

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Beckley Village Centre
on WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2018 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Sue Evans (SE) Mrs Tina Langmead (TL), Mrs Rebecca Parsons (RP) and Mike Rowe (MRO). (*Cllrs Mrs Dobson (LD) & Mrs Ongley (DEO) arrived at 8.30pm*)

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, Cllrs Ms Angharad Davies (ESCC), Ian Jenkins (IJ) and Martin Mooney (MM) (RDC) and two members of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman the Clerk announced Cllr Rowe had volunteered to take the chair. This was proposed by SE, seconded by RP and carried unanimously.

1. **Public Questions** – to allow questions (10 minutes) from members of the public following which they 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. **Names of those speaking will be recorded and reported in the minutes. There were no questions.**
2. **Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs Dobson (LD) & Mrs Ongley (DEO) who were attending the school for the New Children's September Intake meeting. They would arrive later.
3. **Declarations of interest** whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda. Interests were declared by RP in **RR/2018/1398/L** and TL in **RR/2018/1465/P** both planning applications below.
4. **Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.**
AD – report attached.
MM – report attached.
TL said £923 from monies raised at the recent Music Night had been donated to the Better Beckley Project and members were most appreciative. On the Village Fete on 30 June she said emphasis would be on the school being 200 years old and the original Village Hall which went back 100 years. Public liability insurance was in place and a road closure had been agreed and leaflets dropped into houses to advise.
MRO said the link from RDC to our website required bringing up to date (IJ). He said two planning applications, Kingswood and Six Acre Farm, where decisions were supposed to have been known in April were outstanding. IJ.
5. **To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 9.5.18.
6. The minutes were confirmed as accurate and signed by MRO.
7. **Planning – to consider any planning applications** received from RDC and any other planning matters.
RR/2018/1247/P (D) Pine Hoath, Furnace Lane. Replacement front porch – now granted.
RR/2018/1139/P (D) Knelle Wood, Methersham Lane, Erection of timber building for lock-up storage and shelter. **Members unanimously supported the application 4:0.**
RR/2018/1302/P (D) Aztec House - land adj, Main Street, Erection of two storey detached dwelling. Members discussed the application in great detail and considered the past history of previous applications. They did not feel this latest plan was much different from previous rejected plans except that the building line had been moved further back on the land to improve vehicle space in front. They observed the stream to the rear of the property had been enclosed by a culvert and it appeared that boundary had been extended to outside of the development area. They felt the plan was an over-build for the size of the land; it would not fit in with surrounding areas, it would change the street scene and obscure the open view to the rear, which looks across the country to a farm. **Members voted unanimously against supporting the application 4:0.**
RR/2018/1268/P (D) Winsford, Main Street. Single storey pitched roof extension to front elevation with a pitched roof porch. Single storey pitched roof extension to rear elevation. **Members unanimously supported the application 4:0.**
- 8.25 *Cllrs Mrs Dobson and Mrs Ongley arrived.*
RR/2018/1398/L (D) The Old Rectory, Stoddards Lane. Proposed replacement of modern windows with traditional timber french doors and side light windows. Remove existing front door and replace with new Georgian style door. Regularise the existing timber/steel beams installed over the existing basement. Relocate the access hatch and ladder to the cellar and install a mechanised lift within the modern timber floor structure in the location of the existing hatch to the cellar. (Part retrospective). *Cllr Mrs Parsons declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the room.* **Members supported the plans for the doors and windows but could not vote on the kitchen and lift plans as they felt more information was required about the look and operation of**

the lift, how it would be stored when not in use and how any water ingress into the cellar might affect the lift. *Cllr Parsons returned to the room.*

RR/2018/1465/P (D) Chestnut Cottage, Main Street. Erection of a timber fence behind existing hedgerow. *Cllr Langmead declared a personal interest.* **Members considered the appearance of the fence from the road and felt provided the hedge remained and grew to a height to obscure the fence it would not affect the street scene. However, there were concerns about the gates which they felt would not be obscured and in view of this members voted 3:0 against the application and 2 abstentions (LD/DEO).**

Permissions Granted:

RR/2018/1056/P (D) High Tor, Whitebread Lane. Ground floor infill extension to the front elevation.

RR/2018/1247/P Pine Hoath, Furnace Lane. Replacement porch.

8. Matters arising:-

- a. i **Playground equipment and funding** – team report and payment details. Funding received of £923 Music Night, Beckley, Waitrose in Hawkhurst is running a token scheme, NFU news awaited for grant for £10,000, application to Jewson's for £5000 failed. The zip wire will not be available until August, but all other equipment should be installed by 30th June. **Councillors agreed the 2nd stage installation payment (£15854.40) should be made as soon as the wire was installed and upon receipt of Eibe's invoice**
- ii **Inspection.** Clerk will arrange for the RoSPA inspection and Eibe has agreed to pay for an additional inspection once zip wire is installed.

