

# BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council meeting held at Beckley Village Centre  
on WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL 2016 at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Christopher Broadbent (CB) Chairman, Mrs Lauren Dobson (LD), Mrs Sue Evans (SE), Mrs Tina Langmead, Mrs Deborah Ongley (DEO) Vice-Chair, County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies (AD) and District Cllrs. Ian Jenkins (IJ) and Martin Mooney (MM).

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

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

**Reports from County and District Councillors.**

**AD** - In 2015 a business partnership was set up to bring together the finances of ESCC and Surrey CC. This has saved, and will continue to save, money in the future.

The legal operations of Brighton & Hove and East and West Sussex CC have been merged and are called 'Orbis Public Law'. In addition to dealing with county councils it will work for other public voluntary and charitable bodies.

There has been a grant for higher education funding for England, together with money from County Hall, aimed to encourage students to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics– the STEM subjects. East Sussex STEM project is open to over 1000 young people offering a range of school activity days etc and university lectures and network events for teachers and industry professionals. The initiative starts in April and May.

About half of all engineering jobs in East Sussex remain unfilled due to a lack of locally based qualified and experienced work force. 178 county schools and colleges have taken advantage of a £10,000 health improvement grant from the County Public Health dept. to help schools improve the health of young people. Grass cutting season has commenced with the new contractor Costain CH2M.

**IJ** – Boundary Commission draft recommendations on suggested proposals put forward for boundary electoral/ward arrangements has been received. Northiam and Beckley parishes have been joined with Bodiam parish and they will not form part of Rye. Not all parishes are affected. On devolution of assets Northiam has a car park and all parishes with assets such as this District would like to devolve to those areas. A21 project is moving forward and the police and fire brigade are carrying out assessments. Electrification of the Bexhill to Ashford train line is looking expensive and modifications to the trains are being looked into.

**MM** said many years ago recycling of rubbish was set at 50%. This has not increased over the years due to many people not putting recycling rubbish into the correct bin. Some councillors commented the bin system was confusing, especially for the elderly, and they felt RDC should arrange to have labels placed on the bins detailing what rubbish should go in each. This should increase the recycling percentage.

*7.45pm - IJ left the meeting.*

**Reports from Parish Councillors:**

**DEO** said various societies have enquired about hiring the PC's projector. CB said the projector belongs to the village and any village organisations using the centre may borrow the projector FOC.

**TL** enquired who owned a waste bin opposite the Rose and Crown and reported a broken bench nearby. CB would ask for information at the pub. A road sign nearby has been broken and the Clerk has reported it to ESCC. **CB.**

**SE** enquired who is responsible for cleaning road signs around the village. Clerk said ESCC no longer clean these and villagers should set up a voluntary working party. Some members said they would clean those closest to their homes and the item would go on the Village Assembly agenda. Councillors would arrange this between themselves.

**All councillors.**

**The PC meeting commenced at 7.50pm.**

- 1 **Apologies** .had been received from MRO and RP.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** To receive any disclosures under the Council's Code of Conduct. None declared.
- 3 **Minutes** of the PC meeting held on 9 March 2016. These were agreed as accurate and signed by CB.
- 4 **Planning** – to consider any planning applications received from RDC and other planning matters.

**RR/2016/510/P - The Orchards, Main Street.** Demolition and removal of existing timber and glass lean to and replacement with conservatory. Alteration to fenestration of chalet bungalow with internal alterations. Cllrs voted unanimously to support the application (5:0).

**RR/2016/516/P - Little Gate Farm, Horseshoe Lane.** Variation of condition 2 of planning permission RR/2014/2111/P. (Revised design and siting). Cllrs voted unanimously to support the application (5:0)

**Planning permissions:**

**RR/2016/192/P-Yew Park Cottage.** Replace an existing conservatory with an extended kitchen/utility room.

**Planning Refusals:**

**RR/2015/3097/P-The Old Rectory,** Stoddards Lane. Erection of double garage on land accessed from Rectory Lane.

**RR/2016/116/O-Methershamb Manor, Hobbs Lane.** Installation of steel canopy in fireplace and lining system in chimney. Works to flue.

**Appeal Decision – Dismissed - APP/U1430/WQ/15/3135472. Combe Lodge, Main Street.** Demolition of existing Colt bungalow and erection of three terraced cottages with parking.

