

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual and Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre at 7.00pm ON TUESDAY, 21 MAY 2019

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Lauren Dobson (LD) Outgoing Chairman, Ed Erith (EE), Mrs Tina Langmead (TL), Phillip Alexander-Crossan (AC), Roderick Chapman (RC) and Nic Hamilton (NC).
IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Valerie Ades (Parish Clerk), District Cllrs Tony Ganly (TG) and Martin Mooney (MM) and ten members of the public.

1. **Election of a chairman for the ensuing year and to receive his/her declaration of acceptance of office.** Cllr Tina Langmead confirmed her willingness to stand as Chairman. EE proposed and AC seconded the appointment. **Carried.** TL signed her declaration of acceptance of office.
2. **Election of a vice-chairman for the ensuing year and to receive his/her declaration of acceptance of office.** Cllr Ed Erith confirmed his willingness to stand as Vice-Chairman. TL proposed and RC seconded the appointment. **Carried.** EE signed his declaration of acceptance of office.
3. **Receive all declarations of acceptance from all other councillors.** Declarations were signed and received from Cllrs Phillip Alexander-Crossan, Roderick Chapman and Nic Hamilton.
4. **Apologies for absence.** County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies.
5. **Declarations of interest** 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. **None.**
6. **Appointment of Council Representatives** and any other Executive or Advisory Committee that the Council agrees should be constituted for the coming year. Nominations from councillors and voting by a show of hands:
 - a Planning Committee All members
 - b Village Hall representative Cllr Mrs Langmead
 - c Social Secretary Cllr Mrs Langmead and Cllr Phillip Alexander-Crossan
 - d Playground and tennis court inspections Cllr Chapman
 - e Tree Warden Mr Bill Bullocke
7. **Agree membership of and nominate representatives of external bodies** and vote by a show of hands:
 - a. National Association of Local councils and Sussex Association of Local Councils. £340.00. **Agreed.** **Cllrs Erith and Mrs Langmead** were appointed as representatives.
 - b. Rother Association of Local Councils. £20.00 approx. **Agreed.** **Cllr Erith** was appointed the representative.
 - c. Local Council Review £17.00. **Agreed.**
8. **Insurance June 2019-2020** – Zurich Insurance. Approve renewal cost. The Clerk said the actual annual renewal cost was £660.13, not £654.25. **Agreed.**
9. **Agree a schedule to review policy documents.** The Clerk reported the Code of Conduct required updating which she would prepare and bring to a later meeting.
10. **Agree a schedule for meeting dates in the forthcoming year.** The June meeting date was set for **Tuesday 18 June** and thereafter meetings would be held on the **1st Tuesday monthly until May 2020.**

The monthly meeting commenced at 7.15pm.

11. **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 may be reported in the minutes.**

Mrs Lauren Dobson expressed her grateful thanks to the previous committee for all their hard work over the last four years. She welcomed the new parish councillors and Tony Ganly, the new district councillor.

Mr Baverstock said the Clerk had told him Bixley Lane was unadopted and asked what she was doing about it. She replied she had advised him it was her 'understanding' that ESCC believed the road and ditch were unadopted. He asked when was there going to be a meeting on the site, which he had requested. The Clerk asked him to refer to an email which had been forwarded to him from ESCC advising a representative would contact him to make arrangements. He said he would look for the email.

Mr Christopher Lee, referring to the problems he and his wife had experienced regarding the depot on Whitebread Lane, said he could not praise highly enough the excellent communication between him and the police and also RDC when dealing with the recent matters emanating from the depot on Whitebread Lane.

Mrs Ongley said the footbath along Main Street towards the Royal Oak houses had not been cleared by ESCC and asked if residents could clear it. The Clerk and members could see no reason why not and agreed.

12. **Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.**

Cllr Ms Angharad Davies ESCC - report is attached.

MM reported on the many complaints RDC had received about the businesses in Hobbs Lane. Referring to Buttlers and Hall he said he had visited the site a couple of times and was astounded by their activities. RDC is looking into this urgently. An enforcement order has been served on them and an environment and health report requested, which is expected by 3 June. He said Ebrofrost is cooperating and working hard in dealing with the complaints about its operating methods and many matters had already been sorted.

