

## BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Beckley Village Centre on WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2016 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Christopher Broadbent (CB) Chairman, Mrs Lauren Dobson (LD), Mrs Sue Evans (SE), Mrs Tina Langmead (TL), Mike Rowe (MRO) and County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies (AD) and District Cllr Ian Jenkins (IJ).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk Mrs V Ades and 11 members of the public.

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**Public Questions** – to allow questions from the public for a period not exceeding 15 minutes. Members of the public are welcome to remain during the meeting, or may leave at any point, but they must remain silent unless invited to speak by the Chairman. There will be another opportunity for public speaking at the end of the meeting. ■When asked if Building Control at Rother was being transferred to Wealden Council IJ said he was not aware of any plans, but as Rother already works with Hasting BC and legal services are shared, he saw no reason why it couldn't work with Wealden in the same way. ■Mr Bowler said the Beckley 10K race takes place on Sunday 6 November and help from volunteers will be welcome. A notice will be put up on the PC website and Facebook. **Clerk.**

#### **Reports from County and District Councillors:**

**AD** - ESCC has allocated a fund of £12,000 to assist people with fuel poverty giving advice on how to keep warm and well in winter. Businesses in East Sussex are being encouraged to give Year 9 secondary school pupils experience of the world of work. Internet sites are selling 'Blue Badges' for as much as £49. ESCC supplies Blue Badges for the Disabled at a cost of £10 and they can be obtained by applying direct to ESCC. ESCC Cabinet discussed extra savings of £6.5m in 2017/18 over and above the planned £17.3m. The council says that closer working with partners and new ways of providing services are essential.

**IJ** - Rother's Strategic Planning Officers are consulting with parish councils in respect of land supply for possible housing development which reflects on the whole of Rother District. Whilst developers have building permission they are not building. To be included in the core strategy developments must consist of 6+ dwellings. ■Oak Heights, Northiam will be a rural development to include 66 mixed dwellings. 26 of these will include 9 shared ownership affordable houses and flats. ■The closest extra care scheme is at St Bartholomew's Court, Rye. ■A working party at RDC has recently looked into its public realm of areas in public ownership, open spaces, streets, signage, trees etc. It has consulted with PC's, town councils and RALC and a report will be available soon. ■ If those in charge of dogs fouling are reported to RDC they have the powers to take up matters with those people.

#### **Reports from Parish Councillors:**

**SE** - Mr Evans has erected the dog bin at the entrance to the field at King's Bank Lane. ESCC has removed the boat which mysteriously appeared on the road in Main Street.

**LD** – will look into applying for funding from the Community Fund to assist with purchasing equipment for the children's playground.

**CB** – asked IJ if he would investigate the enforcement order at the log yard in King's Bank Lane, owned by Mr Hardy. IJ replied he had already spoken with Mr Wilson, the officer concerned, who said more information and evidence of what the owner is doing and the history behind it would be helpful.

#### **The PC meeting commenced at 7.58pm.**

- 1 **Apologies** were received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs Ongley and Mrs Parsons both have child-minding problems. District Cllr Martin Mooney has been ill and is still unable to attend.
- 2 **Declarations of interest:** To receive any disclosures under the Council's Code of Conduct. None disclosed.
- 3 **Minutes** of the PC meeting held on 14 September 2016. Pg 1 'Anharad' was changed to 'Angharad' and pg 2 - 4<sup>th</sup> para 'front windows' changed to 'side windows'. The minutes then agreed as accurate were signed by CB.
- 4 **Planning** – to consider any planning applications received from RDC and other planning matters.

**RR/2016/2240/P Waggoners Barn, Peasmarsh Road.** External in ground swimming pool (10m x 3.75m). Members voted unanimously in support of the application 5:0.

**RR/2016/2323/P Tillingham Lodge, Furnace Lane.** Demolition of existing garage and construction of oak framed garage. *Elevation drawings awaited as agenda is produced.* Members voted unanimously in support of the application 5:0.

**RR/2016/1923/P - Pine Hoath, Furnace Lane.** New two-bay detached garage. Members voted unanimously in support of the application 5:0.

