threads, which was turned down by the Secretary of State.

**3584. Planning**

*DM/15/10941 & 2 Granary Cottages, Haywards Heath Road - Conversion of two cottages into one dwelling* – No objection to the material conversion because there would be no effect on the appearance of the property but it was noted with some regret the loss of two small units

*DM/15/1494 12 Foxwells, - Two storey front and rear extensions. Single storey extension to the rear of dining room* No objection but slight concern over the change of style which might affect the street scene.

Cllr Saunders informed Councillors that he believed that the application for a building on the triangle of land next to St. Agnes would be submitted shortly.

**3585. Correspondence**

**M2** A letter about putting power lines underground would be forwarded to SG

**M1** District Plan approved for final consultation

**M3** AS had notified MSDC about Infrastructure requirements

**M5** MSDC now recycling more plastics including yoghurt pots, fruit trays etc

**W2** Jane Moseley had thanked KB and Balcombe Parish Council for their input on validation of mineral applications.

**O9** RR had written to John Pierpoint to say thank you for the work that he undertakes around the village, as noted by Nicky Gould at the Annual Parish Meeting.

AS opened a letter from the Lord Chamberlain's office inviting her (and Mike) to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party – she had been nominated for a community award by SALC in recognition of Balcombe Parish Council's good work over the last two years.

**3586. Exchange of Information**

RS said that he had thoroughly enjoyed his 8 years on the Council – 4 under Alison and 4 under Robin's chairmanship. He referred to the success of the TROs and Bramble Hall. He congratulated AS on the way she had led the PC through these difficult 4 years. He had enjoyed being Alison's Vice Chair and wished those standing again good luck.

The Clerk said that she would miss Councillors and had enjoyed working with them: she thanked Alison and Rodney for outstanding leadership.

Alison said thank you to all – she had been on the PC 12 years and judged this Council to have been the best: effective and universally hardworking. More had been achieved in the last 4 years than in the preceding 8 years. Those involved in the Lower Stumble application had felt a degree of responsibility and guilt for not having made it more public at the time, but that made the team work even harder to try to resolve issues for the village. RS took a great deal of the burden for the first year and without him we would not have coped. She had had a fantastic gang on the Neighbourhood Plan, Youth Club was up and running, Mike had done amazing things with infrastructure and RR had been an amazing Clerk: thanks to RR for her patience, diligence and wisdom.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.

**THE NEXT REGULAR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
20 MAY 2015 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

*Signed.....*

**Date: 20 May 2015**