

## Council Reports for Meeting 11 February 2025

### **D. Cllr Lury**

First of all I reluctantly have to tender my apologies for tonight's meeting as I have two Arun engagements where my presence is necessary . Devolution gathers pace as ever and I share Cllr Bellhouse's frustration that Government has not been more forthcoming in terms of public understanding. Suffice to say that West Sussex has been confirmed on the first wave of new Mayoral authorities thus precipitating local government reorganisation at almost breakneck speed. We have until just the 21st March to submit proposals to Government and final ones by the 26 September and I now have fortnightly meetings with other West Sussex leaders arranged well into July!

As you are undoubtedly aware the West Bersted application found no councillor support and ultimately after nearly four hours was deferred on two grounds: namely for further testing of the impact of the development on junctions off Chalcraft Lane and a reassessment of the affordable housing mix.

### **C. Cllr Greenway**

As has been said in Martin's report, the Government has selected West Sussex's bid to be included in the local government reform "Priority Programme". This means, for better or for worse, this years County Council elections have been postponed to prepare for the transition to whatever arrangements are agreed with Government. I appreciate there are concerns, some of which I share. But, the government gave councils an extremely short time to respond with an interest to be included in the priority programme. To make matters worse, this was over the festive period.

As members will have seen, the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is now out for consultation. I hope the Parish Council will promote this consultation and consider their own response.

As well as this, I've been continuing to delay with case work. One which I will share is around the recent spate of incidents on Chichester Road. I have raised this myself with the Police and with Highways. I know highways are looking into this and I will await a response to this. With the Police, I have had a response, they say they are satisfied with their work in this area. I asked them whether there were any trends with the reasons for these incidents and they said they couldn't see one.

Of course, they are unable to comment at this time on the most recent incident.

There's lots more I'm dealing with and if any member has any questions, I am happy to answer them.

## **D. Cllr Yeates**

### **District:**

28th January – Planning Policy. Quite general – reviewing and publishing reports. Deferral of decision re appointing consultants to oversee the new Local Plan preparation due to uncertainty around devolution.

29th January – Special Planning meeting to hear application for the West of Bersted development of 2200+ homes. I spoke as a ward member, highlighting the lack of affordable homes provision – just 10% instead of the policy demand of 30%. I made the point that, most people would expect that, due to the site's constraints and location, the landowner should suffer reduced sale proceeds rather than the local community not getting the much needed affordable housing. I also continued to press the point that, if Chalcraft Lane would require traffic calming, even after the spine road is in place, the risk to local residents who live off of Chalcraft Lane for several years, was completely unacceptable. The decision was deferred for some further investigations.

4th February – Housing & Wellbeing. Main item was the review of the Leisure Contract operated by Freedom Leisure. Also several budgetary items, especially around the Housing Revenue Account, as would be expected at this time of year.

### **Parish:**

4th February – new 'catch-up' meeting with the Clerk and Chair.

**Other:** 16th January – final in the series of the High Sheriff's "community chats". Although focussed on Bognor Regis town, some interesting information from the Police about the 'Hot Spots' pilot and ongoing.

7th February. Attended District Scouts AGM which was held at their Bersted HQ in Central Drive. It was great to hear that volunteering is alive and well (although there's always room for more help).

10th February. Attended a briefing to hear exciting plans from Bognor Regis Football Club who are seeking funding to convert to a 3G pitch. This will enable much greater use of the club's facilities as can be used almost every day, whereas the grass pitch needs time to recover after a match. Should also help to move their 'Academy Status' aspirations forward, boost women's football, and enable much greater diversity. If funding requirement can be met, the pitch could be available for the new football season and will almost certainly benefit the residents of Bersted Parish too.

### **Cllr Bellhouse**

14th January - Full Council Meeting

21st January - Community Action Meeting

30th January - Review meeting with Johnathan (Chair) and Debbie (Clerk/RFO)

5th February- off chance Meeting and discussion with a gentleman also looking into setting up a Men's group. I've spoken to June and will organise a meeting to see if working together is viable.

6th February - Had a call from Dominique Wilson (ADC) requiring some support on organising food for a local family in need. Met with her at Bersted Green Hub to deliver what I had managed to get together and we had a discussion about the Hub, several concerns were shared which matched my own, we are looking to organise a meeting to look into resolving concerns and issues raised.

Alongside all of this, I've had some conversations with June (Community Clerk) about Men's Club and Playscheme. I've also had the chance to chat to many members of the Parish about a variety of things. I did find it concerning that conversations around devolution show how little the public are aware of anything about it, and those that did had minimal understanding about it. I have told them that there is a consultation and advised them to partake in it along with doing some more research.

### **Cllr Van Koolbergen**

January - approved agenda for F&GP meeting that was later cancelled

February - attended planning meeting on 4/2/25

- approved F&GP agenda for 18/2/25 as well as agreeing to move meeting 1 week earlier

- attended full council on 11/2/25

- attended personnel meeting on 11/2/25

Babsham/Elbridge - corresponding with Savills of Petworth ref BBC and contact with local residents.