

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Beckley Village Centre on WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2017 at 7.30pm

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

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

1. **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.

Attention was drawn to parking problems near to the old post office on Main Street. Vehicles were being parked opposite each other making it difficult for traffic to pass, particularly large and farm vehicles. Some vehicles were being parked on the pavements causing pedestrians to use the verge to pass. **MM would bring this to RDC's attention** and CB was asked to consider devising a notice to be put on vehicles asking drivers to refrain from this type of obstruction. If this failed to alleviate the problem then more drastic steps may have to be taken which could result in double yellow lines or other parking restrictions, which would not be popular with residents. Attention was also drawn to the bad road surface at the junction of the A268 at The Four Oaks. To avoid the potholes and the uneven surface vehicles are crossing the white line into the path of oncoming vehicles. **CB/AD.**

Mr Bowler advised the 10K race would take place on 5 November 2017.

2. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Mrs Dobson - work commitments.

3. **Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.**

County Cllr AED. In addition to her written report (attached) she advised there would be disruption on the Hastings/Bexhill link road from now until December with traffic lights and one-way traffic due to replacement of wire baskets in the retaining walls which have rotted and are being replaced at the contractor's expense. Work is also being carried out on a badger's tunnel now to late November. A public consultation will take place about making savings on the annual grass cutting contract. County responded re the hogweed in Hobbs Lane. This is not the giant species, but they will treat it at the PC's expense - members did not feel this was necessary. A piece of land opposite the junction of Hobbs Lane and Whitebread Lane, owned by Orbit, will be advertised for sale. Orbit will advise price to AD and she will keep PC informed. **AD.**

District Councillors:

MM reiterated savings made by RDC; how they are dealing with collecting CT and that approximately 10% of people already eligible will be affected by the new Universal Credit system. £65,000 has been earned in interest from the church investment fund. As well as private housing investments RDC is looking at investing in commercial property, which they hope will help plug the hole when the government grant disappears in 2020.

Parish Councillors:

TL had been advised two trees on the field by the school looked suspect. **CB to inspect.**

She asked AD to urge County to seriously consider leaving rural mobile libraries alone when looking at which libraries they may close, saying this was an essential service to residents in rural locations, especially the elderly, and Beckley's mobile library was usually heavily attended. **AD.**

MRO reported all of Beckley had not received its garden waste collection. IJ said the contractors were not collecting from roads where there were overhanging trees/hedges due to damage to their vehicles. If residents had complaints these should be reported on RDC's website. MRO felt some communication from RDC advising of a missed service would be appreciated. He asked about the proposed development on land adjacent to Buddens Green. IJ said a decision was pending due to changes in the application to reduce the number of houses and changes to their design. A meeting was taking place tomorrow at RDC.

DEO. Having reported a number of potholes to ESCC she had been asked to submit photos. She said ESCC were asking her to put her life at risk by standing in the road to do this. **AED would follow up.**

Speed Watch - 86 speeding vehicles had been reported in August yielding 644 in the year. DEO is resigning from her work with Speed Watch.

SE reported discussions had taken place, chaired by Barry Nealon, non-executive director of Chairman of Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital about the prospective provision of a 60-bed residential facility on the existing old ambulance site adjacent to the Rye Memorial hospital. This facility will comprise of 20 EMI (dementia) care beds, 20 nursing home beds and 20 rest home beds. 25% of beds will be funded, permitting

those without resources access and bed priority given to the local community. Greensleeves is a not for profit charity and currently owns and manages more than 20 care homes across England, they will be providing the finances for this build and would manage the service. Profits would be used to fund a day care centre on the same site. A planning application is to be submitted to planning imminently.

Item 12 - CB asked for agreement to bring this forward – agreed. Beckley School – ideas on where they may site a poly tunnel. A school representative explained plans to use money from a £17,000 grant towards Healthy Eating Ideas to purchase an aluminium framed poly tunnel with plastic cover, size 12'x15' for the children to grow vegetables etc. Permission from the PC was requested for this temporary structure, dug into the ground, to be erected on the field adjacent to the school, near to the fence and close to the school to make use of the water supply. The school would have the area levelled. Concerns were raised as the field is for the use of residents. MRO raised the appearance of the poly tunnel from the road and suggested it be screened with wild flowers and a strip of long grass. Members agreed to consider the idea and **CB requested Mr Thurston be asked to write with more details and an outline of an agreement between the school and the PC.**

4. **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.
5. **To consider and approve** the minutes of the council meeting of 9 August 2017. The minutes were agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

8.20pm – AD left the meeting.

