

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Beckley Village Centre on WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2017 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Christopher Broadbent (CB) Chairman, Mrs Lauren Dobson (LD), Mrs Sue Evans (SE), Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) Mrs Deborah Ongley (DEO) Vice Chairman, Mrs Rebecca Parsons (RP) and Mike Rowe (MRO). Attending: District Cllrs Ian Jenkins (IJ) and Martin Mooney (MM).

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk Mrs V Ades and 14 members of the public.

- Public Questions** – to allow questions (10 minutes) from members of the public following which they may leave the meeting if they wish, but must remain silent if they stay. A further period of public question time is allowed at the end of the meeting. Concerned about lack of maintenance in the village a resident presented photos of vegetation obscuring the dog bin in Hobbs Lane and many signs, overgrown verges especially in Hobbs Lane and blocked gullies in Main Street and Hobbs Lane. He has reported large areas of giant hogweed in Hobbs Lane which ESCC have inspected and said they will remove. He asked if bill posting was allowed as there appeared to be large numbers appearing in the village advertising events etc in other areas. CB said ESCC was responsible for hedge and verge cutting and blocked drains/gullies. He said as their budget was tight a solution would be for a group of volunteers to attend to the overgrown areas and asked the resident to telephone him to discuss further. IJ said permission should be obtained to put up posters and providing they did not have permission he saw no reason why they should not be removed if they did not relate to Beckley. ESCC must deal with drains. Mr Baverstock asked for information on the 16 houses and the proposed development at Beckley Motors. MRO said he believed the decision on the 16 houses had been deferred to 30 September and a decision on Beckley Motors has been deferred whilst more information is sought. Mr Baverstock asked if the PC could press for a warning sign of the sharp bend could be erected on the hill on the A268 near the junction with Bixley Lane. **ESCC to erect a sign on the A268 at Knelle Hill warning of the bend and narrow bridge.** Clerk to write to ESCC. **Clerk.** Ms Betina Wells expressed her thanks to the council for their work to date on Northlands Farm.
- Apologies for absence.** None received.
- Reports from County Cllr AED** (*absent but response from Katy Thomas at ESCC re Broadband is attached*).
District Councillors:
IJ (report attached).
MM endorsed IJ's report. Referring to Northlands Farm CB said this would be discussed under item 8 and he would stop the meeting to allow residents to voice their views. MM said RDC has asked Bexhill residents to comment on having a separate Town Council. This would if successful it will cost money, some of which may be passed on to villages.
Parish Councillors:
MRO had attended a RALC meeting which included a presentation on digital mapping. **RDC RALC** has a group licence at an approximate cost of £900 pa and PC's can use the facility. **MRO** will apply. **MRO.**
TL said the school has asked if a parish councillor would care to take up a position on the governing body. She asked when the hedges on the Jubilee field would be cut. Clerk said September.
RP said following June's meeting she noted nobody had been appointed to check on the tennis courts, but she had added this as a check item to the list when the playground equipment is checked.
CB asked for item **12e Speedwatch** to be brought forward – agreed. Mr Andrew Seymour reported whilst reduced speeds have been noticed 40 vehicles had been clocked for speeding. Peasmarsh has discontinued its speedwatch. Beckley has eight volunteers operating one-hour shifts, but more volunteers are needed to carry out a watch once or twice a week. **CB will investigate.**
- Declarations of interests whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda.** Members are reminded that they should review their current declared interests displayed on Rother District Council's website and let the Parish Clerk know if there are any changes to what has been declared. None declared.
- To consider** the minutes of the council meeting of 14th June 2017. These were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- Triangle at junction of Moores Lane/Horseshoe Lane.** AED to report on request from a resident to designate this as a wild flower verge. AED was absent.
- Planning – to consider any planning applications** received from RDC and any other planning matters.

RR/2017/1405/P DEL Barley Cottage, Main Street. Proposed extension to existing detached ancillary building to create annexe. Councillors felt the proposed plans were an overbuild in relation to the existing building and were concerned about the effect it may have with neighbours although they noted there were no online comments from neighbours. The voted **unanimously 7:0 against** the application.

RR/2017/1213/P DEL Little Bellhurst Farm, Oxney Organic Estate, Hobbs Lane. Erection of shed connected to a perimeter listed barn used for agricultural, viticultural and oenological purposes. Along with the following application **RR/2017/1214/L** councillors voted **unanimously 7:0 in support** of the application.

