

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

Present: Jackie Emery (JE), Malcolm Kenward (MK), Max Preston Bell (MPB), Alison Stevenson (AS), Sue Taylor (ST) and Lloyd Thompsett (LT). AS acting Chair – agreed.
In attendance Rosemary Robertson (RR) Clerk to the Council.

0062. Declarations of personal or pecuniary interest

Cllrs JE, MK, ST & LT declared a personal interest in Items 11 & 12 Energy and Angus Energy (0070) as members of Frack Free Balcombe Residents' Association.

0063. Apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllrs Gould, Greenwood, Le Fleming, Metcalfe, and Millbanks.

0064. To approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on 17 July and 20 August 2019

The Minutes of the Meetings held in July and August were signed as a true record.

0065. Matters currently being pursued, report from the Clerk

There had been two Police warnings about traveller evictions asking Clerks to notify landowners.

0046 LT & ST had met with Balcombe Club: they will be invited to apply for a grant which will be discussed at the October meeting

0058 Balcombe has won Silver Gilt status in the Parishes in Bloom competition, thanks were extended to Rob McIntyre.

The following Planning Applications have been granted:-

0047 DM/19/1083 St Agnes, London Road: DM/19/1856 The Coppice, Oldlands Ave: DM/19/2643 Greenaway, London Road:

0061 DM/19/2932 Dyffryn Teg, London Road: DM/19/1263 St. Mary's Church
The following Planning Applications have been refused by MSDC (BPC had not objected):-

0047 DM/19/0344 Meadow Terrace, Mill Lane car parking

0061 DM/19/2850 Little Smeads, Haywards Heath Road

0066. To discuss our concerns about the situation at Wynstay, Stockcroft Road

A letter had been received from a Wynstay resident who was concerned about the future for residents in Wynstay. The resident spoke about a lack of communication about their future in the building post refurbishment. RR had not received a written response from the Quakers but had spoken with a representative who had denied that there had been a lack of communication and indicated that the Quakers did not have any intention to refurbish Wynstay which was in a "dreadful" state. They said that they had been liaising with MSDC to help residents put themselves on the register for new accommodation. The Quakers have promised an email to clarify the situation for residents.

0067. Planning - to consider the following applications

DM/19/3191 Balcombe Rifle Club, Stockcroft Road - Proposed change of existing pitched roof at the end of the building into a flat roof – No objection

DM/19/3472 Little Meadows, Stockcroft Road - T1 Willow – Fell – No objection, we defer to the Tree Officer but would like to see another tree planted in a more suitable location

DM/19/3475 Pemby, Oldlands Avenue – Beech/Norway Spruce/Pine Tree - Fell. Holly Hedge – Remove – This application seems excessive and we would ask that the Tree Officer suggests that the resident puts forward a more sympathetic application retaining some of the trees in order to retain the character of the conservation area.

DM/19/3704 Timbers, Stockcroft Road – T1 Cedar Fell- we object to the removal of this cedar which contributes to the character of the road within the conservation area. The tree seems to be causing no nuisance because it is some distance from the property.

Late Application: *DM/19/3756 Ringwood, Stockcroft Road – Robinia Tree Fell* - The tree contributes to the character of the road in the conservation area so we would not want to remove it if it is healthy. If it is diseased then we defer to the Tree Officer.

0068. Financial:

July & August Cash Book Receipts & Payments were circulated and noted. Cllr Thompson checked off the Reconciliation in Cllr Greenwood's absence: he will be attending a Finance Course in November. It was noted that the Annual Return 2018/19 had been signed off by the External Auditor Moore Stephens.

0069. To adopt new Financial Regulations based on the updated NALC Model Regulations

Suggested amendments were incorporated and the document will be signed in October.

0070. Reports from Groups

Neighbourhood Plan & Planning – the Rydon Homes development has been deferred, due in some part to BPC concerns raised at the recent MSDC Planning Committee meeting. The Planning Officer has made some progress on the reallocation of funding for Balcombe from the Section 106 developer contribution. The design of two of the houses will be altered in line with the designer's comments and WSCC will respond on road concerns. A Planning Meeting will be held early October and Gary Marsh will be consulted. No decision has been made on the proposed path from the back of the Rydon's development through to Barn Meadow but it likely to be stone and not grass (See 0072).

