

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Beckley Village Centre on WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 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, Mike Rowe (MRO) and County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies (AD).

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

Address by Jennifer Branson and Jason Thorpe who are Beckley Parish's Local Footpath Secretaries, newly appointed by The Ramblers. Ms Branson said over a period of time she and Mr Thorpe would be walking Beckley's footpaths and sending ESCC reports of areas where they found problems. Several areas had already been reported to ESCC and a copy sent to the Parish Clerk. They said footpaths which ran through properties had proved to be problematical, but they would be working with property owners to correct these. Mr Bernard Baverstock had sent the Clerk his files on the book he had produced in 2015 which listed every footpath, stile and bridge in Beckley. He said all footpaths were numbered from 1-39, but there did not appear to be a footpath 4. The Clerk said she would forward the files to the new secretaries.

Speedwatch Andrew Seymour, a resident, reported on the number of vehicles that had been clocked exceeding the 30mph limit with a large number travelling in excess of 50mph. Letters had been sent to motorists and fines of £75 can be imposed on repeatedly speeding motorists. He urged the PC to purchase five signs which could be erected at strategic points on roads in the village warning drivers of the speed limit.

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.

Report from the County Councillors. New opening times for libraries commence 28 November. Reduced hours will help towards the £2M savings libraries have to make. ●To encourage more people to consider a major career change into teaching ESCC has launched the "Find your Spark" campaign. For those with a degree, training in a school (teaching and attending university at the same time) can be completed within a year. Bursaries between £3000-£30,000 are available or you can earn a salary as you qualify. See www.eastsussex.gov.uk/teach. ●Commencing 14 November 16-18 year olds can start the DV8 internship programme leading to an NCFE Employability Award. Course includes Maths/English GCSE and students work with local firms. It pays £10 per day plus bursary support for some extra costs. www.dv8sussex.com/paid-internship-programme.

Reports from Parish Councillors.

DEO reported the bin at the Rose & Crown will be removed, the Bixley Lane sign has been replaced and overgrown hedges she reported to ESCC have been attended to.

The PC meeting commenced at 7.55pm.

- 1 **Apologies** had been received from District Cllrs Jenkins and Mooney.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** To receive any disclosures under the Council's Code of Conduct. None made.
- 3 **Minutes** of the PC meeting held on 12 October 2016. These were proposed as a true record of the meeting by MRO and seconded by DEO and were signed by CB.
- 4 **Planning** – to consider any planning applications received from RDC and other planning matters.
RR/2016/2568/P - The Warehouse, Stoddards Lane. Demolition of existing dwelling and warehouse. Erection of new dwelling and change of use in part from B8 to residential. Clerk said this number was not for this property but related to another property in Stoddards Lane. This had only come to light today and she would ask RDC to clarify. Without the correct information councillors were unable to make decisions on these applications and **CB called for a planning meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16 November** when the two applications would be discussed.
RR/2016/2626/P and RR/2016/2627/L - Baytree Cottage, Northiam Road. Replacement of one wooden window, replacement of one wooden garden gate and re-build 2m section of damaged garden wall. After discussion councillors supported the application 7:0.

5 **Matters arising:**

- a **BBP and playground equipment** – report following meetings with suppliers. Reports, recommendations and prices for repair and/or renew had been received from two suppliers and MRO put these on the table for members to peruse. Two councillors were meeting with a third supplier on 10 November. MRO suggested when a third report was available a working party of councillors be set up to discuss the best ways forward. **December's agenda.**
- b **Tree inspections** for insurance purposes – update. Clerk reported without a map of every tree owned by the PC the companies she had approached were unable to carry out a survey. Discussions followed and the meeting was halted for four minutes whilst members of the public voiced their ideas. The Clerk was asked to contact neighbouring councils to find out what they had done and also to approach Zara & Co to see if they could produce a map. **Clerk.**
- c **BPC website** – re-vamp request – SE had downloaded details from companies who have set up sites for parish councils. Before the PC makes any changes CB will approach Dominic Eldred-Earl who runs the PC's site and ask what extras we can have with it. **CB.**
- d **313 bus service** – results of survey carried out by Members on numbers of Beckley residents using the additional service and consider should the PC fund a further six months at £632.50 total. Members agreed (7:0), particularly with the winter months ahead, if Northiam and Peasmarsch continue their support Beckley should fund the service for another six months to April 2017. By that time more detailed figures should be available. **Clerk to inform Northiam and Peasmarsch.**
- 6 **British Legion** – Cost of wreath - £17.50 – Clerk advised she had been contacted by Mr Mike Hancock who said he had had a wreath made for the PC. Members agreed the payment to the British Legion and CB will lay the wreath. **Clerk – December.**
- 7 **Parking on land adjacent to the school** – should permission be granted/how and to whom? CB said the land had been acquired in 1943 and was specifically for the exercise and recreation of parishioners. The PC is able to frame bye-laws relating to the land. Members discussed the legalities and responsibilities and agreed for the present time parking on the piece of land should be allowed on a first come first serve basis for people on school business. The Clerk advised the PC should inspect the land at intervals to ensure it is fit for purpose. She was asked to inform the school of the proposed arrangements. **Clerk.**
- 8 **Village Award** – agree how it is to be advertised. Villagers will be invited to nominate a deserving party and submit their nomination to the PC by a certain date. Forms will be made available through various sources. A group of seven villagers will be picked to select the winner and this will be announced at the Village Assembly in May. CB will circulate members with suggested wording to be agreed at the December meeting then this will be advertised on the PC website, in the Rose and Crown, the Village Centre, noticeboards, the Church Magazine and the doctor's surgery in Northiam.
- 9 **Precept – budget for 2017/18.** Consider where monies should be spent and any suggestions received from residents. Members had received the 2015/16 accounts and the current year to date. No ideas had been received from residents. Discussions followed on current and future spending. DEO proposed and SE seconded the precept should remain at £21,000. 7:0 in favour – carried.
- 10 **Bank reconciliation July – Sept 2016** – for approval. Clerk said included in the figures was £599.10 from the Reserve Account, which was money left over from various village events from past years and which could be used for future village events. MRO proposed and SE seconded the figures – carried 7:0.
- 11 **Accounts** – to consider and approve accounts submitted for payment. *Amounts over £100 show reclaimable VAT where applicable.*

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH (room hire 14.9.16)		12.00	Admin costs		£650.00
Mrs M Lenton		35.00	T Jordan Ltd – grass cutting 10/30 Oct	30.00	180.00

MRO proposed and TL seconded the accounts for payment – agreed.

12 **Public Questions** – not to exceed 15 minutes.

Ms Howse said in addition to the £599.10 held by the PC for village events there was approximately £100 in the Village Hall accounts also for village events. Members noted this for future.

The Local Plan goes out for consultation in December and members agreed the information be advertised. **Clerk.**

13 **Date of the next meeting** – Wednesday, 14 December 2016 at 7.30pm. The meeting closed at 9.03pm.