

UPPER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk: Steve Coberman

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 16th February 2010 **Time:** 7.30pm **Place:** Beeding & Bramber Village Hall

Present:	Cllrs D Coldwell (Chairman), S Birnstingl, R French, A Purches (items 1 through 6), J Shaw, and C Warren. Messrs S Fullwood (Saxon Weald), A Smith (HDC), and T Warder (AiRS) were present for item 6.
R:0210:01 <i>Apologies</i>	Apologies were received from Cllrs R Harber (holiday) and P Kentell (personal commitments). Cllr A Purches left the meeting following item 6 due to personal commitments.
R:0210:02 <i>Questions from the public</i>	There were no questions from the public.
R:0210:03 <i>Declarations of interest</i>	There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest by Councillors on any of the agenda items below.
R:0210:04 <i>Minutes of previous meeting</i>	The minutes of the meeting dated 20 th October 2009 were approved by all present and signed by the Chairman. <i>Proposed by S Birnstingl; Seconded by J Shaw.</i>
R:0210:05 <i>Matters arising</i>	There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere in the agenda.
R:0210:06 <i>Affordable housing</i>	The Clerk read out an exchange of email correspondence with West Sussex County Council, in response to his request to rent the Smugglers Lane site for amenity use since they had proved unwilling to sell the land at a viable price for affordable housing (see R:1009:08). Their position seems now to have altered: they do not wish to dispose of the land at amenity value, but are prepared to consider development. Messrs Fullwood, Smith, and Warder set out their latest thinking for the site, which was to develop with a mix of affordable housing and amenity land (to meet the expressed parish requirements), plus an element of private housing (to make the scheme financially viable). They asked for a decision in principle continue further investigation and negotiation for a mixed scheme as described, and it was resolved to proceed on this basis. <i>Proposed by D Coldwell; Seconded by J Shaw.</i> Cllr A Purches pointed out the severe drainage implications, and it was accepted that any development was dependent on cooperation from Southern Water. It was suggested that public consultation on the scheme would best be done by way of a drop-in display and presentation rather than a formal meeting.
R:0210:07 <i>Parish plan</i>	The Clerk was asked to collate the responses to the parish plan matrix as supplied by councillors, to remind councillors to respond, and to table the collated results for the Council agenda for April. Cllr D Coldwell noted that the headings we would have to use for the next version of the plan in 2012 have been changed.

<p>R:0210:08 <i>5-year plan</i></p>	<p>Cllr D Coldwell noted that a 5-year plan (owned by the Council) covered significantly the same ground as a parish plan (owned by the public). It is possible to have either one, or both can coexist. It was noted that work would have to commence by midsummer in order to include any resulting planned expenditure in the 2011/12 budget. Cllr D Coldwell volunteered to draw up a framework for the plan, based on HDC Community Partnership procedures.</p>
<p>R:0210:09 <i>Future of sports hall</i></p>	<p>The Clerk presented accounts for the hall, showing that it ran a deficit of £12,385 for the period 01-Apr-09 to 09-Feb-10. It was agreed that facility was underused and poorly marketed. There was a consensus to retain the hall, but to improve usage. Cllr C Warren agreed to place an article on the matter in the next newsletter, and the Clerk agreed to approach the operators of Steyning Leisure Centre to assess whether they could assist with managing the facility. The issue is also to be placed on the agenda of the Annual Parish Meeting.</p>
<p>R:0210:10 <i>Correspondence</i></p>	<p>No relevant correspondence was tabled.</p>
<p>R:0210:11 <i>Items for information or next agenda</i></p>	<p>It was suggested that the future of the Local Action Team be added to the Council agenda for March. Cllr D Coldwell noted the proposal to lower the number of councillors at the next election, and that following discussions with HDC by himself and the Clerk an item would be tabled for the next Council agenda. Cllr R French advised of a meeting of Steyning Chamber of Trade on 24-Feb-10, and indicated that Rodney Goldsmith had been harassing the editor of the newsletter. The Clerk was asked to write or email him in strong terms, requiring that he ceases and desists such behaviour.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.50pm. The next meeting will be held at Beeding & Bramber Village Hall on Tuesday 15th June 2010 at 7.30pm.

Minutes signed by: **Date:**