

# BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held at Beckley Village Centre  
on WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2016 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Christopher Broadbent (CB) Chairman, Mrs Lauren Dobson (LD), Mrs Sue Evans (SE), Mrs Rebecca Parsons (RP), Mike Rowe (MRO) and District Cllrs. Ian Jenkins (IJ) and Martin Mooney (MM).

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

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**Sergeant Dave Townsend** (Rye Police Station) explained the new neighbourhood policing structure. Hastings & Rother police forces will be joined together with approximately 6/7 officers in Battle, who deal with Rother, and 12 officers in Hastings. There will be drastic reductions in PCSO's. Beckley will lose its PCSO and all PCSO's must reapply for their jobs. Daily meetings will decide on which areas PCSO's will be deployed to. Policing will be prioritised on threat, risk etc. All burglaries at domestic dwellings will be attended, but not at non-domestic premises – sheds, garages etc. unless forensic evidence has been left. Within the Commissioner's budget 100 new, uniform officers will be recruited and deployed across the area.

**Public Questions** – to allow questions from the public for a period not exceeding 15 minutes.

**Q.** Where does the PC stand on the 20 houses to be built in Beckley as mentioned in the Core Strategy?

**A.** CB said the subject was on the agenda and would be discussed later, but Peasmarch, Northiam and Beckley PC's had met with officers from RDC to discuss the idea of a joint Neighbourhood Plan. The three villagers have different priorities of what they want to preserve in their villages. Beckley values areas where the countryside comes into the village. More questions were asked and comments made about where the 20 houses would be built, how green areas would be viewed, how villagers would be consulted and the criteria on how planning decisions are viewed.

**Reports from District Councillors:-** IJ said Beckley School had applied for funding from the Community Grants Scheme towards costs to put on celebrations of 1066 and he congratulated their involvement forward thinking. Community Investment Levy (CIL) will be made on land which is developed and parishes will receive 15% of receipts from developers building homes or 25% from receipts for parishes which have a Neighbourhood Plan.

**Reports from Parish Councillors:-**

Along with representatives from other local councils CB had attended a meeting at the home of County Cllr Ms Davies to discuss possible partnerships with other local parishes when localism takes effect. He had met with Mr Hew Merriman when the application on the development of land to the west of Buddens Green was discussed and RDC's planners had met with members from Northiam, Peasmarch and Beckley PC's and discussed housing allocations.

BB said a coin to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday had been sent to him in error. This was meant for the PC. He would forward this to CB. Coins cost £1.99p each and appear to be for school children.

**PC meeting commenced at 8pm.**

- 1 **Apologies** had been received from Cllrs Mrs D Ongley and Mrs T Langmead and CC Ms A Davies.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** To receive any disclosures under the Council's Code of Conduct.
- 3 **Minutes** of the PC meeting held on 10 February 2016. Amendments: Questions pg.1 'PPC' should be 'PCC' and pg.3 item 9 remove '*down to the river*'. The minutes were then confirmed as correct and signed by CB. Minutes of an extraordinary meeting held on 19 February 2016 were agreed as correct and signed by CB.
- 4 **Planning** – to consider any planning applications received from RDC and other planning matters.  
**RR/2016/167/P - Tillingham, Furnace Lane.** First floor extension including enclosure of car port and 3 bay oak framed car shelter/garage. Councillors discussed various footpaths which run close to the land and footpath 23 which runs along the valley. The dwelling is very visible being on high ground. Councillors supported the application 4:1.  
**RR/2016/464/L - Lyndale Cottage, Main Street.** Removal of canopy and erection of porch to west elevation. Replacement first floor window to west elevation. Councillors unanimously supported the application 5:0.

### Planning consents:

**RR/2015/3029/L Two Hovens Cottage, Peasmarsh Road.** Erection of partition wall at first floor. Replacement of WC, shower and wash basin with new suite. Installation of shower and repairs to roof.

**RR/2015/2660/L – Knelle Dower, Rye Road.** Erection of a two storey extension to form dining/family room with bedroom and bathroom above.

**RR/2014/1639/P - Oak Cottage, Main Street, Beckley.** A 30m x 20m horse exercise area constructed in an existing horse paddock.

**Withdrawn: -RR/2015/3120/P - Buddens Green - Land west of Main Street, Beckley.** Erection of 30 dwellings (24 houses, 6 flats) with associated access road and parking spaces.

### Planning Refusals:

**RR/2015/3065/P - Apple Orchard, Horseshoe Lane.** Proposed replacement of abandoned bungalow with single storey semi-underground dwelling of similar size.

**RR/2015/2471/P - Beckley Motors, Main Street.** Proposed demolition of petrol service station, showroom, shop, motor workshop and first floor flat and erection of one detached dwelling and garage and one pair of semi-detached dwellings with associated parking and landscaping.