**5 Matters arising:**

- a **BBP** – Update. ***CB closed the meeting at 8pm to allow Mr Maynard to give a report.*** Survey had been carried out on the Jubilee Field only and a plan was shown. The Better Beckley Group proposed the following:- a) It was felt not viable to have two football pitches due to the drainage on the field and maintenance costs for the pitches. Beckley Rangers had been approached and they would be unable to assist with maintenance costs. b) Move the playground close to the entrance of the field with Main Street. c) Have a multi court near to the existing playground to accommodate 5-a-side, tennis and one more. d) Use the tennis courts for car parking. e) A plan of how the field should be laid out was required and Mr Maynard suggested we ask if there is anybody in the village who could do this. f) Mr Maynard had been given a second-hand tennis net and posts and he offered to install these. A risk assessment of the courts should be carried out then a notice could be put on the courts advising villagers they could use them for playing tennis FOC. ***The meeting recommenced at 8.08pm.***

Councillors agreed Mr Maynard could install the tennis posts and net and somebody would carry out the risk assessment. Mr Maynard would arrange for notices to be put up advising villagers they could use the courts. CB would give a talk at the Parish Assembly about the BBP proposals. **CB.**

- b **Bus services in Beckley** – information from Neil Maguire, ESCC and agree advertising by the PC. The additional services would commence on 23 May. Posters would be displayed in the village and announcements made in Village Voice and on the websites giving details of the additional services.
- c **Neighbourhood Plan** – A Plan will not be produced by the Parish. CB and MRO had met with officers at RDC on 17 March when it was agreed the PC would consult directly with RDC over where the 20 houses will be built. A team will be created by the PC; lead by MRO and team members will change regularly to gain the best and widest views on areas for development. SE felt RDC should be tackled on accepting windfall and infill homes and houses should be in small clusters. She felt Beckley was too small an area to have large developments.
- d **Verges** – ESCC will allow the PC to designate its own wild flower verges. These would have markers placed on them for easy identification. PC felt residents should be invited at the Parish Assembly to make recommendations for verges which they felt should be designated.

**6 Consider extending grass contract** with Tim Jordan Ltd from 12 months to 36 months at a fixed price of £1820 + VAT pa. Councillors resolved not to extend the 12 month contract at present.

**7 2015/16 Financial Review.** The Clerk produced the 2014-15 accounts and the draft 2015-16 accounts for comparison and councillors were satisfied with the details of where monies had been spent. Clerk would circulate the 2015-16 accounts when completed. **Clerk.**

**8 Insurance** – agree areas for cover (renewal due June 2016). It was felt the current cover was adequate.

**9 Problems on land at Beckley School.**

- i. Teacher's request to make good the ground of the parking area. A letter (2015) from the school head was referred to in which she reported various reasons for staff not wishing to use the car park. In view of this it was resolved not to spend electors' money on repairs. TL said the request was from somebody who worked at the school, but was not a school staff member. **Clerk to reply.**

- ii. Repair required to gate post leading to parking area. Clerk was asked to clarify which gate required a repair. **Clerk.**
  - iii. Flooding in the culvert - method to make good. It was felt this was a job for a professional company. SE said she would investigate. **SE.**
- 10 **Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday commemorative coin.** TL was asked to find out if the school proposed to mark the occasion. If they wanted to present a coin to pupils the PC would consider making a donation. **TL.**
- 11 **Donation request** from the Rother Rural Trust. MM said he did not know how many Beckley residents had benefitted from the fund. Councillors felt instead of making a donation they would prefer to keep the money to spend on a needy resident or a needy cause in the village.
- 12 **Parish Assembly** – arrange date and discuss suggestions and agenda items for meeting in May 2016. Date was set for Friday 13 May at 8pm in the Village Centre. All Beckley clubs for which contact details were available would be advised. DEO would look into means of providing food and drink. **DEO.**
- 13 **Correspondence** – sent and received. In addition to emails received and circulated:-  
 23.3.16 Notification of road closure of Kings Bank Lane 3.5.16 09.30 – 15.30.  
 30.3.15 – Notification of sale of business from Neame Designs on 1 May 2016.
- 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 10/19/23 Feb)		36.10	SALC – Local Council Review quarterly		17.00
Mrs M Lenton		50.00	ESALC/NALC 2016/17 subscription	Nil	304.64
Admin costs		650.00	JAKK fingerpost	203.20	1219.20
CSI –annual website domain charge		30.00	T Jordan Ltd (grass cutting visit 1)		90.00
M J Zara Ltd survey VAT £129.00	129.00	774.00	*Double E Business-website hosting & maintenance - Apr 2016-17	70.00	420.00

\*Cancel missing cheque and reissue to Double E Business - £420.00. Clerk reported the cheque had been located and it would not be reissued.

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

- 16 **Matters** councillors would like to be considered as an agenda item for the next meeting.

**Date of the next Parish Council meeting and Annual Meeting** - Wednesday 11 May 2016 at 7pm.

**Date of the next Parish Assembly** Friday 13 May 2016 at 8pm.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.