

## BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre at 7.30pm ON TUESDAY, 6 AUGUST 2019

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) Chairman, Ed Erith (EE) Vice chairman, Roderick Chapman (RC) and Nic Hamilton (NC).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Valerie Ades (Parish Clerk), District Cllrs Tony Ganly (TG) and Martin Mooney (MM) and nine members of the public.

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- 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. TL said there would be no discussions tonight on the planning applications for Hobbs Lane as clarification was awaited from RDC regarding how the DaSA might be affected by these applications.  
**Mr Thornycroft** of Apple Orchard said he had heard nothing further from Rother regarding the complaint made by Mr Nunnely about the path which he was re-instating and he advised TG and MM that he would now proceed with the works. **TG/MM.**  
**The owner of the Old Council Depot**, Whitebread Lane, said the minutes of 18 June when MM had stated a 215 notice had been served were incorrect and his premises were a storage yard, not a builders' yard. MM agreed he had made a mistake and said at the time he was under the impression that a 215 notice had been served.
- Apologies for absence.** County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies (AD) said she will arrive after attending the Peasmarsh PC meeting.
- Consider applications for the casual vacancies and agree any appointments.**  
Members had considered Mr Christopher Broadbent's application and his appointment as councillor was voted unanimously. He signed his declaration of office, witnessed by the Clerk.  
Members had considered Mr Phillip Spurgin's application and his appointment as councillor was voted unanimously. He signed his declaration of office, witnessed by the Clerk.  
Both members were invited to join the meeting but would not be expected to vote on any matters.
- Declarations of interest** whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda. None declared.
- Reports from District and Parish Councillors.**  
**TG/MM's** report had been circulated. TG added he and MM had attended a meeting with Hew Merriman, MP, when problems faced by small business in Beckley and surrounding areas were discussed. Ongoing.  
**RC** said he had attended to much of the overgrown grass around the tennis courts and he didn't think it necessary at this point to ask IdVerde to carry out works. He said he had looked at the zip wire and did not feel happy to start adjusting it in case he caused any problems. Clerk was asked to contact Eibe and ask them to carry out the work which the RoSPA report said was required. **Clerk.**  
**TL** reported vandalism to the nursery garden. She also had concerns regarding dogs running loose on the recreation ground. She said notices put up were being vandalised. MM suggested a 'dog fouling' notice be erected as allowing dogs to foul a public area was an offence.
- To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 2 July 2019. Approved.
- Ancient trees in the churchyard –** EE explained the background to the findings of the ancient trees and said Jim Smith-Wright, from the Woodland Trust, had said there were more ancient trees in the church yard than in the whole of northern Europe. There could be wide-spread interest here and EE felt a committee should be set up to enable this to be taken forward/ As the trees were on church ground he would contact the Rev'd Jelley to establish what role the church would play and where other players may fit in. **EE.**  
**7.55pm –** Mr Bill Bullocke was invited to speak. He said he was pleased to hear about the sweet chestnuts. He had previously given a report on some of the churchyard trees and agreed with contents of the report. He thought there were 20 ancient chestnuts and he would be pleased to be involved in further negotiations.  
**8pm. The meeting reconvened.**
- PLANNING APPLICATIONS –** to consider those received from RDC and any other planning matters.  
**RR/2019/1543/P -** Former Manroy Engineering Works - Land to rear. Outline: Proposed residential development of 6 dwelling units with access. **The application will not be considered at the August meeting. Awaiting RDC to clarify and report the DaSA policy for Beckley.**  
**RR/2019/1495/P (D) Metherham Farm, Hobbs Lane.** Removal of condition 2 (agricultural occupancy condition) imposed on RR/2001/344/P. Members noted that the restriction had originally been placed on the premises to

ensure occupancy was strictly by those employed in agriculture or forestry and as there were now very few of these workers members **approved 4:0** the application. Members noted permission had been granted to RR/2019/1719/P and questioned to what that referred as the planning portal site had been closed today and they had been unable to access the documents.

**Permissions granted:**

**RR/2019/1044/P - Woodgate Farm** – Erection of a wooden shed - retrospective.

**RR/2019/2646/P - Ross Farm, Furnace Lane.** Retention of twin unit caravan on the property, for the purpose of running an agricultural enterprise (retrospective).

**RR/2019/915/P - Eastcheatlands Farm, Furnace Lane.** Livestock barn, machinery and fodder store office and stables with access track and raised levelling of land.

