



## M I N U T E S

### Confirmed minutes of Full Council Meeting of Binsted Parish Council (BPC) on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Mar 2024

<b>24/022</b>	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Cllr De Sousa, Cllr Jones, District Cllr Davies, District Cllr Ashcroft  <b>Present:</b> Cllr Melvin (Chair), Cllr Eldridge, Cllr Lock, Cllr Hearne, Cllr Clarke, Mike Mordecai (Clerk), Sally Laker (RFO)</p>
<b>24/023</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interests:</b> Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation is granted, they may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, any matter in which they have a pecuniary interest. They must withdraw from the room when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.  None Stated.</p>
<b>24/024</b>	<p><b>Approval of Minutes from 13 Feb 2024 Full Council Meeting:</b> One amendment agreed in the EHDC Local Plan Consultation. Proposed Cllr Clarke, Seconded Cllr Locke. Unanimously Approved.</p>
<b>24/025</b>	<p><b>District Councillor Report:</b> None received.</p>
<b>24/026</b>	<p><b>Chair’s Announcements:</b></p> <p><b>EHDC Draft Local Plan Consultation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Melvin thanked everyone involved in putting together BPC’s response and helping to ensure that so many parishioners were made aware of, and commented on the consultation, in particular around proposed housing allocations at Holt Pound and Neatham Down.</li> <li>• BPC strongly opposed the Draft Local Plan, with EHDC’s approach to the “Settlement Hierarchy” ultimately driving large-scale, unsustainable greenfield development at Neatham Down and more widely in Alton and surrounding areas without adequate infrastructure.</li> <li>• South Downs National Park (SDNP) will also be formulating their Draft Local Plan and consultation process later in 2024. BPC should try to consult parishioners and understand the consultation process and timetable in advance to try and promote a positive vision of what the parish wants and needs, rather than purely reacting to the SDNP draft plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the process and timetable (and any information we can on development site allocations put forward by developers) in advance of the Annual Parish Meeting.</li> <li>• Investigate whether we could secure a meeting with EHDC, SDNP, and possibly HCC planners to enable a more joined-up approach to Local Plans.</li> <li>• Investigate what further actions might be useful to continue pursue issues BPC have identified with the EHDC Plan.</li> </ul> <p>Members of the public made the following points:</p>

- Abigail Hills thanked BPC for their support in opposing the proposed Neatham Down development. She also updated BPC on meetings with Damian Hinds MP, proposed attendance at a public meeting being hosted by the MP, letters to national politicians such as Michael Gove and the Prime Minister, and research being undertaken to understand better the brownfield sites available in the district for potential housing.
- Other points from the public included: thanking the people involved in the “Save Neatham Down” campaign; when lobbying MPs making the focus on the government’s policy statements around “brownfield first”; the lack of research within the EHDC Draft Local Plan on the volume and impact of additional car journeys; and the disappointment and anger felt at the inadequacy of the consultation, the IT failures of the consultation website, and questions around whether consultee comments via email and letter would be made available.

#### **Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation**

- It was agreed that BPC should in particular object to the proposed cuts to the Hampshire Highways budget, passenger transport, closure of recycling facilities, and any other associated impacts impacting on efforts to respond to the Climate Emergency.

#### **Annual Parish Meeting**

- It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May at the Wickham Institute, with a focus on achievements in the last 12 months; priorities for the year ahead; the SDNP Local Plan, Transport Working Group, topics highlighted in the Parish Priority Statement, and finding new councillors.

#### **Chair and Vice Chair for 2024/25**

- Cllr Melvin said she would like to step down as Chair to reduce her workload, but if no one was willing to take on the role then as a compromise she would continue as long as one or two people came forward as Vice Chairs and to take on other roles such as leading other Working Groups (other than Blacknest Fields).
- Councillors placed on record their thanks to Cllr Melvin and their appreciation of her effectiveness, energy and time she had put into the role and the resulting benefits to the Parish.
- Cllr Hearn agreed to becoming a Vice Chair.
- **Action:** Clerk to investigate the role of the Vice Chair with EHDC Electoral Services, and also prepare an options paper on whether the Clerk’s role (and possibility of creating a Deputy Clerk’s role) could be beneficial in better reallocating responsibilities between councillors and paid staff.

