

## BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Beckley Village Centre  
on WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 2017 at 7.30pm

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**PRESENT:** Councillors Christopher Broadbent (CB) Chairman, Mrs Deborah Ongley (DEO) Vice Chairman, Mrs Sue Evans (SE), Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) and Mike Rowe (MRO), and District Cllrs Ian Jenkins (IJ) and Martin Mooney (MM).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk Mrs V Ades and 15 members of the public.

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**Address by Mr Simon Thurston, Head of Beckley C of E School.** Mr Thurston said in September 2016, and after 30 years in teaching, he was appointed Head of Beckley School. He felt it was a fantastic school and praised his staff, children and parents and carers. He thanked the PC for its gift of £200 (*internal auditing fees 2015 and 2016 which the auditor waived and asked to be used to benefit an area in Beckley*) which the children had chosen to spend on equipment to enhance their outdoor play and learning area. He expressed concerns about fencing on the PC field used by the school which does not come up to school security standards and asked if the PC would be willing to explore with him the possibility of security fencing. CB said there was a covenant on that land making it an amenity to residents, but **asked for two councillors to volunteer to hold discussions with Mr Thurston.**

**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.

A number of residents objected to the PC's decision to support planning application **RR/2011/1617/P** - 2 Great Knelle Cottage, Whitebread Lane - domestic zero carbon renewable energy system incorporating solar panels and micro wind turbines for an off grid cottage and said they had not been made aware of the application. CB said notification was on the RDC website, the PC's February agenda posted on the PC website, and on noticeboards in the village. IJ said a pink notice had been attached at the property also. IJ said he had noted the complaints and if the planners were mindful to support the application he would ask for it to be called to the full planning committee in April when he would express their concerns. If residents wished to form a group of 10+ people and send their objections to RDC before the April planning committee meeting, they could elect a representative to speak for them.

**8.00pm** The Chairman called an end to public questions.

**Reports from:**

**County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies** (absent) report attached.

**District Councillors.** IJ's report is attached. He added RDC has allocated £50,000 for coastguard duties following the deaths of seven people on the beach at Camber last year.

**MM** said Rother's council tax had increased by 5% equating to approximately 6p per week on a band D property. By 2020 government funding on council tax will cease and will have to be made up from business rates.

**Reports from Parish Councillors:-**

**RP:** A resident had reported bikers riding on footpaths. Woodchip was needed on the play area. Clerk would order three bags. Dog owners - at the weekend a dog was poisoned at Rye Salts and later died. **Clerk.**

**8.07pm - PC meeting commenced**

1. **Apologies** had been received from County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies.
2. **Declarations of interest.** To receive any disclosures under the Council's Code of Conduct.
3. **Minutes** of the PC meeting held on 8 February 2017. Amendment – change 2025 to 2028, 4<sup>th</sup> line under Chairman's welcome. The minutes were then agreed as accurate and signed by CB.

4. **DASA** – CB confirmed the consultation process is closed. DEO was not alone in saying she felt the DC on-line questionnaire was not an easy to complete and she felt residents may have been put off sending in their comments. **IJ noted.**

5. **Planning** – to consider any planning applications received from RDC and other planning matters.  
**RR/2017/393/P DEL - The Lanterns, Main Street.** Proposed two storey side and single storey rear extensions with internal alterations. Comments included the extension appeared extremely large despite there being no side windows overlooking the neighbouring property. **Members supported the application 4:2 and one abstention.**

**RR/2017/470/FN DEL - Escheatlands Cottage, Furnace Lane.** Proposed agricultural building for storage of machinery and hay. Cllrs felt the building was hidden from view and **supported the application 7:0.**

**Permissions:-**

**RR/2016/3195/P - 6 Oakhill Cottages, Peasmarsh Road** – erection of replacement dwelling.

**PP/2016/3117/O - 2 Gloucester Farm Cottages, Whitbread Lane** - insertion of window to west elevation. Upgrading of material internally to be suitable for habitable.

**Enforcement – Land at Northlands Farm, Beckley. Breach of planning control – operational development.** Immediately cease building works. Remove caravan and associated domestic materials, remove hardcore and all other building materials and materials accumulated as a result by 30 April 2017 and return land to its original state by 31 November 2017. CB said RDC had taken robust action and served two legally binding enforcement notices on the owners. Building work had ceased immediately and building machinery had been removed from the land. IJ said a planning application had since been received and the PC would be notified shortly.

**8.36pm. Meeting halted to allow members of the public to speak.** Concerns were expressed as to what use the new owners intended for the land and also the use of some of the land which had been sold separately. CB felt most of it was farmland and there would be a holding number if it was actually registered as a farm.

**8.48 IJ left the meeting and the meeting reconvened.**

6. **Review** – year end financial position. Members had received the draft accounts 2016/17. Balance in the current account as of today is approximately £34,000.

7. **Matters Arising:-**

a **Playground equipment** – report and recommendations from the team and PC to consider request for additional £5K funding (total £15K). LD gave a list of suggested playground equipment totalling approximately £39,000. Members **voted 7:0 to advance a further £5K** for the project making a total of £15K. Fund matching would be sought from RDC and individual companies would be approached for donations of items of equipment making up the balance of £9000. The playground area will remain where it is and a footpath to it will be discussed at a later date. LD will go back to the three companies whose equipment has been selected and ask their best prices. **LD.**

b **Tree inspections** for insurance purposes – on hold.

c **PC website** – report on progress. As discussed at previous meetings SE suggested the PC proceed with the Netwise Training Ltd's standard package costing £449.00 for initial set up then £200 support and maintenance and £15 domain registration annually. The existing website name 'beckleyparishcouncil.co.uk' is not owned by us and councillors agreed the new name will be **beckleyparishcouncil.org.uk**. Councillors resolved to proceed with the new website. **Clerk/SE.**

d **Village Award** – The Clerk advised money for the award cannot be taken from the precept money. Members decided to shelve the plan until next year. **CB will investigate further.**

e **Groundworks** - consider quotes for the 2017 contract and appoint a contractor. Members agreed to accept the idVerde quote at £1587.09 + VAT. Clerk will contact them to inform if their work is not satisfactory after three months service the contract will be ended. **Clerk.**

8. **Speedwatch** – February results – 70 vehicles have been reported speeding.

9. **Consider request from Air Ambulance** (Kent/Sussex/Surrey) for £250 towards ongoing costs of providing life-saving service in our area. Members voted 7:0 in favour to donate £250.00. **Clerk.**

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

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

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
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BVH - PC 11 Jan £12 Public Consultations 14/21 Jan £10		22.00	Royal Brit Legion Poppy Appeal (in memory of R Juden)		100.00
Mrs M Lenton bin emptying		40.00	Village Hall - donation		500.00
Admin costs		337.40	D Pain -replacement bench near church		80.00
HMRC		312.60	Tim Jordan - final		45.00
ESCC additional 313 bus run to May 2017	Nil	1265.00	SSALC – planning training MRO		48.00
RDC additional dog bin emptying		37.10			

RP proposed and LD seconded the accounts be paid.

11. **Matters** councillors would like to have considered as an agenda item for the next meeting.

12 **Date of the next Parish Council meeting** - Wednesday 12 April 2017.

**Public questions:**

The PC was asked if it had backed plans which a resident had laid out on a table at the PC meeting on 8 February. The plans were for a proposed development on a field he owned. Members were surprised to hear this; being at the top of the hall they had no idea plans had been placed on a table at the entrance. They said this did not have the endorsement of the PC, played no formal part at the PC meeting, and was entirely an initiative on the part of the resident.