

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Beckley Village Centre on WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2016 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Christopher Broadbent (CB) Chairman, Mrs Lauren Dobson (LD), Mrs Sue Evans (SE), Mrs Tina Langmead (TL), Mrs Deborah Ongley (DEO) Vice-Chair, Mrs Rebecca Parsons (RP), Mike Rowe (MRO) and District Cllr Ian Jenkins (IJ).

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

Public Questions: A resident passed to members a copy of a letter received from RDC which pointed out criteria on which applications are considered. He referred to planning application RR/2016/2257/P - 6 Oakhill Cottages, Peasmarsh Road, and stated existing small properties should not be made into large properties, nor should one property be replaced by more than one property. Another resident commented the road outside of this property is extremely narrow with no parking space and the proposed development would allow parking for only 2 vehicles on the property. Another comment concerned the size of the development, approximately 4 times the original footprint plus an additional storey with three upper floor windows which would overlook existing properties.

Report from District Councillors. IJ reported on hate crimes saying RDC had received 3 on disabilities, 8 on religion and 1 on gender grounds. On planning and development land he said developers are not building even where land is available. RDC officers will be talking to all parishes on the subject. Changes to parish boundaries should deliver development plots, but developers must be prepared to build affordable housing.

Reports from Parish Councillors.

DEO reported that the village 'clean-up' had gone extremely well. Many signs and fingerposts in a state of disrepair had been reported to ESCC and it would be interesting to receive their reply on what they are prepared to put right. CB recorded his grateful thanks to all who had taken part and particularly to Robin Evans for turning out early with his van and water and rounding up the team. Speed watch patrols are operating in the village resulting in 43 vehicles recorded speeding. Letters have been sent to 30 owners and one owner will receive a visit from the Neighbourhood Policing Team. She asked if The Pony Club could use the PC's projector at the forthcoming meeting which councillors agreed to, but following information heard later in the meeting this permission was withdrawn.

TL said the hedge at Church House, Main Street was very overgrown and should be cut back. **Clerk.** Beckley School has requested permission to make a willow circle on the field adjacent to the school in the area where they have made a willow arch. All councillors agreed. **TL.** She produced a 'welcome' leaflet suggesting it be given to every new parishioner. All members felt this was an excellent idea. **TL.** She asked about the plastic bag over the bin positioned opposite the Rose & Crown. DEO has reported it to ESCC requesting the bin be repaired then put on their emptying list, or for it to be removed.

- 1 **Apologies** for absence were accepted from CC Ms Angharad Davies, at another appointment and DC Martin Mooney, who is currently without a vehicle.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** To receive any disclosures under the Council's Code of Conduct. RP declared an interest in planning application RR/2016/2257/P - 6 Oakhill Cottages, Peasmarsh Road.
- 3 **Minutes** of the PC meeting held on 10 August 2016. Line two of Public Questions was amended to read '*He will not exceed the ridge height and **stated** planning permission was not required*'. Members then resolved to accept the minutes, which were signed by CB.
- 4 **Planning** – to consider any planning applications received from RDC and other planning matters.
RR/2016/2110/P - Abbey Lodge, Horseshoe Lane. Two storey extension to northwest elevation and new dormers to upper floor within roof void. Members noted the long background history of the property. Originally a small cottage, but with many extensions added over the years, it now presented a large property. They noted there was a 'Clinic' sign posted at the entrance to the property, but were unaware that the property may be running as a business. In the absence of a design and access statement members were unsure why another extension was required. Members also noted the application incorrectly stated the property could not be seen from a public footpath whereas it is clearly visible from

the public footpath which runs at the rear of the property. Members would like to see more information for this application. Councillors voted 7:0 against support and requested should officers be minded to approve the application that it is called into the full planning committee.

RR/2016/2257/P - 6 Oakhill Cottages, Peasmarsh Road. Erection of replacement dwelling. Whilst the new plan was for a smaller property than the previous application for a single property, councillors felt that the scale was still not in keeping with surrounding properties.

8.12pm Meeting adjourned to allow members of the public to answer questions regarding the hedge. 8.15pm the meeting reconvened.

Members considered the three dormer windows to the side would overlook and invade the privacy of neighbouring properties and the building would be too close to the narrow road which served surrounding properties. With one declared interest, councillors voted 6:0 against the application and requested should officers be minded to approve the application that it is called in to the full planning committee.

IJ said public speaking at Planning Meetings will be allowed after October's meeting. This will apply where a petition has been received from at least 10 people supporting or objecting to a current application and the Council has invited one person to speak on behalf of the petitioners.

Planning permissions (the following were read out at the end of the meeting).

RR/2016/912/P - 4 Royal Oak Close. Remove existing fencing and replace with Venetian style fencing in same location.

RR/2016/1482/P - The Old Rectory, Stoddards Lane. Erection of a double garage

RR/2016/1187/P and RR/2016/1188/L - Hayes Farm, Hayes Lane. Extension and alterations including replacement bay window, ground floor extension and minor internal alterations to the ground and first floor to provide new bathroom and laundry facilities. Alterations to dormer windows and repair/alterations to existing dilapidated windows. Demolition of tank room.

RR/2016/1664/P - Theatre Barn, Whitebread Lane. Installation of 2no. windows in west gable end and 2no. roof lights. Installation of full height glazing to first floor north elevation.

RR/20161885/L – 3 Forge Cottages, Main Street. Removal of existing single storey rear extension and garage and erection of a single storey extension.

