

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 18 JULY 2018 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

Present: Carol Dutton (CD), Martin Flint (MF), Nicky Gould (NG), Simon Greenwood (SG), Lisa Greer (LG), Charles Metcalfe (CM), Max Preston Bell (MPB), & Alison Stevenson (AS)
In attendance Rosemary Robertson (RR) Clerk to the Council

0789. Public Participation

Balcombe School Head and a School Governor attended to support their grant application stating that the school was short of funds because of the way that funding was calculated over a year ahead. She cited the fact that a few people had relocated and children had moved to private schools leaving gaps in the classes resulting in the reduction of funding in subsequent years. Funding had also been cut by government, resulting in a loss of £40,000 over two years. Although they were being forced to look at cutting equipment and staffing levels she stressed that standards remained high and the school had an excellent reputation in meeting the needs of children with specific challenges. They were working hard to recruit new children to fill the gaps and had been exploring other grants. The money requested would go towards library services, subscriptions to websites, first aid training and stationery.

The Stumlet owner made representation on her extension plans to provide discrete accommodation for her elderly parents within the body of the family home.

0790. Declarations of personal or pecuniary interest

Cllr Preston Bell declared a pecuniary interest in Item 7 Planning (**0795**) as owner of Stumlet. Cllrs Flint, Greer, Metcalfe declared a personal interest in Item 13 Energy Group (**0799**) as members of Frack Free Balcombe Residents' Association. Cllrs Gould and Stevenson declared a personal interest in Item 7 (**0795**) friendship with Stumlet owner. Cllr Greenwood declared a pecuniary interest in Item 13 Energy Group (**0799**) and a personal interest in Item 7 (**0795**) Balcombe House. LG declared a personal interest in Item 12 (**0794**) because of having a child at Balcombe School.

0791. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Emery, Taylor and Whybrow.

0792. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 June 2018

The Minutes 6 June were signed as a true record with one minor amendment.

0793. Matters currently being pursued, report from the Clerk

0759 DM/18/0123 Sherlocks, High Street refused.

DM/18/1453 The Briars, Stockcoft Road granted

0779 DM/18/1794 Cobo, Deanland Road: DM/18/2024 Forest View, Haywards Heath Road: DM/18/2586 Balcombe House, London Road: DM/18/1351 Deanland Shaw, Jobs: all granted.

DM/18/1952 Rivendell, Combers ruled unlawful development.

0724 Access Protection Lines now completed: one outside Threads will be extended

0732 The LED Light has been fitted in Haywards Heath Road opposite Barn Meadow

0782 Just before the Fete a lamppost was damaged by Id Verde at the Recreation Ground and the bill should be sent direct to them, MSDC accepted liability. The Fete was very good with excellent attendance – thanks were extended to the organisers

0778 Graffiti had been removed but a new tag has appeared on the table tennis table.

SSE Southern Electric overbilled in February, a refund has been issued but RR is still resolving the issue.

0794. To consider a grant to Balcombe School of £4,441.59

Section 137 funding was currently available £7.86 X 1470 (electorate) = £11,554.

Lisa Greer proposed to award Balcombe School a grant of £4,441.59 which would go towards library services, subscriptions to websites, first aid training and stationery. This was unanimously approved. The school would be asked to confirm the expenditure.

Cllr Preston Bell left the meeting

0795. Planning - to consider the following applications

DM/18/2423 Stumlet, Oldlands Ave - Proposed single story extensions to both flanks with minor internal alterations - No objection

Cllr Preston Bell re-entered

DM/18/2663 Kilrowan, Deanland Rd - 2 x Paper Bark Birch Trees - reduce height by 1/3 – No objection we defer to the Tree Officer

DM/18/2680 Little Smeads, Haywards Heath Road – Yew (T1) Remove – We defer to the Tree Officer

DM/18/2476 Balcombe House, London Road - Variation of condition 9 relating to planning application DM/17/4039 in order to allow for revised drawings – No objection but we are puzzled by the landscape comments from the Planning Officer about the post and rail fence

DM/18/2659 41 Newlands - Proposed two storey rear and side extension over existing single storey extension – No objection

