

# MINUTES OF THE BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (BPC) HELD IN BRAMBLE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Present: Cllrs Lloyd Thompsett (LT) – Vice Chairman, Paul Williams (PW), Manouchehr Nahvi (MN), Jo Blundell (JB), Helen Caudrey (HC), Nick Major (NM) and Nicky Gould (NG).  
Mid Sussex District Cllr Jenny Edwards

## **825. Declarations of personal or pecuniary interest in any agenda item listed**

Cllrs NM – personal interest in Tennis Club.

Cllrs HC & MN – pecuniary interests in the Half Moon Inn.

## **826. Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Alison Stevenson (AS), Massi Smith (MS), Nick Beecroft (NB), and Ian Black (IB).

## **827. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The minutes were approved and signed by the chairman; after the addition of ‘from financial year 2023/24’ to last sentence of minute reference 817. Public participation.

## **828. Public Participation**

A representative from the Tennis Club was in attendance to enable Cllrs to ask any questions about the grant application which has been submitted to the Parish Council for consideration. Questions asked to the member of the public included how the funds were to be raised in order to cover the full resurface of the courts, as well as the number of members, use of the court by the community of Balcombe.

## **829. Matters currently being pursued, report from the Clerk**

- Clerk has again chased UK Power Network to reinstate the missing Lantern outside the Telephone exchange on Stockcroft Road and asked St Lights contractors for their help.
- The Street Lights contractors are progressing with the installation of the new LED lanterns, but further delays have been incurred due to the poor weather conditions and sourcing of a variety of adaptors to fit the new lanterns to the poles. The resident of Pear Tree cottage on Haywards Heath Road confirmed the lantern outside the property had been replaced and gave thanks to the Parish Council. Pruning is scheduled to take place of the vegetation on many of the lampposts.
- Unfortunately, no further communication has been received from West Sussex County Council (WSCC) with regards to the formal response/questions asked regarding the rejection of the 20mph Zone Community Highway Scheme. WSCC have placed all other issues on hold in order to deal with the volume of reactive road defects/potholes.
- The Annual Parish Meeting date is set for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm. The Victory Hall/Balcombe Club committee have offered to host the event. Clerk to advertise and request for village organisations, clubs and businesses to attend and represent themselves/provide a networking opportunity.
- Rubbish/litter issues – despite reporting the verges on the London Road to MSDC little seems to have been done (email received stating street cleaning scheduled for the end of March). MSDC Cllr Gary Marsh has been engaged to follow up the issue.

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## 830. Updates on Planning applications:

Number	Site/Address	Proposal	Decision/ Decision Date
DM/24/0355	Glenmore, Deanland Road	1 X Willow – raise canopy by 1M. cut back lower branches, overhanging garden back to previous pruning points by approx. 4M.	No objection 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
DM/24/0357	2 Diamond Cottages, Bretts Orchard	Fruit tree in back garden – reduce height by 4 meters.	No objection 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
DM/24/0532	Clayhurst, Stockcroft Road	Conifer (T1) - Fell	No objection 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
DM/24/0771	Development Site, London Road	Nonmaterial amendment to planning application DM/23/1742 - Plots 10 and 11 = changes to the garage roofs and internal layouts. Plots 15, 16 AND 17 = Minor GF + FF Footprint depth increases and internal layout alterations.	Refusal - Decision Date 28th March 2024
DM/23/0657	Stumble Cottage, Oldlands Avenue	Two story side extension, new porch to front elevation, demolition of existing garage and erection of new garage. Amended plans received 18.08.2023 and 06.09.2023 showing revisions to porch and fenestration. Amended plans received 08.12.2023 and 19.12.2023 showing further changes to proposed fenestration and cladding. Additional elevational drawings received 08.02.2024 showing existing and proposed garage.	Permission granted 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
DM/24/0274	Wynstay Cottage, Stockcroft Road	Beech Tree - Fell	No objection 20 <sup>th</sup> March 24

## 831. Planning - to consider the following applications:

Number	Site/Address	Proposal	Assigned
DM/24/0588	4 Watermead	Proposed rear single storey extension.	IB
Balcombe Parish Council have no objection to the planning application.			
DM/24/0711 Listed Building Consent	Half Moon Inn, Haywards Heath Road	Replacement of the existing guttering, which is a mix of cast iron and uPVC. To include minor re-siting of downpipes. Replacement of 8 single glazed timber windows with double glazed timber windows. The openings will remain as per existing. Existing extract fan to kitchen window will be removed. The existing 3rd pane to the kitchen window is to be retained as it contains the commercial kitchen extract duct within a fire-retardant panel.	JB
Balcombe Parish Council have no objection to the planning application and support the proposed changes.			

