

## BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Beckley Village Centre on WEDNESDAY 10 AUGUST 2016 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Christopher Broadbent (CB) Chairman, Mrs Sue Evans (SE), Mrs Deborah Ongley (DEO) Vice-Chair (arrived 7.45pm), Mrs Rebecca Parsons (RP), Mike Rowe (MRO), County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies (AD) and District Cllr Ian Jenkins (IJ).

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

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**Public Questions:** A resident advised he has a number of sheds on his 'amenity' land which, at some time, he intends rebuilding. He will not exceed the ridge height and stated planning permission is not required. According to RDC the sheds do not exist.

#### Reports from County and District Councillors.

**County Councillor AED:** There are a number of greenways for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders in the area of the Bexhill/Hastings link road which merges with the new development in Bexhill and the fringes of Hastings with Coombe Valley Countryside Park offering access to the park and Coombe Valley. It is unclear which of these greenways are the responsibility of ESCC and which are the responsibility of the park. Discussions are taking place. This summer has seen initiatives put in place by ESCC to encourage children to use ES libraries.

**District Councillor IJ: Planning:** Members are shortly to gain guidance in respect of the introduction of allowing members of the public to speak at planning meetings. I hope to report back with more information at the September meeting. **Parish boundaries:** Consultation by officers is taking place with parish councils connected with sites available for possible development. **Parking issues:** Rother is one of 17 local authorities which does not have CPE (car parking enforcement). This is a contentious subject as the public would be charged for car parking. Rother's Scrutiny has discussed this issue on several occasions with no decision made.

#### Reports from Parish Councillors:

**MRO** reported the trees which had been obscuring the school sign had been cut back.

**SE** asked about the overgrown hedges at the bottom of Hobbs Lane. Clerk had reported it to ES Highways – Case Number 00027311.

The PC meeting commenced at 7.44pm

- 1 **Apologies** were accepted from Cllrs Mrs Dobson, working, Mrs. Langmead, anniversary celebration and Martin Mooney, illness.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** To receive any disclosures under the Council's Code of Conduct. None received.
- 3 **Minutes** of the PC meeting held on 20 July 2016. Page 2, item 5g was amended from '*village hedges*' to '*village/PC owned hedges*'
- 4 **Planning** – to consider any planning applications received from RDC and other planning matters.  
**RR/2016/1636/P & RR/2016/1637/L - Forge House, Main Street.** Flat roofed rear extension. Two dormer windows to the rear. New window to the front. Despite three councillors feeling the rear French doors in the extension could be more in harmony with the original building all councillors felt the alterations were an improvement and supported the application 5:0.  
**ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS** – information received too late for consideration at tonight's meeting:-  
**RR/2016/1884/P & RR/2016/1885/L - 3 Forge Cottages, Main Street.** Removal of existing single storey rear extension and garage and erection of a single storey extension. The application was not on the agenda for tonight, but as comments were requested by 16 August (when it was not possible to arrange another meeting) and it was understood the applicant had consulted with RDC over what they could and could not do, members were content to leave the decision with RDC.  
**RR/2016/1626/P - Little Knelle Farm Barn, Whitebread Lane.** Conversion and extension of brick built barn from agricultural to residential use. Demolition of existing outshots and outbuildings. Construction of a new garage. Installation of a sewage treatment plant. Members had considered this application at

the July meeting when they had requested sight of additional information requested by RDC. This had arrived too late for discussion tonight and with the current holiday period another meeting could not be arranged before 18 August, the date by which RDC required comments. With the PC's original comments standing members said they would have to leave the decision to RDC.

**Planning permissions:**

**RR/2016/1511/L - Coombe House, Main Street** – renovation and repairs to out buildings situated 5M from the rear of Combe House.