### Enforcement Notice:

**Land at 3 Stoddards Farm Cottages, Stoddards Lane.** Apparent breach of planning control. Open storage of industrial machinery, plant and other industrial items is out of keeping with the residential character of the site and is causing harm to local amenity and the local landscape within the High Weald AONB contrary to policies OSS4 (ii) and (iii) and EN1 of the Rother Local Plan; Core Strategy adopted 29 September 2014.

## 5 Matters arising:

- a **BBP – Update – no report.** Approve the PC's contribution of £390 towards cost of M.J. Zara & Associates Ltd survey on the Jubilee Field will come from the PC precept not from the ring fenced £10,000 capital sum reserved for the BBP. MRO asked what the logic of the £10,000 was. CB said it was for capital expenditure, new equipment, a footpath etc and was not for on-going work. RP proposed and LD seconded the motion - carried unanimously 5:0.
- b **Bus services in Beckley –**Clerk reported ESCC was preparing to advertise the additional 313 morning bus services between Northiam and Rye. CB said use of the service would be monitored and figures submitted to us after the end of the 6-month period. The PC will put out its own advertising as soon as we hear from ESCC.
- c **Neighbourhood Plan (NP) -** best way forward following meeting with RDC on 23.2.16. Peasmarsh, Northiam and Beckley PC's met with officers from RDC to discuss details and requirements of a Neighbourhood Plan. CB said it has been difficult over the last few years raising interest from villagers to form a sufficient committee to produce a NP. A plan costs around £10,000/£25,000 to produce and requires 8/10 volunteers to each work 7 hours a week over an 18+ month period. Instead, the PC could negotiate directly with RDC's planning team. Councillors approved a negotiating team and MRO agreed he would lead the team assisted by, on a rotating basis, councillors with the most experience of living in the village. RP agreed to assist first. The team would consult with villagers on where they felt the 20 houses should be built and MRO would take the findings to RDC for negotiation and consultation. CB would assist, when requested.
- d **Footpath at the Glebe Field –** any response from the PCC re work on the field. It was understood drainage work had taken place which was now complete.
- e **Verges –** ESCC's response regarding restricting cutting certain verges to allow wild flowers to grow and their suggestion for the PC to take over this responsibility. ESCC had misunderstood the PC's request suggesting they grow different species of flowers which require little attention. ESCC is investigating and their report is awaited.

6 **Joint Village and Neighbourhood Plans Meeting** held on 23rd February 2016. Discussed above at 5c.

7 **Land Ownership –** approval to contact Land Registry to find out who owns land which runs from Beckley Woods down to the east of Buddens Green where footpath 18 crosses. A small charge will be incurred. Councillors felt as the complaint was about the footpath being unwalkable due to its muddy condition ESCC should be asked to make it good. **Clerk –report to ESCC.**

8 **Purchase of office machinery to comply with the Transparency Code –**costs to be covered by funding raised by SSALC. **Clerk to look at machinery and costs.**

- 9 **Approve subscription** £17.00 to the Local Council Review (LCR) Magazine for 2016/17. Agreed.
- 10 **Opt in to the NALC Sector Led Body Audit Procurement** for a 5-year period from 1 April 2017 or opt out before 31.3.16. Councillors agreed not to opt out, but MRO and the Clerk would check the details.
- 11 **Grass cutting contract 2016** – discuss and approve best quote received. Three quotes had been received:  
- Tim Jordan Ltd £1820; John O'Conner Ltd £2500 and Kemp & Catt £2525 - all + VAT. The PC unanimously agreed to accept the quote from Tim Jordan Ltd for £1820 + VAT. **Clerk to confirm.**
- 12 **Correspondence** – sent and received.  
29.2.16 – SSALC - Three Southern Counties Devolution Bid – meeting in Crawley 11 March 2015.  
29.2.16 – ESCC - Flood Risk Management Team – questionnaire.
- 13 **Accounts** – to consider and approve accounts submitted for payment. Clerk advised Admin costs should read £430.30. Councillors agreed the amendment.

BVH (hall hire 13.1.16)	£14.60	SSALC Ltd – Good Cllrs Guide book	£3.20
Mrs M Lenton	£40.00	Double E Business-website hosting & maintenance April 2016-17	£420.00
Admin costs	£407.30		
HMRC tax and NI	£206.34		

MRO proposed and RP seconded the accounts for payment.

Balance in NatWest current account as of 25 February 2016 - £31,623.10.

- 14 **Public Questions** – not to exceed 15 minutes.  
Mr Bowler asked whether any land could be put forward or considered for development, phrasing it as 'open season' on land. The answer was that it was not quite open season but we had to be open minded in what options there are to accommodate the requirement for the additional 20 homes.
- 15 **Matters** councillors would like to be considered as an agenda item for the next meeting.

**Date of the next Parish Council meeting** 13 April 2016.

Meeting closed at 8.56pm.