

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held at Beckley Village Centre on WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2016 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Christopher Broadbent (CB) Chairman, Mrs Lauren Dobson (LD), 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 six members of the public.

1. **Apologies** for absence. Cllr Mrs Evans.

Election of a chairman for the ensuing year and to receive his/her declaration of acceptance of office. Cllr Broadbent confirmed his willingness to stand and asked if anybody wished to put themselves forward or if there were any nominations. There was none. MRO proposed and TL seconded the appointment of **Cllr Broadbent as chairman** – unanimously agreed (5:0).

2. **Election of a vice-chairman for the ensuing year and to receive his/her declaration of acceptance of office.** Cllr **Mrs Ongley** confirmed her willingness to be reappointed and with no other nominations CB proposed and MRO seconded her appointment - unanimously agreed (5:0).

Declarations of Acceptance were signed by both councillors.

3. **Declarations of interests whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda.** Members are reminded that they should review their current declared interests displayed on Rother District Council's website and let the Parish Clerk know if there are any changes to what has been declared. None declared.

4. **Public Questions** – to allow questions from members of the public on matters on the agenda for a period up to 15 minutes following which members of the public may leave the meeting if they wish, but must remain silent if they stay. A further period of public question time is allowed at the end of the meeting.

Q. Where is the PC up to with the relocation of footpath 13 on the recreation ground? **A.** PC is waiting for action from ESCC who say this is not a priority and will take time. Clerk will chase it up. **Clerk.**

Q. Footpath 25, Brede to Northiam – temporary closure until April 2017 – why so long? **A.** Clerk will check. **Clerk.**

5. **Appointment of the Planning Committee.** MRO and CB will continue to be the PC's planning officers.

6. **Appointment of Parish Council Representatives and any other Executive or Advisory Committee** that the Parish Council agrees should be constituted for the coming year.

a	Parish Hall representative	LD
b	Social Secretary	DEO & RP
c	Playground inspections	RP
d	Tennis court inspections and tennis court matters	RP
e	Tree Warden	Bill Bullocke
f	RALC (Rother Association of Local Councils)	CB and MRO
g	ESALC (East Sussex Association of Local Councils)	DEO & MRO
h	Agree a schedule for meeting dates in the forthcoming year	Second Wednesday monthly
i	Agree a schedule to review policy documents. CB will look at the Code of Conduct and an Assets register will be drawn up. All other policies are in date.	CB/Clerk.

7. **Membership of External Bodies:** Review and agree annual membership of the following bodies for 2016-17. *The following are the 2015-16 rates:-*

- a **NALC/SSALC** - National Association of Local Councils & Sussex Association of Local Councils - £284.41. **Agreed.**
b Rother Association of Local Councils - £30.00. **Agreed.**
c Local Council Review - £17.00. **Agreed.**

8. **Reports from the Beckley Parish Tree Warden.** CB read out the report which included trees at Buddens Green were flourishing, but some on the recreation ground had died and others were not fairing too well. **Full report attached.**
The PC meeting commenced at 7.23pm

Reports from County and District Councillors.

County Cllr AD commented further on the new 7-year Highways Contract with Costain CH2M costing ESCC £300M. They will provide infrastructure planning, design and management services. It will be an asset managed contract and incur penalties for work not carried out etc. The 200 workforce will include 85 staff from ESCC headed up by

Roger Williams (ESCC). Contact can be made through www.eastsussexhighways.com 'Adopt a Drain' where you may report problems with drains, gullies, potholes, footpaths etc or phone 0345 6080192. There will soon be an East Sussex Community contact app.

CB said he would like to record his grateful thanks to Robin Evans in Beckley, who had dug out, cleared and made good the blocked culvert on ground at the school. All councillors expressed their appreciation.

District Cllr IJ reported RDC's proposals to allow public speaking at planning meetings. Individuals must submit to RDC what they wish to say. Contentious items had been reported in Rye Observer on land in Camber owned by RDC going to auction by Savilles with a reserve of £70,000. This has now been rejected. RDC is looking at all sites with a view to devolving.

Reports from Parish Councillors.

MRO said the flashing school sign approaching the school from the east is almost obscured by trees. **CB** said he would approach the owners of the trees and request they be cut back. **CB.**

RP asked if the warning sign for a sharp bend at Bixley Lane going up Peasmarsh Road will be replaced. **Clerk.**

DEO Two new telegraph poles at bottom of Kings Bank Lane R/H side are close to the road and could have been sited better. Hedging to R/H side where stables are being built is across the road and should be cut. Advise Clerk of address. **DEO/Clerk.**

9. **Minutes of the PC meeting held on 13 April 2016.** 2nd para AD's report – change 'all this' Public Law to 'Orbis' Public Law. The minutes were then agreed as correct and signed by **CB**.
10. **Planning** – to consider any planning applications received from RDC and other planning matters. *All plans are available for viewing on the RDC website.*

RR/2016/793/L - Beckley Methodist Church, Main Street. Variation of approved plans - internal changes (variation of conditions 2 and 4 of Listed Building Consent RR/2011/89/L). Cllrs unanimously supported the application (6:0).

