

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2019 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

Present: Jackie Emery (JE), Nicky Gould (NG), Simon Greenwood (SG), Malcolm Kenward (MK), Henry Le Fleming (HLF), Charles Metcalfe (CM), Jon Millbanks (JM), Max Preston Bell (MPB), Alison Stevenson (AS), Sue Taylor (ST) and Lloyd Thompson (LT).
In attendance Rosemary Robertson (RR) Clerk to the Council.

0080. Public Participation

Mike Stevenson made representation on the Woodcote Planning Application speaking about the overbearing nature of what is proposed leading to loss of amenity, light etc. It is too close to his property and the position on the plot indicates that it goes over their boundary and could undermine the stability of the hedge and a retaining wall.

Mike Milne asked that the Parish Council challenge the Environment Agency's decision to ask Balcombe Estate to remove benches on the lake causeway because of a possible flooding danger. He said that the decision had caused distress, especially to the people who had dedicated benches. RR will write but SG indicated that this may be fruitless.

0081. Declarations of personal or pecuniary interest

Cllr Stevenson declared a prejudicial interest in Item 7 Planning Woodcote (0085) as an immediate neighbour. Cllrs JE, HLF, MK, CM, JM, ST & LT declared a personal interest in Items 11 Energy (0088) & 13 Angus Energy (0090) as members Frack Free Balcombe Residents' Association. Cllr Greenwood declared a prejudicial interest in Item 7 Planning Rocks Farm & Rydon Homes (0085), Item 11 Energy (0088), Item 13 Angus Energy (0090) and Item 14 (0091), plus a personal interest in Item 7 Planning Balcombe House (0085). Cllr Metcalfe declared a personal interest in Item 7 Planning Ashdown (0085).

0082. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 September 2019

The Minutes of the Meeting held in September were signed as a true record by AS (Chair).

0083. Matters currently being pursued, report from the Clerk

0043 WSCC's Richard Speller has furnished wording for a letter to go out to Victoria Road residents about their drainage responsibilities.

0076 Speedwatch volunteers have been sent a link to an online training module and when that is complete face-to-face training will be organised.

The following Planning Applications have been granted:-

0061 DM/19/3065 15 Oldlands: DM/19/3105 Cobo, Deanland Road

0067 DM/19/3191 Rifle Club, Stockcroft Road

0067 DM/19/3704 Timbers, Stockcroft Road – MSDC have granted the felling of a cedar despite BPC raising objection

DM/19/3864 Balcombe House application was withdrawn

0049 A correction to the July Minutes was noted - although MSDC Councillor Marsh had not replied to emails at that time he had been making representation on the Rydon development without our knowledge.

0084. Urgent Matters

Balcombe School has highlighted a dog mess problem – RR will put up signage and perpetrators will be identified if possible. A note will go in the Balcombe Magazine.

0085. Planning - to consider the following applications

DM/19/4541 Land East of Haywards Heath Road – Erection of 16 dwellings - BPC has already remonstrated with MSDC on a number of concerns, visibility splays, a permissive path, the position of the green space, S106 funding, parking and design.

The design of two houses has been changed but no other issues addressed. We will reiterate our concerns notably asking that the permissive path is a condition and that the parking be addressed. ST & MPB will address the Planning Committee meeting. *DM/19/3872 Balcombe House, London Road - Leyland Cypress (T7 and T8) – Fell* - We can see no amenity value to these trees but defer to the original Planning Officers for both the Dower House and the car port where the trees were considered in detail in the Arboriculture Reports.

(AS not present) DM/19/3749 Woodcote, Deanland Road - Demolition of existing conservatory and detached garage. Construction of a single-storey extension to the rear and side along with related internal alterations - We object to this application as it stands because its height and position is overbearing for neighbours. The proposed garage has come forward on the plot and its proximity to the North facing window of the neighbouring house particularly is too intrusive. We note that the proposed garage appears to encroach over the boundary into the Larches and also involves the removal of a retaining wall and a hedge, which would undermine ground stability.

DM/19/3911 Cobo, Deanland Road – Conifer remove - No objection to the removal of the conifer but we would have welcomed an opportunity to express concerns about the proposed brick gateway structures.

DM/19/3898 Land Adjacent To The Briars Stockcroft Road - Variation of condition 2 relating to DM/19/0643 to alter Eaves tiled Gable to Brick Gable – No objection
(SG granted dispensation to stay in the room)

DM/19/3943 Rocks Farm, Rocks Lane - Siting of a prefabricated garden shed on concrete base within the curtilage of a Listed Building – No objection as long as the neighbours are happy.

DM/19/4074 Ashdown, Jobses - Demolition of existing bungalow and replace with a new detached three bedroom dwelling – No objection

0086. Financial:

September Cash Book Receipts & Payments were circulated and noted. The half yearly VAT return had been actioned and the half year Internal Audit is due.

