

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre at 7.30pm ON TUESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2019

- PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) Chairman, Christopher Broadbent (CB), Roderick Chapman (RC), Ed Erith (EE), Vice Chairman, Nic Hamilton (NC) and Phil Spurin (PS).
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Valerie Ades (Parish Clerk), District Cllrs Tony Ganly (TG) and Martin Mooney (MM) and 12 members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting by informing members of the public that the PC was aware of their concerns regarding the planning applications at the Manroy site and she outlined the complaints taken from the Planning portal and included those which residents had already informed the PC about. She asked that unless anybody had anything new to add that they did not cover ground again.

- Public Questions:- Mr Baverstock** said it sounded as if the PC had already made a decision on the Manroy planning applications. **TL** said this was incorrect, she had simply let residents know that their objections had been noted to avoid time being spent covering this ground again. **Mr Baverstock** said the Manroy site was one of two already agreed and designated for house building required under the DaSA scheme so why were objections being raised now? **TL** said the houses under the scheme included flats and small, affordable homes and the planning applications would be looked at to see if these were included.
A question was asked if the proposed houses on the two planning applications at the Manroy site would be joined to make 10. **TG** replied yes – in the case of the DaSA.
- Apologies for absence.** *County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies (AD) will arrive after attending the Peasmarsh PC meeting.*
- Declarations of interest** whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda. **PS** declared an interest in planning applications RR/2019/1543/P and RR/2019/865/P (D) both at the Manroy site.
- Reports from ESCC, RDC and Parish Councillors.** Reports from ESCC and RDC had been received and circulated. **RC** asked if there was any news regarding the modification to the zip wire and said he felt only one wire should be tightened. Clerk will attend. **Clerk.**
TL said she had received comments suggesting the resurfacing on Main Street appeared unnecessary and there were roads in far greater need.
- To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 6 August 2019. The minutes were approved and signed.
- 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. After detailed discussion members agreed the following comments should be submitted to RDC:-
The entirety of this site is on farmland, and outside the development boundary. While we accept and appreciate that it contains 40% affordable housing, in isolation (i.e. as an application entirely separate to the Manroy site application) we cannot support it. Again, we recognise that the applicant has tried to reach agreement with the owners of the Manroy building over this development (unsuccessfully). Given the refusal of the owners of the Manroy site to allow access, this would have to be carved out of more farmland to the south. If the owners of the Manroy site were successful in their application then there would be a totally unacceptable sprawl of development in a very confined and already highly populated area with limited access and industrial activities adding to the problems of noise, congestion, and risk. If the owners of the Manroy site are not granted permission then we would see an isolated development on agricultural farmland outside the development boundary which would set a very risky precedent. On all these counts, added to the on-line negative comments from immediate neighbours, we cannot support this, and urge RDC to follow suit. If the planners are mindful to approve the application then we would ask that this to be called in to the full planning committee.
RR/2019/865/P (D) Manroy Engineering, Hobbs Lane. Outline: Demolition of existing industrial building and erection of four dwellings with parking and the provision of new footway. After detailed discussion members agreed the following comments should be submitted to RDC:-
This is an outline application to a) demolish an industrial building, and b) build four dwellings. We looked at this in two parts. First demolition. We viewed this as though the site had not been cleared and considered that if demolition was guaranteed to happen in compliance with all environmental, health and safety and other regulatory requirements - i.e. local consultation before work begins, wildlife survey and subsequent safe removal of any bird or animal habitat by qualified personnel to a suitable alternative site, secure fencing to the demolition site, clear warning notices, a full traffic plan to ensure no road blockages, full compliance with regulations governing the safe

removal of asbestos and any other toxic materials, and no burning of materials on site other than within regulatory limits - then we would be comfortable in approving the application. If some or none of these constraints could be guaranteed then we would refuse the application. That none of these were observed and that the site was cleared anyway means our default position is to refuse and to require RDC to call this in.

So far as the construction of four dwellings is concerned, we are conscious that this site was proposed as suitable for part of the required 20 homes Beckley needs under the DaSA, and the original thinking was 12 homes, all small scale, 40% affordable, especially for young people with a strong connection to the village starting out -i.e most appropriately flats. This would have required a small margin of land at the rear, currently a field, to be included thus expanding the development boundary by a small amount. The proposed development is for four stand-alone dwellings with no allowance for affordable housing. This is not acceptable to us, or to a large number of immediate neighbours who have expressed their views on-line. If it were to happen in isolation of the first application (see above) it would add nothing to the requirement for affordable housing, meaning that the village would have to look for a third site in order to meet the DaSA requirements, which could only be on yet more greenfield land. It would merely serve to increase pressure on an already cramped area. We require this also to be called in.