MM and **TG** signed the Rother Community Grant application for £13k towards the cost of the tennis court 'multi use' refurbishment.

13. **To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 1 April 2019. With an amendment to item 9 to read *'TL said a defibrillator had been donated which she felt could be put in the telephone box'* the minutes were approved and signed by TL.

14. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** – to consider those received from RDC and any other planning matters. TL had created a Powerpoint presentation of all applications. She asked for approval to consider them in the order she had them on the presentation, rather than the order on the agenda – agreed.

RR/2019/915/P (D) Escheatlands Farm, Furnace Lane. Livestock barn, machinery and fodder store offices and stables with access track and raised levelling of land. TL presented the application, but declared a personal interest and would not give a view or vote. Members voted in **support of the application 4:0.**

RR/2019/984/P (D) 3 Ivy Cottages, Main Street. Erection of a part single and part two storey side and rear extension. Members felt this was a necessary extension and voted in **support of the application 5:0.**

RR/2018/2990/P (RR/2018/2991/L) - Hobbs Farm, Hobbs Lane. Conversion of redundant agricultural building to holiday accommodation. After discussion members said they would **support the application provided the holiday accommodation building was tied to the main building. 5:0.**

RR/2019/1152/FN (D) Knelle Wood, Methersham Lane. Notification only. Erection of lockable storage shed for forestry purposes.

RR/2019/1044/P (D) Woodgate Farm, Church Lane. Erection of wooden shed. (Retrospective).

PERMISSION GRANTED

RR/2018/3112/P BECKLEY (D) Methersham Farm, Hobbs Lane. Change of use of part of a redundant agricultural building into a holiday let. (Retrospective.)

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

RR/2019/439/P (D) Chestnut Garden Cottage, Main Street. Two-storey side and rear extensions with raised roof. New first floor rear terrace. Change of cladding. Detached double garage and annexe building.

15. **Approval of appeal letter** to the Planning Inspectorate re RR/2019/32/P - Former Council Depot, Whitebread Lane. Members approved the letter of representations. Clerk to submit it to the Planning Inspector. **Clerk.**

16. **Matters arising: -**

a. **Maintenance/replacement** of seating on the field, the bridge in the Frog Field, and play area. Cost for replacement wood is awaited. **June.**

TL reported the safety rubber matting is being damaged by the grass cutting. Clerk to report to IdVerde. **Clerk.** She thanked Mrs Dobson and Mr Clarke for spreading the bark.

b. **Tennis Court refurbishment.** TL briefed new councillors on proposed refurbishment and funding plans.

c. **Fingerposts: -** Horseshoe/Moores Lanes and junction of Main Street/Kings Bank Lane. Response from ESCC regarding funding is awaited. **Clerk.**

d. **Trees on the Jubilee Field and Buddens Green** – EE will look at trees in September/October. **September.**

The Clerk was asked to follow up an insurance claim following an accident when a vehicle ploughed into the field. EE was asked if he could give an estimate to replace the damaged hedge, he said it was an ancient hedge, about 10 meters in length and he estimated around £200. **Clerk.**

17. **Number lock for Jubilee Field and spring to gate on Main Street** - agree purchases. Agreed up to £20. **Clerk.**

18. **Telephone Boxes.** Repairs completed to box near the public house. Agree purchase of glass inscribed 'Defibrillator' for top panels of box by the public house. Agree to Mike Rowe's offer to monitor the boxes on behalf of the PC. The Clerk will obtain prices for the glass and members were happy to accept Mike Rowes offer. **Clerk.**

19. **Approve and sign the bank reconciliation – 1 January – 31 March 2019.** Approved and signed.