0087. To adopt new Financial Regulations based on the updated NALC Model Regulations

Suggested amendments have been incorporated and the document was signed by CM.

0088. Reports from Groups

Neighbourhood Plan & Planning – the Infrastructure Delivery Plan document has been updated and will be submitted so we can pursue claims for funds. AS attended an AIRS session on NPs which revealed that most communities are facing the same problems with developers overriding NPs. It is hoped that AIRS will report back to the Housing Ministry. A WSCC Highways Officer has provided an opportunity to log the village centre enhancement as a project for future allocation of funds. NG has met with Father Keith Richards to initiate discussions about acquiring more land for a new graveyard because the existing graveyard is almost at full capacity: a long term project.

Youth, Recreation & Wellbeing – Locus are hoping to recruit a Youth Worker. Surgeries have been running flu jab clinics but there has been a shortage of vaccines. Wellbeing talks have discussed fuel poverty and mental health services. Age UK numbers are OK.

Traffic – The recent consultation showed a preference for Option 2 and AS will liaise with the WSCC Highways Engineer to take this forward. Consideration of tractor movements in the village is being investigated.

(SG granted dispensation to stay in the room) **Energy** – ST delivered a short report about the Forest Row initiative to convert homes from oil to solar: this will be publicised.

Community Assets, VHMC & St. Mary's Trust – A new Hoover has been purchased.
Public Transport – the rail service has been disrupted recently because of flooding.
Access & Rural - the lake causeway bench issue had been discussed
Security & Finance – graffiti has been a problem and Balcombe School have recently been talking about graffiti –it is hoped that there is not a link

0089. To decide on a grant to Balcombe Club of £4,000

It was agreed to defer the decision until a business plan has been put in place to give the Club long term sustainability. We recognise that the Club is a valuable resource in the village and is an integral part of the future of the Victory Hall and are therefore keen to offer support and find a long term solution to the current problems faced.

0090. Update on the Angus Energy application to Flow Test at Lower Stumble

(SG left the meeting) There will be 24 hour operational periods; possible use of Nitrogen, flaring etc HGV movements will be restricted. There seems to be a fine line between production and testing. It was agreed to apply for an extension to the consultation period so that questions can be put to Angus at the Community Liaison Group meeting 4 November – CM.

0091. To decide on the appointment of a Gritting Contractor

EFP's prices have remained the same and we receive excellent service, there is difficulty getting alternative quotes. Councillors agreed to renew with EFP Gritting (SG re-entered)

0092. To give an update on the situation at Wynstay (Quaker Housing Association)

JE and RR had attended a meeting. Every effort was being made to rehouse the residents and there would be no short term closure. BPC will maintain a watching brief.

0093. To decide whether to relocate the station phone box at an approximate cost of £300

It was resolved not to pay for the phone box to be moved.

0094. To discuss Robin Williamson's proposal for a Balcombe First Reward Scheme

It was resolved not to pursue this as a Council initiative and CM will write to Robin suggesting it might be something that he could follow up.

0095. To discuss having a Councillor Representative at the Community Links sessions

It was agreed that this was a good idea but there was no need for a rota, RR will organise.

0096. To decide whether to support the Forest Row energy initiative

This offer to convert homes reliant on oil within a 15 mile radius of Forest Row to renewables will be advertised through social media.

0097. To decide who to nominate in the Countryside Alliance awards

It was resolved to nominate the Half Moon.

0098. To discuss converting Bramble Hall lighting to LED with the aid of a possible grant

This was agreed in principle to convert outside and inside lights to LED, taking advantage of a possible grant of £350 from Repower Balcombe: RR will get quotes.

0099. To give an update on the recruitment of a replacement Clerk

There have been 9 expressions of interest, 5 CVs received. ST, NG, MPB, LT and RR will meet to review applications after the cut off period.

0100. Correspondence

M3 AS may attend the Civic Service in 8 December in Hurstpierpoint

M1 Animal welfare Consultation will be posted on the BPC website

- O3** LT and his wife plus Rob McIntyre will be attending the Gatwick Tour
O6 The Portuguese traffic calming suggested is not allowed on UK roads

0101. Exchange of Information

A Councillor social possibly 8 November

Balcombe Estate will be appealing the Meadow Terrace, Mill Lane car park decision

The Harvest Supper Auction event in the Half Moon was excellent and raised approximately £800

A “Private” sign has been erected at Water Mead.

Litter picking volunteers are out this week.

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

**THE NEXT REGULAR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 6
NOVEMBER 2019 AT 8.00 PM IN BRAMBLE HALL**

Signed..... **Date: 6 November 2019**