**RR/2016/2375/P - Eastlands Barn, Stoddards Lane.** Conversion of threshing barn to single dwelling.

**8.15pm** – *CB called a halt to the meeting to allow Mr Skinner, the applicant, to clarify some points regarding his application. Mr Skinner confirmed public footpath 39 was on Mrs Howse's land and was not within the curtilage of the barn. He said a request for a new route from the barn into Main Street had been suggested by a resident, but as farm vehicles have travelled along the drive which crosses footpath 39 for 50 years and this is also the route to the barn he did not consider another route was necessary. The converted barn would be his personal family home. The meeting reconvened at 8.17pm.*

Members considered Mr Skinner's remarks then discussed the application in detail. It was noted that the barn, originally a threshing barn, had fallen into a state of disrepair since it was decommissioned many years ago. They considered traffic to and from the barn would be minimal; no more than for any new residence. Councillors were reminded that a similar application was submitted in 2009 and refused, but IJ said planning considerations in 2009 would not necessarily apply now. Members considered that :-

- the barn is part of the village infrastructure
- it would be better repaired and used than derelict
- it is of no special architectural interest
- it will be used as a home by a family already part of the local farming community
- it is sympathetically designed.

and unanimously supported the application (5:0).

**RR/2016/2400/FN - The Cottage in the Wood, Hobbs Lane.** Proposed agricultural barn. RDC Planners have advised the applicants that a full planning application is necessary.

**Planning permission granted:-**

**RR/2016/2110/P - Abbey Lodge, Horseshoe Lane.** Two storey extension to North West elevation and new dormers to upper floor within roof void. CB asked IJ had RDC considered the PC's comments. IJ replied when he requested the application be called in he was challenged by planners and Mr Richard Wilson who felt no strong reasons had been submitted to warrant this and past history of the building was not a consideration. Members agreed it was difficult to understand Rother's policy here as some minor applications are 'called in' whilst more controversial ones are not.

## 5 **Matters arising:**

- a **BBP** – Update/progress. Included with 5c.
- b **Dog bin for recreation ground** – progress. Dog bin is in use and ESCC have been advised. Tim Jordan Ltd has agreed to replace the damaged dog waste bin inside the entrance at Main Street. Clerk was asked to chase them up to have a fast delivery. SE said her husband would erect the new bin. **Clerk.**
- c **Playground equipment** – report following meetings with suppliers. Two meeting have taken place, one with Sovereign and one with Playdale. Each company will submit their ideas and plans.
- d **Tree inspections** for insurance purposes – progress. Clerk to chase up. **Clerk.**
- e **BPC website** – re-vamp request – SE will look for suitable sites and report back. **SE.**

6 **Increased flight noise over Beckley** and lack of consultation by NATS. CB asked IJ if he was aware NATS had re-routed some Gatwick flight paths over Beckley. Residents have complained about the noise and some Members said planes are so low they can read their logos. IJ was asked to check with Rother to find out when NATS had advised them consultations would take place, why the PC had not been notified and what actions Rother had taken. IJ said he is aware of the problem and has approached Huw Merriman and is awaiting his reply. CB also said he would write to Huw Merriman **IJ/CB.**

7 **313 extra bus services** - 6 month trial ends 26 November 2016 - feedback on success. ESCC advised approximately 10 passengers a day use the early morning service. This would equate to 3 passengers per Parish Council – Peasmarsh, Northiam and Beckley. Members considered this was possibly not cost effective and would discuss the matter in more detail in November. IJ was asked to convey the PC's feelings to Northiam and Peasmarsh PC's at their next meetings and report back their ideas.

**IJ/November agenda.**

- 8 **Local Government Boundary Commission** – any comments. There were no comments.
- 9 **Precept** – initial budget considerations for 2017/18. *Precept figure to RDC in January 2017.* Members were asked to bring along their ideas for the precept to the November meeting.

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

*Amounts over £100 show reclaimable VAT where applicable.* The Clerk reported PFK Littlejohn had approved the Annual Return and this had been posted on the website and noticeboards. She asked for approval for payment of their account for £120 which included £20 VAT. **Members approved.** The Clerk asked for approval to add payments to Beckley School - £200 and to Beckley & Peasmarsh Church- £250. These amounts had been approved for payment at September's meeting. **Members approved.**

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH (hall hire 10/8/16)		11.00			
Mrs M Lenton		50.00	<i>PKF Littlejohn - accounts</i>	<i>20.00</i>	<i>120.00</i>
Admin costs		659.90	<i>Beckley School (donated re Internal audit 2015/16 2 yrs)</i>		<i>£200.00</i>
Glasdon(UK)Ltd-dogbin	25.33	152.02	<i>Peasmarsh &amp; Beckley PCC-donation</i>		<i>£250.00</i>

The accounts were proposed for payment by MRO and seconded by SE.

- 11 **Public Questions** – not to exceed 15 minutes.
- 12 **Matters** councillors would like to be considered as an agenda item for the next meeting.  
**Date of the next Parish Council meeting** Wednesday 9 November 2016.  
**Meeting closed at 9.03pm**