Traffic – MK talked through some of the SID statistics which has demonstrated that less than 42% of drivers are sticking to the speed limit on the Haywards Heath Road.

Youth, Recreation & Wellbeing – Age UK are continuing the Balcombe sessions with an attendance of c10 each week. They are scheduling public health type talks to encourage more interest eg Falls Prevention.

Surgeries - Flu clinics are happening in Handcross and some in Balcombe.

Locus Youth Club visited the Bowls Club for a successful evening of competition. They have lost their paid worker but are covering the sessions with volunteers until Christmas.

Energy – UKOG at Horse Hill has been granted 20 year approval for 6 production wells by Surrey County Council. Riverstone Holdings have put Cuadrilla up for sale.

Angus will be putting in a new application for testing at Lower Stumble and called a Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting. In the previous application testing was restricted to 6 months. We have published notes from the CLG on the BPC website and have been asked for the redacted names of Angus employees – we will refer to Angus.

Community Assets, VPMC & St. Mary's Trust – *Bramble Hall* is due for a gas service and quotes for a chain safety mechanism for the tables were being sought. The carpets have been cleaned. *Pavilion* soffits and door frames have been repaired and painting now due. Vandals had broken 4 windows which have been repaired at around £200 (insurance excess £250). RR has done a thorough street light audit, only one on the HH Road was not working. Of the 70 lights 7 were badly obscured by vegetation. An opportunity to take advantage of a reduced rate for a cherry picker was taken and they have been cleared.

Business and Commercial – The Half Moon is rated as third best pub in Sussex. It was suggested that the Club needs more signage.

0071. To note Angus Energy's forthcoming application to flow test at Lower Stumble and the recent Community Liaison Group meeting - See 0070 above

0072. To give an update on the Rydon Homes development and the potential responsibility for the maintenance of a permissive path - See 0070 above

0073. To decide on action to prevent flooding to Deanland/HH Roads from Victoria Rd
As a result of a raised and therefore mal-functioning drain in Victoria Road water flows down and floods the Deanland/Haywards Heath Road junction. It was resolved to write to all residents in Victoria Road to ask them to take remedial action.

0074. To ratify the decision to hold a Drop In Traffic Consultation 25 September
The decision to hold a Drop In session for residents to comment on the recent proposals for village centre enhancement was ratified. A Questionnaire will be drafted and another set of drawings printed - RR. The Drop In is from 6.00 pm – 8.30 pm.

0075. To decide whether to adopt the centre village phone box for £1
The telephone is likely to be decommissioned because only 4 calls were made last year. AS proposed that we adopt the village centre box for £1, this was agreed.

0076. To agree to fund Speedwatch at an approximate cost of £490
We have been offered free use of police equipment for 6 months while the group establishes itself so we will defer the decision until after that time.

0077. To register the resignation of the Clerk and to ratify the decision to use the services of SSALC to assist with the recruitment of a replacement at a cost of £450
Councillors expressed their dismay that the Clerk had resigned and thanked her for her work. MPB proposed that we allow three weeks to fill the vacancy without the SSALC services – this was agreed. A salary rate of between £14.50 - £15.40 per hour was agreed, depending on experience.

0078. Correspondence

W7 Veteran Car Run 3 November 2019

O12 A Balcombe resident who had requested a bin for family litter picking should be mentioned in the Parish Magazine. MSDC have provided a bin outside Bramble Hall

O14 WSALC AGM - CM attending

O33 AS will attend an AIRS session on the pitfalls on Neighbourhood Planning

0079. Exchange of Information

JE said that the St. Catherine's Hospice walk may not use the Victory Hall this year. MK had attended Community Links representing BPC, this will be discussed in October. MPB – the French Association Barn Dance has been rescheduled because of a clash. St. Mary's Harvest Festival will now consist of an auction of hampers at the Half Moon. FFBRA have a social event at the Cricket Ground on Saturday 21 September. Balcombe Estate have been instructed to clear benches and fencing from the Balcombe Lake causeway. RR will help with the relocation of the benches with personal dedications.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55 pm.

THE NEXT REGULAR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2019 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL

Signed..... **Date: 9 October 2019**