# MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BERSTED COUNCIL HELD AT BERSTED JUBILEE HALL, CHALCRAFT LANE, BERSTED AT 18:30 ON TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 2024.

**Present:** Cllrs B. Bellhouse, K. Greenway, M. Lury, G. Markwell, W. Kapp, P. Ralph, A. Smith,

A. Van Koolbergen, P. Wells, P. Woodall and G. Yeates (Vice Chair).

Mrs D. Holcombe (Clerk/RFO), Mrs S O'Connell (Deputy Clerk) and Ms J. Milson (Community Clerk).

Also in attendance C. Cllr Francis Oppler.

In attendance: 0 members of the public.

24164 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Spencer.

24165 Declarations of Interests

None.

24166 Minutes of the Council of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024, having been circulated in advance, be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record

24167 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

## 24168 Reports from County & District Councillors

C. Cllr Greenway informed Members he did not have much to report. The Shripney Community Highway Scheme has been approved with a speed reduction and a pedestrian crossing, these will not be actioned until 2025. Also approved for West Meads Drive are 2 pedestrian crossings. He went along to a meeting with the Manager for the Pheonix Centre which will open soon, there is a taster week starting from 19 August, it is free of charge and he hopes it will encourage young people to see what activities are available.

C. Cllr Oppler reported he has had a busy time with Highways issues. He had recently met with a Highways Officer to highlight the problem of the junction at Ash Grove turning right into Rowan Way, however the officer explained there is not much they can do there due to logistics of the junction and road, other than have illuminated signs. He had also been asked about double yellow lines at Southern Cross Trading Estate this maybe unlikely to happen as it is classed a low priority.

## **District Councillors**

D. Cllr Greenway reported he had attended a working group meeting regarding the parking discs scheme.

D. Cllr Lury had sent a report which was circulated to Members. He had also met with the new Chief Executive for Arun DC, Dawn Hudd, who has been very busy since taking the post. He had taken her to Bognor seafront and to sites that travellers had recently been occupied as they have been causing a lot of anti-social behaviour in these areas. He is hoping to meet with the Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne to ask what more can be done by the police



regarding travellers. He paid tribute to Cllr Kapp for all her hard work with the tombola at the Hospital Fete and to the helpers, also at the Hub's open day on Bersted Green which was a great success. He also thanked the Community Clerk and Deputy Clerk for how well the playscheme was going so far and the feedback from people was it was great and please do not stop doing it.

D. Cllr Yeates had sent a report which was circulated to Members.

Cllr Greenway asked whether the Flood Forum had discussed any proposals by Arun DC to cut back reeds along the rife under their ownership. Cllr Yeates informed him it had not been discussed.

Written reports received are appended to these minutes.

#### 24169 Committee Minutes

To note the Minutes of the following Meetings.

- a) Community Action Committee held on 16 July 2024
- b) Infrastructure Meeting 25 July 2024
- c) Planning Committee held on 6 August 2024

Cllr Wells informed members that there were reports of people living on site at Heath Place.

Cllr Lury declared an interest as a member of Arun DC planning committee and left the room.

Members noted the committee minutes.

#### 24170 Public Session

None.

#### 24171 Financial Matters

#### To approve the Income and Expenditure Report for August 2024.

The August Income and Expenditure Report had previously been circulated to all Members. The Clerk/RFO informed Members that Income and Expenditure was where she expected, and that Health and Safety work had been actioned. The ROSPA report for the play park and outdoor gym equipment had just been received and Health and Safety will look at this and report back to her any budget requests to be considered.

Members agreed to approve the Income and Expenditure report for August.

**RESOLVED** to approve the Income and Expenditure for August 2024.

#### 24172 Handbook

To approve the current handbook for 2024. Cllr Wells thanked the Clerk/RFO for this useful document. Members agreed to approve the current Handbook.

**RESOLVED** to approve the current Handbook.

# 24173 Parish Reports

(a) Chair

Cllr Spencer had sent his apologies.

(b) Vice Chair

Cllr Yeates's report was circulated and are appended to these minutes.

(c) Clerk/RFO

The Clerk's report was circulated and are appended to these minutes and in addition had recently attended a Sussex Police online meeting along with Cllr Smith (Cllr Wells was also in attendance for Bognor Regis TC).



### (d) Deputy Clerk

The Deputy Clerk's report was circulated and are appended to these minutes.

## (e) Community Clerk

The Community Clerk's report was circulated and are appended to these minutes.

## (f) Councillor Reports

Cllrs Kapp and Van Koolbergen's reports were circulated and are appended to these minutes.

#### 24174 Reminders

- a) Budget prep meeting, 10am, 15.08.24.
- b) Personnel Committee, 6.30pm, 20.08.24.
- c) Budget prep meeting, 7pm, 20.08.24.
- d) Planning Committee 6.30pm, 03.09.24.
- e) Council 6.30pm, 10.09.24.
- f) Community Action Committee, 6.30pm, 17.09.24.
- g) Finance Committee, 6.30pm, 24.09.24.

# 24175 Parish Litter pick schedule-Saturdays 11am

- a) Bersted Green-August 17th
- b) Jubilee Fields-September 21st
- c) Trees Estate-October 19th

## 24176 Correspondence

The Clerk/RFO informed Members she had received thank you letters from Victim Support and Chestnut Tree House for their recent grants.

# 24177 Urgent Matters

The Deputy Clerk informed Members that Arun DC had only recently come back about arranging a training session for Emergency Resilience. She had looked at the diary and suggested a meeting in October on one of the following dates - Oct 15, 22 or 29. She will contact the Officer at Arun DC for their preference and invite neighbouring Parishes.

Clerk/RFO informed Members of an Internal Auditor error on the revised AGAR that had been picked up by the External Auditor. The Internal Auditor this year on the revised AGAR made an error in the 2023 column in staff costs when she manually typed over the original 2023 column when there was no need to do so. The Clerk/RFO confirmed she had checked the revised 2024 column as the Internal Auditor was only changing one box in 2024. The Clerk/RFO also explained she had checked both columns in the original AGAR and these were correct. No one had spotted the error here and unfortunately the Council signed it off. The External Auditor had requested that the Clerk/RFO made Council aware of this error.

| There | being no | further | business | the | Chairman | closed | the meet | ting at | 19:22 |
|-------|----------|---------|----------|-----|----------|--------|----------|---------|-------|
|-------|----------|---------|----------|-----|----------|--------|----------|---------|-------|

| Signed | Oate |
|--------|------|
|--------|------|

