

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BERSTED COUNCIL  
HELD AT BERSTED JUBILEE HALL, CHALCRAFT LANE, BERSTED  
AT 19:00 ON TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2025.**

**Present:** Cllrs J. Spencer (Chair), G. Yeates (Vice Chair), J. Barrett, B. Bellhouse, K. Greenway, W. Kapp, M. Lury, G. Markwell, P. Ralph, A. Van Koolbergen and Warr-Chapman along with Mrs D. Holcombe (Clerk/RFO), Mrs S. O'Connell (Deputy Clerk) and Ms J. Milson (Community Clerk).

In attendance: 1 member of the public.

**24393**            **Apologies for Absence** (attendance at other meetings & health issues).  
Cllrs Smith, Wells and Woodall.

**24394**            **Declarations of Interests**-None.

**24395**            **Public Session**-None.

**24396**            **Minutes of the Council Meeting 11 February 2025**  
**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting 11 February 2025, having been circulated in advance, be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Members agreed these minutes were a true reflection of the meeting and voted for these minutes to be signed. Chair then signed the minutes.

**24397**            **Matters Arising from the Minutes**-None.

**24398**            **Reports from County & District Councillors**  
C. Cllr Greenway submitted a written report and expanded on the Community Highway Schemes put forward for Shripney and West Meads Drive. A consultation will be out soon regarding the Shripney Scheme. He then invited any questions.  
C. Cllr Oppler attended but had nothing to report. He commented that devolution will have an effect on all and felt there should have been an election to decide if devolution was wanted.

**District Councillors**

D. Cllr Greenway submitted a written report.  
Members questioned Cllr Greenways comments on the Arun DC budget referring to a contingency which has been allocated to cover coastal and drainage protection.  
D. Cllr Lury submitted a written report.  
D. Cllr Yeates submitted a written report.  
**Written reports received are appended to these minutes.**

**24399**            **Committee Minutes**  
To note the Minutes of the:

- Infrastructure Committee, 13 February 2025.
- Finance Committee, 18 February 2025.
- Planning Committee, 4 March 2025.

Cllr Lury left the room and returned after these minutes were discussed.  
Members agreed to note the Minutes of the above Committees.  
Cllr Greenway asked for a summary of Planning Minute 24389, Deputy Clerk agreed to provide.

- 24400 Financial Matters**  
 To approve the Income and Expenditure Report for February 2025.  
 The February Income and Expenditure Report had previously been circulated to all Members. Clerk/RFO advised Members that this was updated regularly, and she currently has no concerns. Utility bills were higher than expected due to more bookings for the hall and meeting room.  
**RESOLVED** to approve the Income and Expenditure for February 2025.
- 24401 Finance Committee Recommendation**  
 a) To approve the Financial Risk Management Record (NALC/JPAG).  
 b) To approve the Investment Strategy Policy.  
 Clerk/RFO explained these are reviewed annually and no changes were recommended by herself or the Finance Committee.  
**RESOLVED** to approve the above.
- 24402 Sussex and Brighton Devolution-Consultation**  
 To approve Council to complete the survey. Council went onto discuss each question and agree a response and complete the survey live with the assistance of the Deputy Clerk and Chair & Vice Chair.  
 Cllrs Greenway, Lury and Yeates declared an interest as County and District Councillors.
- 24403 Letter to MP Jess Brown-Fuller-broadband in Shripney.**  
 To approve a letter to go to our MP regarding the broadband issue in Shripney.  
 Members discussed and requested that the content of the letter to request to raise the profile of the situation in Shripney and clarification of why open reach and city fibre plans have changed for this area and why the government did not include Sussex in its funding to provide broadband to rural communities.  
**RESOLVED** to approve a letter to go to our MP regarding the broadband issue in Shripney.  
**ACTION** Deputy Clerk to compile a letter to go to our MP regarding the broadband issue in Shripney.
- 24404 Former Bartons School site.**  
 To approve a proposed name, options given by Arun DC were Lucker Place or William Lucker Place.  
 Cllr Greenway declared a personal interest as a WSCC Councillor.  
 Members discussed and agreed William Lucker Place would be more suitable, as an artist this name would harmonise with the surrounding roads which are also named after artists.  
**RESOLVED** to approve William Lucker Place.  
**ACTION** Deputy Clerk to contact Arun DC and confirm Councils choice.
- 24405 Parish Reports**  
 a) **Chair** – Report by Cllr Spencer written/verbal report.  
 b) **Vice Chair** – Cllr Yeates gave a written/verbal report.  
 c) **Clerk/RFO** – Clerk/RFO gave a written/verbal report.  
 d) **Deputy Clerk** – Deputy Clerk gave a written/verbal report.  
 e) **Community Clerk** – Community Clerk gave a written/verbal report.  
 f) **Councillor Reports** – Cllr Bellhouse, Cllr Kapp, Cllr Van Koolbergen gave a written reports which were circulated. Cllr Van Koolbergen mentioned there are ongoing issues

with the Elbridge recycling centre and Cllr Greenway requested that any problems are brought to him as he has ongoing communication at WSCC regarding breaches of conditions imposed. Deputy Clerk confirmed she will add this as an item for the next planning committee.

**Written reports received are appended to these minutes.**

**24406 Meetings & Reminders**

Amendments as below were noted for f, g and I regarding April dates.

Litter Pick this Saturday, 11am Trees Estate.

- a) Tea & Coffee Club 2pm, 17<sup>th</sup> March.
- b) Community Action Committee 7pm, 18<sup>th</sup> March.
- c) Finance Committee 7pm, 25<sup>th</sup> March.
- d) Chairman’s Reception Friday 7pm, 4<sup>th</sup> April.
- e) Tea & Coffee Club 2pm, 7<sup>th</sup> April.
- f) Planning Committee 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- g) Personnel meeting, 6.30pm and Council 7pm, 8<sup>th</sup> April.
- h) Litter Picking, Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 11am, Stroud Green.
- I) Finance Committee 7pm, 22<sup>nd</sup> April.
- j) Planning Committee 7pm, 6<sup>th</sup> May.
- k) **Annual General Meeting (AGM) 7pm, 13<sup>th</sup> May.**
- l) **Annual Parish Meeting (Elector meeting) Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 6pm.**

**24407 Correspondence**

Clerk/RFO informed Members that all correspondence had been circulated.

**24408 Urgent Matters**

Chair reminded all to ensure noticeboards are kept up to date, he had also received reports of fly tipping in Shripney Lane. Community Clerk reminded all to attend Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm for Community action meeting.

The Deputy Clerk asked that members remember to update their register of interests if they have moved house or changed political parties and provide her with copies to forward to Arun DC.

**There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:39**

**Signed ..... Chairman Date .....**