RR/2017/1214/L DEL Little Bellhurst Farm, Oxney Organic Estate Hobbs Lane. Erection of shed connected to a perimeter listed barn used for agricultural, viticultural and oenological purposes. Duplicated - see above.

RR/2017/1520/P DEL Mermaid Cottage, Main Street. Replacement single garage. Councillors felt the brick wall to the left would inhibit the turning circle, creating a hazard and voted **unanimously 7:0 against** the application.

RR/2017/1405/P DEL Barley Cottage, Main Street. Proposed extension to existing detached ancillary building to create annexe. Duplicated above.

Withdrawn

RR/2017/597 Kitchenour, Kitchenour Lane. Change of use of barn to produce 2 No holiday lets and ancillary (annexe) accommodation, garaging and store.

8. **Northlands Farm** – explanation of the legal/enforcement/appeal process and general update on current position CB and MRO had met with Northiam councillors. After discussing the appeals the PC's had drawn up their comments recommending refusal of both appeals. Beckley's comments have been submitted to the Inspector at Bristol (PINS) and to RDC. A group of neighbours have been meticulous in keeping notes of changes and movements on the land and the potential threat should the appeals be approved. IJ explained how the legal system works, how the matter was being handled at RDC and details of the enforcement orders it had served on the owners. It could be some months before PINS responds. A water supply has been installed and a hard standing built, which has been covered with earth. If the owner loses his appeal he will have to reinstate work he has done on the land, as required in the endorsement order.

8.45 CB paused the meeting to allow questions from the public. Questions included:- Q: Was there a restriction on operating times? A: There is nothing RDC can do at the moment. Q: Can anything be done about the loud noise being created? A: Approach the Department of Environment. Q: Could the owner submit more applications and/or variations on applications? A: Yes.

9.03pm the meeting reconvened.

9. **Land at Kings Bank Lane** – update on enforcement notice expired 31 May 2017. IJ said Mr Harding is in contravention of the enforcement order and the matter has been passed to RDC's legal department.
10. **Forest clearance at The Little House in the Woods, Methersham Lane.** CB had received complaints about the amount of clearing work on the land. A track through the woods has been created and woodland has been cleared without permission. RDC enforcement team will be visiting. **IJ.**
11. **RoSPA report** - discuss the report's details. LD said the report did not pick up any equipment being high risk, but commented it was all in poor condition through lack of maintenance over the years. She said she understood the slide was about 30 years old and other equipment over 20 years old. All requires replacement.
12. **Matters Arising:-**
- a **Playground equipment** – team report. School children had been asked for their views on what equipment they would like to have and those comments were being considered. The Beckley Fund had offered to give £10,000 conditionally on us getting funding for what we want.
 - b **Consider CB's suggestion to increase the PC's funding** for playground equipment from £15,000 to £20,000. CB and MRO would look at the PC's current position and budget and report back in August. **CB/MRO.**
 - c **Application to RDC for match funding for playground equipment** – prepared by LD, she has requested funding for £30,000. IJ and the clerk will approve and sign the form which will be sent off immediately.
 - d **PC website** – update. There is currently no plan to offer training sessions other than over the website. Details of all village events will be gratefully received if sent to sueevans900@gmail.com.
 - e **Speedwatch** – June results and signs. Dealt with before item 4.
 - f **Speed watch camera** – use of a camera from an available local source - DEO is awaiting details. **August.**
 - g **Fencing of field adjacent Beckley School** - progress. Ordered and reply awaited from Makin Fencing.
13. **313 bus 09.10 service** – report on number of users – RP said over a four week period there had been approximately 5 passengers each day who were mainly attending hospital appointments or college in Hastings.
14. **Financial Regulations** – approve amended document. **The document was approved and adopted (7:0).**
15. **Aircraft Noise – flight paths and height of airlines.** SE would monitor using the app Plane finder/screen shot and DEO suggested a letter be sent to Huw Merriman showing number of planes and their heights over Beckley. **SE.**

16. **Accounts** to consider and approve accounts submitted for payment.
Amounts over £100 show reclaimable VAT where applicable.

Recipient	VAT	Total £	Recipient	VAT	Total £
BVH - Committee Room 10/5 & PA 25/5		32.60	HMRC		297.80
Mrs M Lenton bin emptying		50.00	RoSPA		88.20
Admin costs		528.20	IdVerde – grass contract – June	35.27	211.61

DEO proposed and SE seconded the accounts be paid – carried.

17. **Matters** councillors would like to have considered as an agenda item for the next meeting.
 18. **Public questions:** not to exceed 15 minutes.

Date of the next Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 9 August 2017.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.