DM/18/2586 Land Opp Balcombe House, London Road - Proposed 17 residential units with associated car parking and landscaping, and the provision of a village car park - Balcombe Parish Council welcome the proposal which conforms to our made Neighbourhood Plan but want to see the following put in place:-

- Our Neighbourhood Plan Design Statement stresses the need for accessibility and so we would like to see pedestrian access made available to walk through to the shop and the school
- We admire the car park landscaping but would welcome the opportunity to augment the provision of spaces
- Noting the social housing element of the scheme we would want to see guarantees in place to maintain this provision in perpetuity
- The plan for 17 units has good design and we recognise that it goes some way to providing Balcombe's housing allocation in the newly ratified District Plan.
- We note that attempts will be made to maintain the trees and would ask that hedgerow be replanted at the front should it be necessary
- We would want to see formalised pathing laid from back doors to parking areas recognising the need for shopping to be unloaded etc

Late application: *DM/18/2876 Pemby, Oldlands Ave – T1 Conifer fell – We defer to the Tree Officer: the plan provided is poor and it is impossible for us to make a judgement based on the information provided.*

0796. To hear an update on the Church Poppy installation post Fete

The Fete event to glaze the poppies was very well received and all were glazed.

It was agreed to involve children in the final planting of the poppies and for the installation to commence around 7 October, after a Sunday service.

0797. Financial: June Cash Book Receipts & Payments

The June Cash Book Receipts and Payments were circulated and noted

0798. To consider a request for £1,500 from Balcombe Football Club (BFC)

The BFC had requested funding towards new team set up costs. The money would go towards the purchase of new kit, first aid training, insurance, fees etc Cllr Dutton proposed that we grant £500 with the potential for further support once recruitment levels of new players are ascertained and more information about other fund raising is known. It was resolved to award BFC £500.

0799. Reports from Groups

Cllr Greenwood was granted dispensation to stay while a brief report was delivered

Energy Group – CM read ST's report on recent earthquakes in Surrey, and press speculation that these earthquakes were linked to the Horse Hill site which is 9 miles from Balcombe. Another well near the quakes at Brockham is operated by Angus Energy, the new operator at Balcombe, and here waste was being injected into the well in March 2018 (Oil & Gas Authority). There is a strong connection with water injection and earthquakes, and Surrey and Sussex are heavily faulted.

Community Assets, VPMC & St. Mary's Trust – The LED light has been fitted on the Haywards Heath Road, we are awaiting feedback. A new windowsill at Bramble Hall is needed. MF is currently investigating funding for the Victory Hall, including a Theatre grant. The roof is finished, the south side will soon be painted and the steps are being repaired. There had been a collapsed drain issue which was dealt with.

Public Transport – The new timetable recently introduced looks promising providing longer trains and running on time. However, the December changes are now possibly compromised.

Access & Rural – Travellers have recently been moved on from Worth playing fields and there were concerns that attempts had been made to scout for sites within the village. SG will investigate the intentions of the owners of the sledging field who have made a statutory declaration on their land to delineate legal rights of way. A tree scam had occurred in Oldlands which RR has reported to the police.

0800. Correspondence

W3 Strategic Transport Investment Programme consultation – SG felt not relevant

O3 AONB Consultation – SG to action

O5 NALC CIL Survey – AS felt that it was not relevant

O9 Residents had complained about speeding traffic on the London Road – AS will reply. Acquisition of a SID machine could be considered and NG said Speedwatch had become more effective through electronic reporting.

W1 Joint Local Minerals Plan – Inspector's Report will be re-circulated

O13 War Graves signage would be a small green sign – Councillors were OK

O6 Possible closure of a Jobs path – there is an alternative route and residents had experienced some anti-social behaviour at night when people walked through.

0801. Exchange of Information

Turners Hill housing development advertises Balcombe station as the nearest station.

One Fine Day Sunday 26 August charity fund-raising day for the Air Ambulance.
Anti-social motor biking will be discouraged around the village.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.12 pm.

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER
2018 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

Signed..... **Date: 19 September 2018**