20. **Accounts for approval (Reclaimable VAT shown for items exceeding £100).**

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH Committee Room 4.3, Hall 18.3		29.00	RDC-Dog waste collection contract 2019/20	148.20	889.20
Admin costs		770.33	RDC - Printing for Parish Meeting		53.00
HMRC BPC NHI contributions 2018-19		85.86	R+E Engineers - Tel box repairs	42.00	252.00
RoSPA Playsafety Ltd (Eibe reimbursed)	79.00	474.00	Reimburse M Rowe- Phoenix glass for tel box		24.48
L.Dobson – flag for Jubilee Field		6.59	Bourne Sport – Jubilee field footpath	2024.04	12,144.26
SSALC – LCR magazine 2019-20		17.00	Zurich Insurance cover 1 June 2019-20		660.13

The accounts were proposed for approval by EE and seconded by NC – carried.

Account balances at 3 May 2019 - Current acc £54,774.28 - Reserve Acc £600.17.

21. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday, 18 June 2019.**

TL introduced the members of the new committee

22. **Matters** for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting.

23. **Public questions** - not to exceed 10 minutes.

The PC was asked to consider if it would make a donation to the refurbishment of the kitchen in the village hall. The Clerk advised she had prepared a new 'Grants and Donation' policy which she would bring along to the next meeting for approval and let the Village Hall Committee have a copy.

Clerk.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

ESCC Cllr Ms Angharad Davies - Northern Rother - Report for Parish Councils May 2019

Just to let everyone know, we have a new highways liaison officer, Corinne Black corinne.black@eastsussexhighways.com. Samantha has had promotion to another post within Highways.

The first tranche of newly recruited PCSOs started the new 15 week apprenticeship training in April.

This apprenticeship combines on-the-job practical and academic learning and will result in the award of a formal level 4 qualification. As PCSOs they will work alongside officers on the frontline providing that visible and reassuring presence that the public wants.

There were changes to bus services recently, from April 2019. However, the 349 summer service, introduced for a trial period, now runs all year round. The 361 has had no change to service.

The start date for improvements to Upper Avenue in Eastbourne have been delayed till May 7th and, in all, will take about 3 weeks.

Trading Standards have warned people in Bexhill to be aware of rogue builders eg replacement garage doors, jet washing of driveways, driveway resurfacing and loose roof tiles. DO NOT engage these people-report them.

A Scrutiny review on Road Repairs by the Place Scrutiny Committee, was presented to Cabinet on 23rd April. This occurred as the condition of the county's roads is the most common complaint by residents. Overall the scrutiny review board considered that the council's arrangements and contract for road repairs was robust but eleven recommendations were made :

- 1) it was recommended that ESCC should examine how it could better communicate with residents on highways maintenance policies and practices
- 2) a pilot should be introduced to assess the feasibility of repairing neighbouring potholes (at the same time) within a given distance of a category 2 or 3 intervention standard pothole
- 3) the feasibility of Scrutiny Committee being consulted on any future one-off highways funding from central government before work is programmed should be considered
- 4) that the existing level of capital investment in roads through planned maintenance and the Asset Management approach is maintained, and if possible increased, as this is the most cost effective way of repairing potholes
- 5) the council should explore the possibility of identifying additional funding to improve the condition of pavements
- 6) the condition of the remaining 50% of pavements is surveyed, and a measure of the condition of pavements is developed within the next 2 years, so that their condition can be monitored and the impact of additional investment can be assessed
- 7) the council should use its powers to ban parking on pavements and verges in problem areas, as part of regular parking reviews
- 8) safety defect intervention criteria are defined for the different types of pavement surfacing, and insurance claims for pavements are separately recorded
- 9) the amount of sampling and inspections of roads should be increased to 20% to monitor and assure the quality of road repairs or reinstatements, and this work should be carried out prior to resurfacing, particularly work carried out by utility companies
- 10) officers should develop a work programme to complete the Council's knowledge of the highway drainage network, including costs and timeframe, and should report to Place Scrutiny in September 2019
- 11) joint work is undertaken with Districts and Boroughs Councils to improve street sweeping particularly in autumn, to prevent gullies and other drains becoming blocked with leaves and debris.

This scrutiny review was well received by councillors and officers. The department is committed to making improvements.

At the same Cabinet meeting on 23rd April the People Scrutiny Committee presented a report on the Changing Care Market: with a particular emphasis on Information and Signposting.

I will highlight the main recommendations in the next monthly report.