6. **Planning – to consider any planning applications** received from RDC and any other planning matters.
RR/2017/1726/P (D) - Tillingham Lodge, Furnace Lane, Broad Oak. Erection of new greenhouse. **Members voted 6:0 in support of the application.**

RR/2017/1818/L (D) - Hayes Farm, Hayes Lane. Repair of timbers to west elevation. Repair of timbers to basement. Replacement of ventilating windows to basement. **Members voted 6:0 in support of the application.**

RR/2017/1853/L (D) - Hayes Farm, Hayes Lane. Variation of condition 2 (window joinery detail) imposed on RR/2016/1188/L. **Members voted 6:0 in support of the application.**

Information notice only

RR/2017/1929/FN (D) Oxney Organic Estate, Little Bellhurst Farm, Hobbs Lane. Prior notification for an agricultural shed used to bottle and store wine made from vineyard, and as an overflow production space for the winery.

Approved

RR/2017/1520/P - Mermaid Cottage, Main Street. Replacement single garage.

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

Withdrawn

RR/2017/1213/P & 1214/L – Little Bellhurst Farm, Oxney Organic Estate, Hobbs Lane. Erection of a shed connected to a perimeter listed barn used for agricultural etc purposes.

CB reported the ancient woodland opposite The Little House in the Woods, Methersham Lane (called Methersham Wood) had been destroyed. RDC had placed an enforcement order on the owners to reinstate the land and trees. The Forestry Commission has also been involved.

7. **Matters Arising:-**

- a **Playground equipment and funding** – team report. Lottery Funding have declined the application. Awaiting news on other grants applied for.
- b **Speed watch** – August results – 86 vehicles recorded speeding making 644 vehicles during the year. DEO is resigning from the team. Anyone interested should contact peter.lamont@ntworld.com – tel 01797 230905.
- c **Aircraft Noise – report on recorded aeroplanes flying below the height limit of 9000ft over Beckley** – DEO had taken screen shots of offending planes and listed the details. Clerk will forward to Huw Merriman for comment. **Clerk.**
- d **Fencing of field adjacent to Beckley School** – a fence had been erected which members were pleased with. The PC had agreed Makin's quote for £2560 plus VAT £512. Makin had invoiced for a total of £2764.80 saying the company had deregistered for VAT since submitting a quote. Members discussed the additional amount and resolved to make an initial payment of £2560 and ask Makin Fencing for a breakdown of the additional amount (£204.80). **CB.**
- e **Overgrown vegetation in Hobbs Lane (ESCC's response given above in AD's report). Advertising in the village.** ESCC replied 'East Sussex Highways will allow advertisements being placed in/on the highway, within a rural

environment such as Beckley provided these are charitable or community events (i.e. amateur dramatics, carnival, bonfire, parish events), or if seasonal produce is being sold on the roadside (i.e. cherries, strawberries). We will not permit metal posts or commercial advertising and signs placed out that do not comply with these guidelines may be subject to removal without notice. This policy is aimed only at rural locations as within urban areas and towns, there are shop windows and other alternative locations to use. Also in rural areas the availability of locations and opportunity to draw the event to the attention of members of public is restricted. Therefore we would not look to remove the marketing you have described, as it is allowed by the Highway Authority'.

8.40pm CB left the meeting and DEO took over as chairman.

8. **(Financial) forecast 2017/18.** MRO had produced figures showing income and outgoings to date. Included in the figures is a claim to NALC of £1600 approx. for office equipment and the setting up of a new website and additional expenses of £1k given towards a new village sign. Approximately £3k had been allowed for a path to the playground. He explained other figures he had allowed for. Estimated total expenditure for the current year is £24,500 and an anticipated closing balance of £32k approx. of which £15k will go towards the playground project = a closing balance of approximately £17k. Between now and the end of this year next year's budget will have to be agreed.
9. **313 bus service** - Renown contract to end September 2017 (now extended to November). ESCC is looking for a new contractor.
10. **BSA event** – TL to advise. Event will take place on the Jubilee field on Saturday and Sunday 16/17 September. There will be a BBQ and camp fire. Risk assessment and insurance were in place.
11. **Wil Morris's (maintenance) report** – discuss and decide on all matters. He will be carrying out paint work on the playground swings and climbing frame. Clerk reminded members that any work must comply with the health and safety rules.
12. **Beckley School** – ideas on where they may site poly tunnels provided through a grant. Discussed after item 3.
13. **Request from Beckley & Peasmarsh PCC** for a donation towards church ground maintenance costs. Members resolved to donate £250 towards ground maintenance. (6:0)
14. **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 14.6.17		15.60	RALC membership 2017/18		30.00
Mrs M Lenton bin emptying		45.00	IdeVerde July	35.27	211.61
Admin costs		338.20	August	35.27	211.61
HMRC		337.80			

Members agreed the accounts for payment.

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

Mr Bowler said Slaughter house field, a haven for wildlife, is being cleared to enable it to be auctioned off.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Date of the next Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 11 October 2017.