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DM/24/0775	Robin Shaw, Haywards Heath Road	To part demolish and extend an existing bungalow (Robin Shaw) to create a 2-storey dwelling and provision of 2no. new homes to the rear. The scheme also seeks to make provision of public access to the adjacent Upper Stumble Wood with a pedestrian path routed through the site to access the wood at the rear.	LT
Balcombe Parish Council object to the planning application and have submitted comments, which can be read online.			
DM/24/0494	7 Combers		NG
Balcombe Parish Council have no objection to the planning application.			

## 832. Receive an update from: "Recreation, play, youth, halls, schools/ Neighbourhood Plan/ Planning & New Development/ Traffic/ Public Transport/ Energy/ Admin and Assurance/Health.

**Recreation, play, youth, halls, schools** – Cllr LT offered to meet with Robert Anderton (MSDC) to progress the new playground facilities on the recreation ground, this is going to be scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> April. Cllrs MS and HC agreed to attend the meeting with LT.

**Neighbourhood Plan** – No further updates. No further updates or documentation received from Shanly Homes despite their enquiry to confirm if BPC intend to manage the village car park they are providing as part of the development.

**Traffic** – The new Speed Indicator device and tools have arrived. Human resources will be organised in order to erect this around the village and gather/report on using the data.

No progress or response from WSCC; they have placed all Community Highways Schemes and other non-essential items on hold whilst dealing with reactive road/pothole repairs.

**Public Transport** – The station wall remedial works is nearing completion, and they hope to be finished by the end of April.

**Energy** – FFBRA are still awaiting an update as to if their appeal to the High Court will be heard.

### **Lamp posts -**

Once the lanterns have been installed this will leave 33 remaining which are yet to be upgraded to LEDs; although only two are mercury lanterns (these use a lot more electricity). Clerk to obtain costings and work with the contractor to devise a plan to upgrade the remaining lanterns over the next 2-3 years. Cllr MN commented that there is not adequate light on a section of the Haywards Heath Road – it was suggested by NG that once the installation of the new LED lanterns is completed then this can be addressed again in order to problem solve.

**Admin and Assurance** – Clerk confirmed that although chasing the energy broker, the third street light code quote is still to be provided and therefore energy is still being provided by the current supplier.

**Health** - Cllr JB confirmed that she has engaged with and invited the Doctors surgery to the Annual Meeting.

## 833. Financial - (item brought forward from Agenda order)

a.) To approve March's Cashbook and Receipts.

These were approved and purchases included: Robbie Fincham £1080 (Pavilion roof repair), Balcombe Plumbing £140.40 (water heater repair), Alex Melmoe £36 (IT support), Jakk UK £180 (finger post repair), MSDC £1971.22 (Dog waste disposal).

b.) To approve subscriptions to NALC (£114.10) & WSALC (£518.61) total £631.71

It was resolved to continue to subscribe to NALC and WSALC. NG proposed and HC seconded.

c.) To approve renewal of Annual support and Maintenance licence for Rialtas accounting Software £230.40 (*Gross*)

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It was resolved to renew the licence and deemed essential for the Parish Council's/Clerks accounting records. LT proposed and HC seconded.

During the meeting it was decided in principle to close the separate account the Parish Council were holding after the Youth Club was dissolved. It was resolved for the funds to be split between the Scouts and Tennis club for the purpose of helping the younger members of the community. Clerk to identify necessary information/procedure in order to progress the instruction for the closure of the account. Approximately £890 to be split evenly between the two beneficiaries.

## **834. To consider the following Grant Applications for Financial Year 24-25**

### **a. Balcombe Tennis Club - £4000**

It was approved to grant £3,500 - HC proposed, and PW seconded.

## **835. To consider placing a bus shelter on the Haywards Heath Road (layby between the Rectory and Half Moon Inn)** - The parish Councillors agreed this in principle subject to the public transport working group obtaining further information and the necessary permissions with regards to the location. The preference would be a more in keeping structure as opposed to glass/plastic.

## **836. Correspondence**

Parking issues regarding commuter vehicles parked on residential roads were discussed. Unfortunately, the Parish Council have no authority to assist in this matter, and nor do the police unless vehicles are causing an obstruction to the highway. Once the remedial works at the station are completed this will return the car park to full capacity. BPC will continue to talk to Balcombe Estate to see if another car park on the London Road could be viable.

## **837. Exchange of Information**

The Parish Councillors are going to provide input to complete the Annual report and distribute this to residents in Balcombe.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 10.24pm

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 – at 8:00pm - Bramble Hall**

Signed Chairman..... Date:.....