9pm JJ left the meeting.

- b. **Bark chippings** – 4/6 bags required for the play area - Bourne Amenity. **Clerk.**
 - c. **Footpath from Main Street to play area on the Jubilee Field** – considerations regarding disposal of soil/clay from dig-out. The Clerk asked members to reconsider the quotes and compare JP Nolan's price (£6600 approx) with free materials which didn't include the removal of soil/clay against Bourne Sport (£9K) which included the removal. MRO said he felt we should approach other ground work contractors for more prices. **MRO.**
 - d. **Damage to tennis court fence** – update. No further news.
- 9. Annual Return to the external auditor for the year ended 31st March 2018** - Council is asked to approve by resolution:-
- a. **Annual Governance Statement** to review the system of internal controls and authorise signature by the Chairman and Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer. Members supported the statement unanimously (6:0) and the Chairman and Clerk/ Responsible Finance Officer signed the statement.
 - b. **Accounting Statements** - the preparation including the statement of accounts, bank reconciliation, explanation of variances, summary of receipts and payments and authorise signature by the Chairman and Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer. Members supported the statement unanimously (6:0) and the Chairman and Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer signed the statement.
- 10. Casual Vacancy** – update. The position had been advertised and applications would be considered at the July meeting.
- 11. Report on the Parish Assembly.** LD had written a report which was on the website.
- 12. Village Fete 30 June** – TL had confirmed arrangements in her report and it was resolved to place an advertisement in the School Fete programme at a cost of £40.
- 13. Footpath 13 across the Jubilee Field** – members resolved to do nothing about the re-direction order at present.
- 14. Agree new meeting dates for the PC-** it was resolved to hold meetings on the 1st Monday of the month from August.
- 15. NatWest bank mandate.** Add LD as new signatory and delete Christopher Broadbent. Papers were presented for completion.
- 16. Consider requests for donations:-** Requests had been received from Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance and Beckley & Peasmarsh PPC, but members resolved they would not consider any requests until October. Clerk will inform applicants. **Clerk.**
- 17. Speed watch** – May results. 167 vehicles caught speeding and police have ticketed some. 690 vehicles have been caught speeding in the past year and some are the same drivers.

18. **Accounts** for approval (VAT, if applicable, shown for items exceeding £100).

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH - Committee Room 1 May 2018		12.00	ldVerde	35.27	176.34 211.61
Mrs M Lenton bin emptying		45.00	Eibe Play Ltd equipment Installation - 50% 1 st stage payment	8341.65 2642.40	50049.92 15854.40
Admin costs		866.00			
M.Rowe – wine Parish Assembly		35.94			
R Parsons-food for Parish Assembly		26.97			
C Broadbent-reimbursement paints play park	17.32	103.95	RDC dog waste collection annual	145.08	725.40 870.48
K.Robertson Internal Audit 2017-18		108.60			

Clerk said the figures above in red are the total of the VAT and net figures. LD proposed and MRO seconded the payments.

Current account total at 31 May 2018 - **£84,582.93**.

Reserve account total at 31 May 2018 - **£599.37**.

19. **Date of next meeting** – July date to be advised at meeting.
20. **Matters** for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting. Consider a request sent to LD from the Seafarers UK for people to fly the Red Ensign flag from an official building.
21. **Public questions** - not to exceed 15 minutes.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

Parish Councils Report June 2018

ES County Councillor Angharad Davies - Northern Rother

I want to let everyone know that we have a new Customer Service Manager (instead of the previous Highways Liaison Officer). Her name is Sarah Slayford and she can be contacted : 01273 815372 mobile : 07342 998487 Member and Parish hotline 0345 0712715 sarah.slayford@eastsussexhighways.com

Our Highways Steward is still Isla Dacey and she has been very much in our area recently. I specifically discussed the Bodiam Road from the Primary School to Bodiam, and the state of Quickbourne Lane, Northiam. Also, the white and yellow lining in Robertsbridge.

The "get-a-grip" campaign is the latest phase of a hard-hitting campaign aimed at driving up school attendance rates in East Sussex. The campaign uses radio and bus shelter advertising and social media to highlight the detrimental impact that not attending school has on children's education. Its launch comes as new figures show that 23 parents were prosecuted in March 2018 for failing to ensure regular school attendance for their child, while one child was given a court order requiring them to improve their attendance. There is simply no excuse for taking your child out of school without a valid reason.