5 **Matters arising:**

- a **BBP** – Update/progress. With people on holiday a report had not been submitted.
- b **Playground equipment** - suggestions regarding funding. Councillors discussed possibilities of replacing some of the equipment, but they did not want to incur unnecessary costs if that equipment would be in the wrong place or redundant when the playground is eventually replaced. The Clerk will approach suppliers and ask their opinion on the best way forward. **Clerk.**
- c **Dog bin for recreation ground** – progress. Ordered and should be delivered within 10 days.
- d **Complaints** – dogs on the recreation ground. Members discussed ways of stopping dogs being on the field. The few dog walkers who do not clear up after their dogs have fouled on the field present serious health hazards, especially to children rolling or putting their hands on the ground, and dogs running loose frightens many people, especially children. Councillors discussed approaching RDC to arrange to have an enforceable penalty sign erected advising of the cost of the fine to dog walkers. The fine would also apply to dog walkers using the public footpath along the side of the field if they allowed their dogs to go onto the field. Members of the public could report names and addresses of those people seen not to be complying with the sign, or take photos and send them to RDC. Clerk to contact Richard Parker-Harding at RDC for advice/action. **Clerk.**
- e **Fallen oak tree branch - footpath Buddens Green** – how it has been dealt with. The large broken branch was in danger of falling and required urgent removal. The Clerk had approached more than three companies for quotes, but only one company was free to attend, Atom Tree Surgery, who removed the branch the following day at a cost of £250 + VAT.
- f **Payment for internal audit – years 2014/15 and 2015/16.** Auditor, Richard Brattle's reply. Mr Brattle had replied he was happy for a donation to be made to the village school. Councillors resolved to make a donation of £200 to Beckley School and asked for their grateful appreciation to be expressed to Mr Brattle. **TL/Clerk.**

6 **Making donations to village organisations.** Discuss criteria on how these may be made. The Clerk said the PC has a Grants and Donations policy with details which should be applied when considering a

request. She said when setting the precept the budget for donations is usually based on the previous year's figures. MRO said he did not feel there should be a budget set for donations. The policy is on the website and the Clerk said she would forward a copy to members. **Clerk.**

- 7 **Beckley & Peasmarsh PCC** - consider a request for a donation (previous years £250). Clerk advised monies which had been given to the PCC in recent years was for help towards the cost of ground maintenance. Members resolved to pay £250 to the PCC towards ground maintenance costs. **Clerk.**
- 8 **ESCC- verge cutting** – identify verges which may be of particular importance to wildlife and report to ESCC. No requests from residents had been received after they were informed of the plan at the Parish Assembly. The Clerk suggested members sent to her details of which verges they would like to have dedicated as wildlife verges. **All members.**
- 9 **Village sign clean up - Sunday 21st August** – how it went (DEO). Much work was done around the village in cleaning signs, noting those in need of attention and cutting back foliage covering some signs, and some passing appreciative villagers awarded workers with a 'toot'.
- 10 **Fingerposts** – those found to be in need of repair or painting. This item is reported on above.
- 11 **Tree inspections** for insurance purposes – can PC owned trees be produced on a plan to enable quotes to be given for a tree inspection. Only three of the companies contacted have responded to a request to quote. One company was taken on a walk round to show all the trees, but has yet to quote; two others have requested a plan showing where all the trees are. Clerk to follow up. **Clerk.**
- 12 **Chairman's meeting with Huw Merriman, MP**, on Friday 12 August following complaint by resident on speeding vehicles in Beckley. Also attended by Peasmarsh Speedwatch CB reported Mr Merriman was very supportive of the PC's request to try to get improvements to the speed limit in the village. He was asked to follow up his suggestion to have rumble strips placed to monitor speeds and if numbers are sufficient a speed camera van will attend. The Clerk reported Northiam PC had asked if, along with Peasmarsh, the PC would be interested in a 1/3rd share of a mobile sign which would flash up motorists' speeds. Members preferred to await the outcome of the request for rumble strips. **Clerk.**
- 13 **Request by villager to put a BBQ on the Jubilee Field.** Materials and labour will be donated. Members discussed the request, but felt with the restrictive H&S issues it would not be in the PC's interests. People could use their own BBQ's for which the PC would not be responsible.
- 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 (hall hire 6 & 20 Jly)		20.10	T Jordan Ltd – Buddens Green extra work	35.00	210.00
Mrs M Lenton		40.00	Cuts 2/16/30 Jly 8/27 Aug (3x£75)	45.00	270.00
Admin costs		382.17	Cuts 8/27 Aug (2x£75)	30.00	180.00
HMRC - tax		302.20	Atom Tree Surgery – remove oak tree	50.00	300.00
RoSPA		88.20	branch on footpath at Buddens Green.		

Total payments in September 2016 - £1792.67.

Proposed by DEO and seconded by MRO members resolved to approve the accounts for payment.

- 15 **Public Questions** – not to exceed 15 minutes.
 - A member of the public said public footpaths are a material consideration when looking at planning applications and Beckley's footpaths offer ideal opportunities to view many properties.
 - Ms Howse said if equipment is to be hired out or loaned then it must be recorded for insurance purposes. It was also noted that in these cases electrical equipment must have special safety checks carried out on them. After discussion members decided that due to restrictive measures laid down by H&S the PC's projector should not be loaned out and, with regret, withdrew their earlier permission for it to be used by the Pony Club.
 - SE asked if the PC's website could be re-vamped. Clerk will liaise with Dominic Eldred-Earl. **Clerk.**
- 16 **Matters** councillors would like to be considered as an agenda item for the next meeting.
Date of the next Parish Council meeting Wednesday 12 October 2016.
The meeting closed at 9.16pm.