

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2019 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

Present: Carol Dutton (CD), Jackie Emery (JE), Martin Flint (MF), Nicky Gould (NG), Lisa Greer (LG), Charles Metcalfe (CM), Max Preston Bell (MPB), Alison Stevenson (AS), and Sue Taylor (ST)

In attendance Rosemary Robertson (RR) Clerk to the Council

0882. Public Participation

A resident said that Angus Energy had earmarked a £3 million loan to finance its return to Balcombe. Lord Lucan had joined the board.

The 2 volunteers who had come forward to maintain the phone box at the station talked about plans to renovate it and turn it into a walkers' information point. Another volunteer would help to produce maps. They were thanked for volunteering.

0883. Declarations of personal or pecuniary interest

Cllrs JE, LG, CM & ST declared a personal interest in Item 10 (0889) as members of Frack Free Balcombe Residents' Association. Cllr CD declared a prejudicial interest in Item 7 Planning (0887) (Lodgelands). Cllr AS declared a prejudicial interest in Item 7/8 (0887) (Larches). All Councillors present except Cllr Emery declared a personal interest in Item 14 (0893) as members of Balcombe Club.

0884. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Greenwood and Whybrow.

0885. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 December 2018

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 December 2018 were signed as a true record

0886. Matters currently being pursued, report from the Clerk

UK Power had attended to raise the power lines to the Pavilion and Bowls Club on Friday 28 December.

0868 The litter picking initiative has gone well, 6 volunteers had come forward

0869 DM/18/4390 Ashdown, Jobs withdrawn: DM/18/3956 3 Waterworks Cottages and DM/18/4669 5 Newlands both granted.

0852 DM/18/2057 Ringwood, Stockcroft Road and DM/18/4580 Stockcroft, Stockcroft Road both granted.

Balcombe Estate will be undertaking works to increase the parking spaces outside houses in Mill Lane to mitigate the regular damage to the wall opposite.

0876 The Parish Magazine went to every house and we wait to see if the Age UK events are well supported as a result. Subscriptions have increased.

0877 Age UK are grateful for the grant towards the Forest Room rental.

0861 Only one volunteer had come forward for Operation Crackdown/Speedwatch

0887. Planning - to consider the following applications

Cllrs Stevenson and Dutton left the room during discussions on DM/18/4938 and DM/18/4477 respectively

DM/18/4477 Lodgeland Farm, Crawley Lane - Proposed 4 No. free-standing Micro Cheese Dairy containers (Amended 24 December 2018) – No objection

DM/18/5127 White Gables, Haywards Heath Road – Loft conversion with rear dormers – No objection

AP/18/0104 Sherlocks, High Street - Change of use of existing annex from ancillary residential use to independent dwelling house. Amended plans and information received 04/04/2018 and 18/04/2018 – Appeal - No further comment necessary
DM/18/4983 The Larches, Deanland Road - Fell various Conifers within overgrown hedge and reduction in height of hedge to 2m – No objection

0888. Financial: December Cash Book Receipts & Payments

December figures were circulated and noted. Cllr Flint had produced performance/ budget figures and a draft budget which will be considered at the February meeting. In view of anticipated expenditure, and in line with inflation, it was resolved to increase the Precept to £70,000 (Cllr Preston Bell proposed, CM seconded).

0889. Reports from Groups

Neighbourhood Plan & Planning – Cllrs had met with the MSDC Planner responsible for the Rydon homes development at Barn Meadow. Comments on design, access through and lack of infrastructure gain had been made, and disappointment expressed that MSDC did not seem to be familiar with our Neighbourhood Plan. We will push for a meeting on the Rectory Woods site with Sally Blomfield and Judy Holmes (RR to email Gary Marsh).

Youth, Recreation & Wellbeing – A new LOCUS Youth Worker has been appointed and BPC has paid a contribution to her salary. The Club is healthy with 16 attending recently. RR will establish whether 10 year olds can attend. Age UK meet 21 January.

Traffic – BPC has commissioned the work on the village centre and surveying has started. The Purdah period surrounding the May election will influence when the village can be consulted on the findings.

Energy – Angus have secured a £3 million loan to develop the Balcombe site. The ex-chairman of Angus, Jonathan Tidswell-Pretorius, has put forward a resolution to remove Paul Vonk as Managing Director. Angus Energy state that the Balcombe flow tests are encouraging. A public consultation has started at Horse Hill for 4 more wells (similar to Balcombe). FFBR have organised a public meeting with speakers from Brockham.

Community Assets, VPMC & St. Mary's Trust – The Victory Hall is trying to secure lottery funding for flooring. They will be looking at disabled access next year. Bramble Hall has had various repairs recently so refurbishment planning will need to be formalised if we continue to lease the building.

Public Transport – Three Bridges to Brighton will close half term 18 – 22 February, there will be a bus replacement service. 12 carriage trains are reinstated.

Access & Rural – CD circulated the initial design for noticeboards – work in progress. Footpath inspection is due in April 2019.

Infrastructure Funding – East Grinstead has written a letter on behalf of parishes expressing concern about the delay surrounding the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Security and Finance – the police are offering forensic training AS & RR will attend if possible. MPB reported a garden theft, there has been fly tipping in Stoney Lane, recent burglaries and spates of sheep attacks. RR will highlight the need for care with livestock in fields in the February Parish Magazine in view of the lambing season.

0890. To review BPC response to the Gatwick Airport Consultation (closed 10 January)

CM to submit: focusing on the infrastructure burden of Gatwick expansion plans.

0891. To discuss the retention of the station phone box or sale thereof

Thanks to the volunteers coming forward the phone box will be retained.

0892. To hear more on the proposed bike pump track in Balcombe

The Estate sub agent has scheduled a meeting to hear more about the project.

0893. To discuss a grant of £5,000 for the Balcombe Club Gym project

It is hoped that by converting the snooker room to a gym this will cover the Club's current cash loss. Grants from external sources are being investigated and over 80 people have expressed initial interest; an April start date is anticipated. It was resolved to award the Club a £1,500 grant (CM proposed, AS seconded) (Section 137).

0894. To ratify the decision to commission a Topographical Survey of the village centre from Warner Surveys at a cost of £995 + VAT, to facilitate Traffic Consultancy

The decision to commission the survey at a cost of £995 + VAT was ratified.

0895. To decide whether to pay £500 towards a joint parish SID machine

It was agreed to postpone the decision till February to explore frequency of use.

0896. To discuss actions to take to mitigate the impact on the village of the Haywards Heath Road closure at Penlands Farm for 3 months commencing March 2019

If the planned closure goes ahead BPC will pursue compensation for local businesses and will assist with banners and possibly fliers to inform residents to use the shop. A meeting with Redrow (Penland Green) will be scheduled.

0897. To get an update on the Litter Picking Initiative

See above 0886

0898. Correspondence

O16 CM's objection letter about the proposed changes to the Warden Park Admissions Policy will be sent

O6 RR has asked Clarion to consider the request from a Jobes resident for a disabled space

O13 RR is investigating a Jobes resident's request for better lighting.
RR will ask that potholes in Jobes are repaired.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm.

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2019
AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

Signed..... **Date: 13 February 2019**