**RR/2016/1442/P – Road End House.** Demolition of dilapidated barn and replacement with new barn for ancillary use.

**5 Matters arising:**

- a **BBP update:** Progress is slow because a volunteer is still being sought to draw up plans.
- b **Dog bin for recreation ground** - prices £82 - £180 and **warning notice to dog owners/walkers using the Jubilee Field.** The clerk was asked to ensure RDC would be able to empty a bin from the Kings Bank Lane entrance on the field then purchase a 25L plastic Fido bin £86.52 and fixing post £40. Discussions followed that despite warning notices on the fields some dogs were running loose and some dog walkers were not cleaning up their dog's mess. Strong concerns were expressed of the dangers should children playing on the field come into contact with dog faeces. Additional warning notices to dog owners to keep their dogs on leads and clean up after them would be put up at the field and on the PC website and if matters did not improve an enforcement order to prohibit dogs on the field would be applied for from RDC. The clerk was asked to seek advice on all restrictions/measures we could apply. **Clerk.**
- c **Buddens Green grass and Tim Jordan Ltd. Price quoted and progress.** Jordan's had been asked to double strim and leave the cuttings at an additional cost of £175.
- d **Fallen oak tree branch by footpath near Buddens Green** – CB is meeting with a tree surgeon, Gary Martin, on Friday morning to arrange for the branch to be removed and the tree made safe.
- e **Appointing an internal auditor** – Clerk has contacted Keith Robertson, Clerk at Crowhurst PC. He reports his background as a qualified accountant with 30 years experience and well acquainted with internal and external audit processes. He charges £30 per hour and estimates Beckley's accounts should take between 3-5 hours to include writing a report. Councillors felt this was very reasonable and asked the Clerk to confirm acceptance of his services as the PC's new internal auditor carrying out work on the accounts for the current accounting year, 2016/17.
- f **Buddens Green – grass area at rear - cost to cut – September meeting.** CB said to keep the area as a meadow the grass required cutting at the beginning of September. DEO said she understood the difference between simply cutting grass and cutting it to produce a meadow. Last year's cut, although more costly than previous years, has resulted in a very attractive meadow. Cllrs resolved to engage Francis Warren to carry out the cut in September.

- 6 **RoSPA report on the play area. Discuss report and decide any action required.** Whilst no high risk areas were reported with equipment and the ground there were many areas where work is required. Councillors agreed much of the equipment is old, shabby and in a poor state of repair and resolved to invite three companies to give opinion on the best way forward. Residents would be consulted when information is available. Members were asked to make suggestions as to which organisations could be approached for funding and to send the information to the Clerk. The Clerk would liaise with other clerks whose PC's had recently installed new playgrounds. **Councillors/Clerk.**

- 7 **Fingerposts** – discuss those found to be in need of repair or painting. The voluntary 'clean a sign' group would be cleaning signs in the village at the weekend and would note fingerposts requiring attention.

- 8 **Payment for internal audit – years 2014/15 and 2015/16.** The Clerk advised payment for Richard Brattle's work by way of £100 donation to Friends of Norton Knatchbull School, Ashford, had not been made for the last two year's internal audits. She was asked to find out to which organisation/s he would like the PC to make a donation or would he like the PC to make a donation to our local school and/or village organisations. **Clerk.**

- 9 **Accounts 1 April - 30 June 2016 and bank reconciliation** to be signed off. These were unanimously approved and signed off by CB.

- 10 **Accounts** – to consider and approve accounts submitted for payment.

*Amounts over £100 show reclaimable VAT where applicable.*

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>VAT £</b>	<b>Total £</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>VAT £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
BVH (8/6 hall hire. 13/6 Speedwatch meeting)		16.50	C Broadbent (30xA3 colour copies Beckley maps - Art-Write)		45.00
Mrs M Lenton		40.00	D Ongley (padlock Jubilee Field Robert Dyas)		12.99
Admin costs inc travel		607.00	SALC Legal/Finance training-Clerk	18.00	108.00

Total cheques £829.49. Members unanimously resolved to approve the accounts.

- 11 **Public Questions** – not to exceed 15 minutes.
- 12 **Matters** councillors would like to have considered as an agenda item for the next meeting.  
Making donations.

**Date of the next Parish Council meeting** Wednesday 14 September 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.