

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2018 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

Present: Carol Dutton (CD), Jackie Emery (JE), Martin Flint (MF), Nicky Gould (NG), Simon Greenwood (SG), Lisa Greer (LG), Charles Metcalfe (CM), Max Preston Bell (MPB), and Mark Whybrow (MW)

Cllrs Sue Taylor (ST) and Alison Stevenson (AS) arrived at Minute Item 0735 & 0739 respectively.

In attendance Rosemary Robertson (RR) Clerk to the Council

0735. Public Participation

A member of the Victory Hall Management Committee (VHMC) attended to talk through various ongoing Victory Hall projects, and to make a case for further funding from the 18/19 Parish Council budget. Councillors urged the VHMC to seek new members and to engage with the village for funding.

The owner of April House attended to support his application for a garage showing a change in the original design because of recent changes in District Plan policy.

0736. Declarations of personal or pecuniary interest

Cllr Greenwood declared a personal interest in Item 7 Planning (0739) Forest View and a pecuniary interest in Item 16 Energy (0747). Cllr Greer declared a pecuniary interest in Item 7 Planning (0739) as owner April House. Cllrs Flint, Metcalfe & Whybrow declared a personal interest in Item 7 (0739) friendship with owners April House. Cllrs Emery, Flint, Greer, Metcalfe & Taylor declared a personal interest in Item 16 Energy Group (0747) as members of Frack Free Balcombe Residents' Association.

0737. To approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on 14 March February

The Minutes 14 March were signed as a true record.

0738. Matters currently being pursued, report from the Clerk

Grass Seed has been purchased for volunteers undertaking verge repair work.

0680 The Victory Hall roof work has been completed and the invoice paid.

0707 Ashurst Wood has appointed the Clerk as the Data Processing Officer.

Balcombe Babies has sadly folded because of reduced attendance.

0722 DM/18/0553 Woodstock, Oldlands granted: DM/18/0445 Coombe House, Private Road granted.

0682 DM/18/4624 The Mill, Mill Lane granted: DM/18/1111 Forest View, Haywards Heath Road granted.

The next meeting is the May Annual Council Meeting where the Chair/Vice Chair are elected and there is a review of documentation/ memberships plus signing of Accounts. The Clerk thanked Cllr Whybrow for his assistance with the projector/wifi set up.

Cllr Greer left the meeting

0739. Planning - to consider the following applications

DM/18/0841 April House, Stockcroft Rd – The construction of a garage, amended plans received 18.04.2018 to show a revised building design – No objection

Cllr Greer re-entered the meeting

DM/18/0973 46 Newlands - Enlarged window to primary elevation, raised rear roof ridge to match existing ridge, new front door/panelling primary elevation- No objection

DM/18/1111 Forest View - Conifer Tree - Fell and remove stump – MSDC had already given approval for this work.
DM/18/1133 Brantridge Forest, High St - Erection of detached garage building. Amendments to previously approved application DM/17/4419 – No objection
DM/18/1402 6 London Rd - Oak (T2) reduce crown by up to 8m. Cherry (T4) remove. Yew (T5) reduce crown 8m. – No objection we defer to the Tree Officer
DM/18/1570 The Granary, Haywards Heath Road - (T1) Field Maple - reduce canopy by 1.5m. (T2) Beech - reduce crown by 1.5m – No objection

0740. Financial – March Cash Book Receipts & Payments

- a) March Cash Book Receipts & Payments were circulated and noted
- b) The Sub Committee (RR, MF, ST, SG) had favourably reviewed financial procedures and Vicky Cripps had concluded and signed the internal audit statement. The Annual Governance Statement was then read, agreed and signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

0741. To consider a request from the Victory Hall for £5,000 towards maintenance

Councillors want the VHMC to be more proactive in motivating the village to support the hall by offering a vision for the future and initiating fund-raising activities. The increase in Precept is to assist the VHMC with major (roof) repairs. The request for £5,000 for 18/19 is for further work identified and would be a grant under powers provided by Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. A vote was taken and it was resolved to pay for repairs to the WI roof.

Joan Dutton has resigned from the VHMC after 42 years; BPC will assist with arrangements to mark this event.

0742. To hear an update on the Church Poppy installation

CD stepped down from the Group and MPB, MW, AS will meet to take the idea forward. RR will chase the Silent Soldier which is on order.

0743. To consider a response to the reduced peak hour train service in Balcombe

It was reported that the gap in the service has been filled although this has yet to be confirmed. It was highlighted that Balcombe commuters had been slow to respond to previous consultations and other stations had more vociferous commuters. It was resolved to put up posters at the station to motivate commuters to be engaged – RR.

0744. Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting 10 May 2018

The Clerk asked that Councillors attend and arrangements were in hand (SG & NG gave apologies). One Agenda item on drilling at Lower Stumble had been requested.

0745. To consider the acquisition of CCTV in order to combat anti-social dog owners

It was agreed that CCTV was expensive and complicated and would not resolve the problem. It was resolved to target this issue at the Fete and possibly through the use of an App. to measure the problem. Leafleting the village on the anti-social aspects and the health risks of poo in fields and on verges will also be considered – CD & RR.

0746. To consider action to take regarding the WSCC school funding crisis

There was a need for funding for basic resources for the delivery of the curriculum and teaching assistants were facing redundancy. MF will meet with the Head.

0747. Reports from Groups

Plans & Neighbourhood Plan - There would be a meeting to consider the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework that had been highlighted by CPRE.

Youth, Recreation & Wellbeing – JE attending Locus and Health meetings. The Locus Youth Worker invoice has been paid.

Traffic – NG will organise a meeting with WSCC's Richard Speller.

Energy Group – (Cllr Greenwood was granted dispensation to stay in the room for a brief report from Cllr Taylor) – ST informed Councillors that the purchase of 25% of the Lower Stumble PEDL Licence by Angus Energy has been approved but they were still waiting for approval to be operators by the Oil & Gas Authority.

There were a number of consultations currently out (Fire & Rescue, South East Water, National Rural Crime, Bus) these would be listed on the BPC website.

Access & Rural - A request to put a stile on the path at the top of the sledging field (an unofficial footpath) has been declined by the owners.

Security & Finance - There has been fly tipping in Stoney Lane and Mill Lane.

0748. Correspondence

O13 A resident has questioned the veracity of the Minutes on Shale Gas/Energy Security issues. CM had replied that the Minutes were accurate and information could be interpreted in different ways.

O14 Environment Agency attendance at an incident near Balcombe Lake was reported: CD said that this was a slurry spill which has now been dealt with.

O1 Solar Cell SID devices were available from £1,799 – RR reported that WSCC were purchasing a replacement machine for the villages.

M1 Royalty mourning arrangements – RR to co-ordinate with St. Mary's, direct mourners to MSDC at Haywards Heath

O27 National Rural Crime Survey – deadline 10 June - SG

0749. Exchange of Information

Balcombe Place is relaunching as an event venue with a ball on 12 May.

The Police are attending the next Community Links meeting on Friday 18 May – AS volunteered the Rectory Woods information (AS to check with Julian Smith).

MPB is opening his garden under the NGS scheme (16 May, 16 June)

AS & SG now on balcombeparishcouncil.com

Balcombe Fete 14 July 2018 – French theme because it is Bastille Day

CM was asked to present a “state of the nation” type review/look ahead for the final year of this Council at the Annual Council Meeting

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.20 pm.

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE THE ANNUAL MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2018 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

Signed..... **Date: 9 May 2018**