A new study suggests that cutting journey times by just a minute on one of the busiest transport routes in the south east could save as much as £4.5 m per year to the national economy. The Economic Connectivity Review of the South East examines the cost of congestion in a region with 7.5m residents and some of the most overcrowded road and rail routes. It calculates that slicing just 60 seconds from journeys along the main transport corridors would bring dramatic savings from increased productivity. A minute saved on the Brighton to London corridor (by rail on the Brighton mainline, or the A23 and M23 road routes) would add £4,514,367 to the value of the economy. The Economic Connectivity Review has been commissioned by Transport for the SE, the sub-national transport body which is pressing the government to oversee strategic transport in what is the country's most productive region after London. The report was published on May 8th. Transport for the SE is operating as a shadow body while it formulates a transport strategy for the region. It intends to win government approval to become a statutory body by the end of 2019. Cllr Keith Glazier, Leader of ESCC, is Chairman of Transport for the SE and he insisted that carefully planned investment in the SE transport network is vitally important for the region.

ESCC is urging people to become Foster Carers. Hundreds of foster carers across East Sussex are transforming the lives of children by offering them a safe and loving home. But with 50 children waiting for a placement at any one time, we need more foster carers to come forward. Fostering is not a job but an opportunity to make a difference to the life of a child who has not had a good start. You don't have to be a perfect person with a perfect life, anyone can be considered for fostering. You can be single, a same sex couple, young or older and retired, you can have your own children or have none. Everyone will have training with ESCC and everyone will receive encouragement and help. www.eastsussex.gov.uk/fostering OR contact the Fostering Team on 01323 464129 or text FOSTER to 80806 your help is needed!

East Sussex Music Service is a valued and much loved service. A management and administrative restructure with other efficiency measures is being proposed with closing down of the instrumental teaching service. Savings of £180,00 are needed to ensure the costs of the music service will be met by income and grant. We need to agree a way forward because the Music Service would be in deficit by approximately £100,000 by 2019/20. East Sussex Music Hub receives £3674K grant income from the DfE via the Arts Council. Hubs are expected to deliver the elements of the National Music Plan for Education and ensure opportunities are accessible to all. In 2017 the DfE announced that it expects all arts organisations to support the government's social mobility agenda. The Music Service has a turnover of £2.34m. The majority of its income comes via traded services with parents and schools. However in order to support its financial viability, the majority of its Arts Council funding for the Hub is passported directly to the service. This is at the cost of other partners in the Hub to undertake targeted work which supports the social mobility agenda.

The ESMS Public Consultation will occur from June 2018 and consultation with staff from October 2018. Options have been explored, including forming a independent trust, merging with a neighbouring Music Service, and moving teaching staff onto the single status pay scale; these have been discounted for legal, technical and financial reasons. Other options have been pursued but have not delivered the required level of financial savings. Any suggestions from interested partners will be welcomed. All options will be considered through the consultation. This is a very difficult area for making savings.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MARTIN MOONEY'S REPORT JUNE 2018

Rother Levels Ward.

Provisional Revenue Budget Report at Quarter 4 - 2017/18

Overall costs of the services shows an under-spend £490,000. The main ups and downs are as follows:

- Disabled Facilities Grant – private sector housing £424,000 under-spent. Government Grant received £1.388m of which £0.499m was spent. In addition a further £34,000 of income has been received from payments of housing grants of households.
- Car Parking – generated a net surplus of £183,000 as a result of additional activity as opposed to price increases.
- Waste Contract & Recycling - £184,000 savings – as a result of contract defaults and reduced working costs.
- Housing administration and temporary accommodation - £377,000 shortfall. £180,000 extra costs due to an increase households presenting as homeless to the Council and difficulties in recovering the housing element of Universal Credit. The gross spend on temporary accommodation was £452,000.
- Reliefs & Housing Benefit - £272,000 shortfall. The amount recovered in respect of overpaid benefits is less than budget.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Going before the Scrutiny Committee next week is a joint undertaking by all East Sussex Councils to simplify Universal Credit within the East Sussex area. This should make it simpler for claimants and the Councils alike to administer Universal Credit. Under the present system a change of circumstances as low as 1p. involved the recalculation of a claimant's credit resulting in unnecessary delays. As you will recall I asked every Parish Council within my Ward to publish on their website the procedures that had to be followed because of their complexity and the need for the claimant to be on the ball at all times to ensure they were receiving the right benefits. The new system will operate within wide income bands and therefore make it much simpler for all.

Housing Benefit – Service Issues and Proposals for Improvement

Because of the poor performance in processing times resulting from untenable responses for details of claimants change in circumstances claims.

--- oOo ---