#### **D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations (Non-agenda item raised by a member of the public at the meeting)**

- This is a subject that was discussed briefly in 2023. Parishioner Mark Weldon has suggested:
- Approaching the owners of the house Field Marshall Montgomery lived in to see if they would be amenable to applying for a Blue Plaque
- Marking the anniversary at the Village Fete
- A church service, possibly on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was agreed that all of these suggestions were good ones and should be pursued, and that the parish connections with Field Marhsall Montgomery should be highlighted and celebrated.</li> <li><b>Actions:</b> Clerk to take forward the above suggestions, and to make contact with the Fete Committee to see what plans they have made.</li> </ul>
24/027	<p><b>Finance and Governance</b></p> <p><b>Bank reconciliations for Feb:</b> Proposed Cllr Melvin, Seconded Cllr Eldridge, unanimously approved.</p> <p><b>Audit Report and Risk Assessment of Financial Systems’ Internal Controls-</b> Unanimously approved.</p> <p><b>Risk Assessment-</b> Unanimously approved.</p> <p><b>Risk Assessment of Financial Systems-</b> Unanimously approved.</p> <p><b>Financial Controls Policy replaced by Financial Regulations Policy-</b> Unanimously approved.</p>
24/028	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>Birdworld and Blacknest Golf Club updates- None</p> <p>SDNP/24/00493/TCA Roxford Cottage, Church Street, Binsted, GU34 4NX Tree work- No objections</p> <p>50603/001 Kingfisher House, Holt Pound, GU10 4LE- No objections</p> <p>Non-Agenda Item: It has been noticed that building works at Malms Farm appears at first sight to be potentially not in accordance with the planning permission granted, with a building being entirely demolished rather than a conversion.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> To review the original application, and if BPC believe there is a potential breach, request that EDHC investigate.</p>
24/029	<p><b>Projects and Working Group (WG) updates:</b></p> <p><b>Transport Working Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having successfully applied for an EHDC grant to obtain speed cameras, we have (with some reservations) signed the licences required to set them up and operate them. It was noted that there would be some further minor expenditure required for associated posts and signage. BPC’s reservations continue to be around the likelihood of enforcement by the police, and ongoing running costs, but believed there were still strong arguments to pursue the initiative as a wider package of measures being implemented.</li> <li>12 Speedwatch volunteers have now been “signed up” and trained, with 3 groups being set up- Blacknest &amp; Frith End, Binsted Village groups are planning their first live sessions, with Bucks Horn Oak to follow.</li> <li>A Speed Indicator Device will be installed at the Binsted School crossroads.</li> <li>Cllr Hearne will contact Station Road residents to better understand traffic/speeding/parking issues in the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Clerk to provide Cllr Hearne with residents’ contact details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted that Hampshire County have agreed policies to allow 20MPH speed restriction zones, but as yet there is no application form available to be able to apply for them.</li> <li>Cllr Lock expressed concerns about the volumes of traffic using local single-track roads due to the road closures at East Worldham, and damage to verges. Concerns were also raised about the water emissions onto the Holybourne to Binsted road from the open drainage pipe where the Esso pipeline work had taken place. Cllr Locke understood that</li> </ul>

	<p>local residents were investigating further and making representations to get the issue resolved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Locke also reported that there had been little in the way of new information regarding plans to mitigate traffic issues at the Jalsa Salana festival.</li> </ul> <p><b>Holt Pound Oval Working Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk reported that he was in the process of trying to secure a date from our preferred supplier to perform the site survey for the feasibility study to return the site to multi-sports use.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recreation Ground Working Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BPC have contacted Rowledge Cricket Club (RCC) to pursue updating the contract for the 24-25 season, but have met resistance from RCC in doing so.</li> </ul> <p><b>Communications Working Group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BPC is progressing with plans to overhaul the website.</li> </ul> <p><b>Blacknest Fields</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants and planning for creating a pond are progressing well, volunteer days at the site are being organised, and a trustees meeting for the Charitable Trust will take place later this month.</li> </ul>
<p><b>24/030</b></p>	<p><b>Clerk’s Notices, Matters Arising, Actions from Previous Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Correspondence from Parishioners and School Liaison and Binsted church land available for community use:</b> Not discussed- updates will be provided at the next meeting.</li> <li>• <b>AOB:</b> Dog poo bins in Coffin Way and Bentley Station Road are overflowing. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to investigate solutions to have them regularly emptied.</li> </ul>
<p><b>24/031</b></p>	<p><b>Chair’s Closing remarks</b> Thanks were expressed to everyone who attended the meeting and their contributions.</p> <p>The next full council meeting will take place on Tues 9th<sup>th</sup> Apr 2024 at 7pm.</p>