RR/2016/1096/P - Rufford Place, Hobbs Lane. Proposed sand school. Cllrs unanimously supported the application (6:0).

RR/2016/1133/P - Springfields, Kings Bank Lane. Single storey rear extension. 5 councillors supported the application and one abstained feeling there was insufficient information.
11. **Matters arising:**

7.57pm meeting paused to allow Mr P Maynard to report.

 - a **BBP** – Update. The kindly donated tennis net and posts are in place and the sign is up and the court may be used free of charge by residents. Plans for the field will not include a football pitch as Beckley Rangers consider the maintenance cost of approx. £24,000pa prohibitive. Suggestions are to move the playground to the bottom of the field and use the existing playground for a multi sports area for 5 sports which will include tennis. Plans must be drawn up and then the project will go out for public consultation.
CB asked for thanks to be recorded to Dan Fellows for digging out the ground for the tennis posts.

8.04pm meeting reconvened.

 - b **New homes in the village – committee set up to negotiate with RDC – update.** **MRO** confirmed a Neighbourhood Plan had proved too costly and could not be done within the time constraints. Houses must be built by 2028 and be in clusters of 6 or more to count towards our consignment. They may be scattered across three sites or all 20 homes can be on one site. Windfall sites do not count. Information will be given to residents at the Parish Assembly on 13 May. In addition, all residents will be consulted and they should put forward their views in order for the PC to make representation to RDC. If villagers put forward their views the existing development plan is negotiable, but what the Government tells us is not.
 - c **Blocked culvert at the school.** **CB** had recorded the PC's thanks to Robin Evans at item 8.
12. **Insurance** – Agree company/raise cheque (due 1/6/16) Zurich £294.38 and AON Insurance £278.52. Councillors resolved to use Zurich Insurance and the Clerk was asked to raise a cheque.
13. **Queen's birthday** - Consider making a donation to Beckley School towards the cost of giving each child a commemorative celebration coin - £1.99 each - 125 pupils to include the playgroup. Cllrs voted unanimously (6:0) to approve a donation of £125.00 to the school to cover half the cost of a medal for each child.
14. **Parish Assembly** - Friday 13 May 2016 at 8pm - agree any final arrangements. **CB** was donating the white wine and had purchased 24 bottles of red wine from Laithwaites. Not knowing numbers of people attending made it difficult to gauge how many refreshments to provide. **DEO** said the food suppliers would raise an invoice to the PC and asked if it could be paid on the night. Cllrs agreed that **CB** would pay and claim the monies back from the PC.
15. **Approve Clerk's attendance at SALC's** Legal & Finance Day on Thursday 14th July 2016 at Lingfield Park Resort Marriott Hotel & Country Club, Racecourse Road, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6PQ. £90 + VAT. **Agreed 6:0.**
16. **Notification of RoSPA play area inspection in June.** Cost for Commercial Play Areas is £90.00 plus VAT and for Non-Commercial is £66.50 plus VAT per site (this includes up to 5 items of play equipment - anything over 5 is charged at £3.50 plus VAT per item).

17. **Correspondence** – sent and received. Email from Matthew Harper (ESCC) confirming county would be unable to do anything to prevent the flooding to footpath 18 which was due to the underground springs.
18. **Accounts** – to consider and approve accounts submitted for payment. *Recoverable VAT is shown for items over £100.*

	VAT	Total £		VAT	Total £
BVH (room hire 9.3.16)		11.00	Insurance		294.38
Mrs M Lenton-(bin emptying)		40.00	Vista Signs-tennis court -reimbursement P.Maynard		16.78
Admin costs £676.00 and postage £6.48		682.48	Mrs D Ongley (reimbursement key cutting)		7.70
Hampshire Flag Co -reimbursement V Ades		82.69	RDC - Dog Waste Bin contract	91.97	551.20

The accounts were proposed for payment by LD and seconded by MRO.

19. **Public Questions.**

Q. Regarding housing, may we have a look outside of the development line and can members of the public make recommendations?

A. IJ said there is a village boundary and a village envelope. At the present time development must be within the village envelope; you cannot apply for development outside of the envelope. RDC has the power to change boundary lines.

General discussion followed with many views and ideas expressed.

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

21. **Date of the next Parish Council meeting** Wednesday 8 June 2016.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.