**RR/2019/1719/P (D) - Methersham Farm, Hobbs Lane.** Discharge of section 106 agreement to remove agricultural occupancy restriction.

9. **Matters arising: -**

- a. **Wood** to refurbish seating on the field, the bridge in the Frog Field and play area. Current supplies are sold out and we will have to wait until new supplies are available.
- b. **Tennis court refurbishment.** Any further actions to report. Overgrown vegetation. RC had already reported. TL said her application for funding had gone to Rother's Community Grants Panel and results were awaited. She had completed Rother's Sports Playing Pitch Strategy form and Adrian Gaylon (RDC) had contacted her to say he is very supportive of our initiatives. Some of the netting to the courts has been repaired.
- c. **Play area** – issues with mowing. Nothing to follow up. IdVerde are using smaller mowers.
- d. **Zip wire** (RoSPA's report and Eibe's reply). **RC** reported above – clerk will follow up. **Clerk.**
- e. **Vehicle accident** on the field. Quotes to replace hedge - insurance claim follow up. **EE** said the hedge appeared to have grown again and he did not feel a claim was necessary. Clerk will report to insurance company. **Clerk.**
- f. **Telephone Boxes.** Glass inscribed 'Defibrillator' for top panels of box by the public house and any change of use requirements. Glass should be delivered to Mike Rowe, who has volunteered to look after the boxes, and he will fit the glass. TL will chase up delivery of the defibrillator and she said BT will guarantee the electricity supply to the boxes for seven years. Clerk said trees from the property behind the box require cutting back as they are obscuring the box. TL will approach the landowners. **TL.**
- g. **Notice board repairs** – Approve expenditure to replace weathered Perspex (approx. £100) plus rotted wood. Clerk reported the Perspex already purchased for £39 should be large enough for both notice boards. The main support pole in one has rotted and been repaired and it is thought there will be sundry expenditure for hinges, screws etc. Wil has been given authority to make any small purchases.

10. **Permission has been granted to repair the gate to the field adjacent to the school as this is a H&S matter. Cost £90.** Approved.
11. **Report from County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies.** AD did not attend, but her report had been circulated.
12. **Housing Allocations Policy – consultation. Beckley's response.** There were currently 13 eligible applicants on the housing list for housing in Beckley, but it was not known how high on the list they were. It was noted there was no affordable housing available in Beckley. Members agreed they would liaise by email and agree a response to the consultation sent out by RDC, which must be submitted by end of August.
13. **Approve the bank reconciliation 1 April – 30 June 2019.** Agreed.
14. **Accounts** for approval (*Reclaimable VAT shown for items exceeding £100*).

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH Committee room 18.6.19		12.60	Chris Makin – field gate repairs		90.00
Admin costs		754.00	Unicorn Restorations (Tel box glass)	21.40	128.40
Donation to Village Hall kitchen refurb		500.00			

The accounts were proposed for payment by EE and seconded by RC – carried.

**Bank balances at 5 July 2019** - Current Account £38,696.23. Reserve Account £600.36.

15. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 3 September 2019.**
16. **Matters** for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting.
17. **Public questions** - not to exceed 10 minutes.  
Mr Bowler asked how the applications to build on the Manroy site would affect the 20 houses to be built in Beckley under the DaSA. Clerk said she had spoken with Mr Kevin Deeprise at Rother and agreed that no applications to build on the site would be considered by the PC before Rother has clarified to the PC the DaSA details.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

## **ESCC Cllr Ms Angharad Davies-Northern Rother - Report for Parish Councils Aug 2019**

ESCC 's State of the County report details that the authority will face a budget gap of up to £15m in 20/21 if additional funding is not made available. This increases to £27m by 2022/23. The county council spends over £370m each year. The Core Offer developed last year builds on our priority outcomes to ensure our spending is directed towards areas of highest need. Using the Core Offer will contribute some savings in the next 2 years but this will not meet the shortfall in funding we anticipate if no additional money is available from central government. We are waiting for the funding review from government and some progress on the ASC green paper. Health bosses in East Sussex highlighted challenges and showcased successes when they welcomed a leading government adviser to Hastings: Professor Chris Whitty, the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department of Health and Social Care and National Institute for Health Research Lead, visited the area as part of a countywide tour of local authorities to learn how the health and wellbeing of residents might benefit from research opportunities. The visit was organised by Public Health at ESCC in partnership with HBC, Hastings & Rother CCG and Hastings Voluntary Action. Prof Whitty takes on his new role as Chief Medical Officer for England and the UK's government Chief Medical Adviser in October. The visit concentrated on

- the Chances4change programme which supports charities, community groups, and individuals to maximise community assets
- an integrated lifestyle service to help change behaviours
- the Healthy Hastings & Rother Programme which aims to improve access to health programmes and services for people with the poorest health.

