

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE 2019 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

Present: Jackie Emery (JE), Simon Greenwood (SG), Malcolm Kenward (MK), Henry le Fleming (HLF), Charles Metcalfe (CM), Jon Millbanks (JM), Alison Stevenson (AS) and Sue Taylor (ST)
Cllr Preston Bell (MPB) arrived late during Item 7 (**0028**) and had no interests to declare

In attendance Rosemary Robertson (RR) Clerk to the Council

0022. Public Participation

Mike Talman raised objections about the overbearing nature of the house proposed at Ashdown, Jobes.

Sam Damski also objected to the proposed house at Ashdown, Jobes because it will overlook his property and is too big for the plot.

0023. Declarations of personal or pecuniary interest

Cllr SG declared prejudicial interest in Item 10 Energy and Neighbourhood Planning (**0030**) (Lower Stumble, 16 homes Haywards Heath Road). Cllrs JE, HLF, MK, JM, CM, & ST declared a personal interest in Item 10 Energy (**0030**) as members of Frack Free Balcombe Residents' Association. Cllr CM declared a personal interest in Item 7 Planning (**0028**) (Ashdown).

0024. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Gould and Thompsett.

0025. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 May 2019

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 May 2019 were signed as a true record

0026. Matters currently being pursued, report from the Clerk

The following applications were granted:-

0935 DM/19/1043 Zenda & The Gables

0936 DM/19/1225 The Green – the trees have also now been trimmed

0887 Sherlocks appeal dismissed

0010 DM/19/1398, 1402, 1506 Bagpiths rejected and gone to appeal

DM/19/1668 Clayhurst granted

0004 All Register of Interest forms have now been received and are on the website

0926 The last BAM Nuttall bench has now been installed in the Recreation Ground
The Pavilion electricity contract has been renewed with Bulb which is 100% renewable and competitively priced.

0013 The Annual Return been has sent off and the public notice of rights displayed

0021 The Private Road salt box will be moved and then repaired in Autumn

0027. Urgent Matters

A severed land drain is causing water to cascade over the footway to the new bridge at the station – RR to report to BAM Nuttall and Network Rail.

0028. Planning - to consider the following applications

DM/19/1062 Ashdown, Jobes - Demolition of existing bungalow and its replacement with a new detached three bedroom dwelling with integral garage – The proposed changes are too small to make a difference to our objection which remains that the proposed building is too large for the plot and is overbearing on the neighbours. The site is perfect for a replacement single storey dwelling.

DM/19/1911 7 Troymede - Single storey front extension at ground floor level with extended cat slide roof above. New dormer to front elevation – No objection
DM/19/1996 Ferndale, Deanland & Woodpecker Mount – application withdrawn
AP/19/0042 & 0043 Bagpiths Cottage, HH Road – no further comments needed

0029. Financial:

May Cash Book Receipts & Payments were circulated and noted.

0030. Reports from Groups

Neighbourhood Plan & Planning – Cllr Greenwood was granted dispensation to remain during this brief report. About 50 people had attended the drop-in on the Rydon Homes development. Thanks were extended to AS for a thorough response to MSDC. A letter on infrastructure and traffic will be sent. It is hoped that Gary Marsh, District Councillor will exert influence. The Planner has attended the site and viewed a possible footway site. Affordable, community led housing could be pursued.

Youth, Recreation & Wellbeing – JM will help with LOCUS Youth Group. JE will attend a Patient Participation Group Conference in Cheltenham.

Traffic – The four options suggested by Project Centre have been reviewed by the Working Group and a drop-in session for the village will be scheduled (4 July?), and information presented at the Fete. It was agreed that we will not pay for visualisations for all views of the proposed scheme but work with the one provided. What is proposed is a crossing near the pub and a raised area of a different colour to “naturally calm” traffic. The WSCC Speed Indication Device SID is collecting data and will be relocated each week in the month. It is reporting c4000 vehicles a day going north weekdays (c3000 Saturdays, c2500 Sundays). High proportions are speeding. A report on data will go in the Balcombe Magazine and in the meantime speeds and fatality figures will be published.

Cllr Greenwood left the meeting during the Energy report

Energy – A legal challenge has seen a paragraph of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on the benefits of shale gas/oil for energy security removed. This removes the presumption in favour of development. WSCC have confirmed that Angus have not started any application process to return to Lower Stumble. *Cllr SG re-entered.*

Community Assets, VHC & St. Mary's Trust – Pavilion electricity contract renewed with Bulb. A faulty toilet water heater in Bramble Hall has been replaced. St. Mary's Trust is currently in abeyance; they are building reserves for future work.

Access and Rural – there have been several reports of cows chasing walkers in a field near the Mill Steps. Unsecure fencing in that field near the kissing gate was also highlighted – the landowner has been informed.

Business & Commercial – It is forecast that the Haywards Heath Road will be closed for 3 months during the installation of a roundabout and it was agreed that BPC should assist local shops eg through a High Five initiative encouraging all to regularly buy 5 items locally. MK will put this on the website.

Security and Finance – Bags of soil left in Mill Lane were the remains of a larger fly tip which had been mostly cleared by MSDC. Pete Dommatt will be chased for mobile CCTV equipment that he mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting to be deployed in Stoney Lane. A distraction crime in HH Waitrose was noted.

0031. Decision on the appointment of Victory Hall Management Committee Representative

It was resolved not to appoint a representative. The Committee have a building maintenance plan so this does not seem necessary. A request for Minutes will be made.

0032. To discuss sponsorship of a village web space

MK has canvassed organisations in the Balcombe Magazine to see if they want to share web space and thereby save costs. This will be explored again in July after feedback.

0033. A motion to note that Balcombe Parish Council acknowledges Climate Emergency and will be cognisant of it during its future decision making

It was resolved to acknowledge the Government's recent declaration on Climate Emergency and investigate actions to take in the months ahead, in conjunction with the WSCC pledge on climate. It will be discussed further at the Energy Group meeting.

0034. To consider the erection of a bus shelter for Warden Park Students

It was agreed that the likely cost (one quote of c£3,500) and doubtful efficacy of any shelter would not make it worthwhile. The footway at that point is only 1.5 metres wide which would severely limit canopy size, still allowing for disabled access. When the Rectory Woods development takes place that area will be due for a village car park. The pub courtyard building could offer some shelter if it is cleared of debris and CM will approach the tenant. We will also talk to Isabel in Threads about the use of her canopy.

0035. Plans and rota for the Parish Council stall at the Balcombe Fete 13 July

Set up at 9.30 am SG, AS and ST. ST, AS, JE on rota. AS will produce boards on traffic, JE will approach Age UK for promotional material. Other displays will include footpath information, the Annual Report and Bramble Hall. Plus we will sell Balcombe Millennium Maps and run the Scarecrow Competition.

0036. Correspondence

W1 The hedge obscuring lollipop lady visibility is being dealt with

W3 Balcombe Estate is prioritising ash die back work and SG will mention weak ashes near the church to Julian Smith

O9 Annual Report ready to be published.

0037. Exchange of Information

Gatwick tours will not be exclusive to Councillors.

ST attended a talk by English Rural and AIRS on affordable housing initiatives. Advice is available. Community Land Trusts can be used by councils who want to run a scheme.

MSDC have two planning committees one for Over 50 homes and one for Under 50, local Councillor Gary Marsh is Chair of Under 50. Is there a conflict of interest here?

NG attended a course on lobbying which could be effective with local Councillors.

RR to chase Speedwatch set up.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.01 pm.

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 17 JULY 2019 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL

Signed..... **Date: 17 July 2019**