Prof Whitty was impressed with the work being done in Hastings to prevent health inequalities, and following his visit, Public Health and partners will meet to agree next steps.

The progress of Newhaven Port Access Road has been commended and rated exceptional following an inspection by the Considerate Construction Scheme, an independent not-for-profit organisation which monitors registered construction sites and companies. Newhaven Port Access Road will act as a catalyst for regeneration in Newhaven (and the county). It is a very important scheme which will open up land already allocated for development and play a major role in boosting economic growth. It will provide jobs in the Newhaven area. The Contractor for the road is BAM Nuttall and they were considered to be excellent in respect of community, protecting the environment, caring about the appearance of the site, and valuing the workforce. Site safety was exceptional. The scheme, an integral part of the Newhaven Enterprise Zone, involves the construction of a new single carriageway with a bridge crossing the Seaford to Newhaven railway line and Mill Creek. Construction should be completed by autumn 2020.

A new primary school for Hailsham is nearing completion and will take reception pupils from September 2019. The final roof panel was added to the 420-place Hailsham Community College Primary Academy in Park Road in a topping out ceremony at the beginning of July.

Hailsham is an area of significant housing development with an increasing birth rate and more school places were needed. The development is part of a £28m capital investment by ESCC into educational provision.

ESCC is currently designing and building a new special free school in Hailsham which will provide 80 places for primary and secondary age children with social, emotional, and mental health needs (SEMH), and additional needs such as Autism Spectrum Disorder. The Beckmead Family of Schools, rated outstanding by Ofsted, has been approved by the DfE to run the new school. The school will be located in Reef Way and will open in September 2020. As well as this, a specialist SEN specialist facility will open at Grovelands Community Primary School in Dunbar Drive, This will provide 8 places for children with Autism.

"The Jewelled Jaguar" by Sharon Treganza came first in a poll of county schoolchildren to claim top prize in the East Sussex Children's Book Awards. The event was the end point of a series of activities including author events at which the 5 short-listed authors read from their books to children at local schools and libraries. This book was the children's favourite.

A campaign is warning visitors about the dangers of the white cliffs. Each year thousands of tons of chalk fall from the cliffs, which stretch from the edge of Eastbourne, past Beachy Head, the Seven Sisters and Seaford Head. People are warned not to stand near the edge of these fragile cliffs or walk along the beach close to the base of the cliffs. We want people to enjoy the coastline, but to do so safely.

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**Rother District Councillors' Report August 2019.**

**Cllrs. Tony Ganly & Martin Mooney**

RDC's Corporate Plan provides for a mixed use development, including a new sports leisure facility and a 70 bedroom hotel on the old Bexhill High School site. This would require the acquisition of the land occupied by a Drill Hall. Unfortunately, the

owners of this hall do not wish to sell it. Consequently it has been necessary to abandon plans for an hotel on this site while the other developments, including the leisure centre will be pursued.

Cabinet decided last week to establish a Community Governance Review Steering Group to consider the creation of a new Parish Council (to be renamed a Town Council) for Bexhill with a decision expected by next May.

The Development & Site Allocations Local Plan submitted to the Secretary of State will require a number of modifications:

- \* "Main Modifications" - required to ensure the plan is secure and legally compliant.

- \* "Changes to the Policies Map".

- \* "Additional Modifications" - These are minor changes which do not materially affect the Plan's policies.

A six-week consultation began on 30 July and is open to anyone to make representations on the Modifications only. It is hoped the Plan will be implemented later this year.

REVENUE BUDGET 2018/19 - end of year position (provisional)

Income exceeded Expenditure by £630k.

The main variations to delivery of services were as follows:

- \* Environmental Services: Partnership with Wealden District produced a saving of £630k.

- \* Car Parking Income increase: £250k

- \* Additional costs of Homelessness: increase £240k

- \* Ancient Monument repairs £48k.

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