RR/2019/1792/P (D) Coach House - Land Adj. Main Street. Variation of condition 2 imposed on RR/2018/3079/P to change planned window to rear bi-fold doors. **Members supported the plans 6:0.**

RR/2019/1828/P (D) Chestnuts Paddock Main Street. Single storey side extension to the existing dwelling with new fenestrations. **Members supported the plans 6:0.**

RR/2019/1769/P (D) Combe House, Main Street. Erection of fence along part of the Eastern boundary-retrospective. **Members supported the application 6:0.**

RR/2019/1852/FN (D) Milldown Wood, Horseshoe Lane. Agricultural works. **Information only notification.**

7. Matters arising: -

- a. **Wood** to refurbish seating on the field, the bridge in the Frog Field and play area. Awaiting wood supplies.
- b. **Tennis court refurbishment.** TL reported a grant of £18,500 has been received from RDC's Community Grants Scheme. TL will arrange a meeting with the Tennis sub-committee. A letter expressing our grateful thanks will be sent. A further £5000 had been awarded to the Village Hall towards a kitchen refurbishment.
- c. **Zip wire** - Eibe's response to adjust the wire. RC said to leave the one wire as is because parents said it was fine for younger children, but the 2nd wire requires tightening. **Clerk.**
- d. **Telephone Box** by public house. Glass for top panels of box and news regarding the defibrillator. PS said he could acquire a heated, alarmed cabinet at cost through his business contacts. Members approved a spend of around £300. TL said a competition has been run in the school with children suggesting a number of ideas for the use of the box nearest to the school. She will report further in October. **PS/TL.**
- e. **Notice board repairs** – update regarding repairs. Wil has repaired the two boards and they look good. There is one spare board and it was suggested this could be erected near to or at Hobbs Lane.
- f. **Ancient trees in the churchyard** – No further developments at present. **EE.**

8. **Report from County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies.** Her report had been circulated and she added GCSE results were slightly up on those of last year in English and maths.

9. **Verges – Should areas be designated 'wild flower' areas?** CB said the drawback with doing this was they required maintenance. Cutting should be in the late summer and all cuttings must be removed to let them self-propagate. CB said he would look into this in more detail and report back. **CB.**

10. Speedwatch –

- a. Invite to attend a RALC speeding workshop for Clerks and members on Thursday 26th September at 2pm. The Clerk said she would be unable to attend. **EE will attend.**
- b. **Consider request from Northiam PC for Beckley to support their initiative for ESCC to put in road safety measures at the junction of the B2088 with the A28.** Members agreed they would support the initiative.

11. **Wreath for memorial service.** Members approved the purchase of a wreath from the RBL – approximately £20.

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

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH Committee room July		12.60	RALC-subs+Geosphere		75.00
Admin costs		754.00	IdVerde-Apr-May/Jne	105.81	634.83

The accounts were recommended for payment by EE and seconded by CB.

Bank balances at 5 September. Current Acc £47,086.61 Reserve Acc £600.57.

13. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 1 October 2019.**

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

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

The owner of Apple Lodge said he had today received an enforcement notice and asked if the PC was aware. The Clerk said notification had not yet reached us. As the owner was told it was unlikely enforcement was necessary it was felt there would be no follow-up.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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

ESCC has been awarded Local Growth Fund money of £2.5 million by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) for two initiatives in the Bexhill and Seaford areas. £960,000 will help develop six industrial units to attract creative industries to Bexhill, while the remaining £1.5 m will go towards the cost of a bridge replacement project at Exceat. These projects will help to stimulate the local economy. Construction of a new bridge at Exceat is expected to start in May2020. The Bexhill Creative Workspace will complete in 2020 and is being supported by match funding of £800,000 from RDC.

People are being encouraged to travel by bike or on foot or by public transport with the help of £1.1m funding secured from the Department for Transport by ESCC as part of the AAfG programme. Schemes were put forward by Eastbourne, Bexhill and Newhaven Job Centres, Bike Lab Hastings, and Education Futures Trust in Hastings, Seaford Head School, Denton Primary in Newhaven, and Eastbourne DGH were all involved in the Active Access for Growth Award (AAfG). The accolade recognises schemes set up to encourage the use of healthier sustainable travel. Winning initiatives included the closure of roads outside schools at drop off and pick up times to improve air quality, bike maintenance and riding courses, and the production of Active Travel maps which give sustainable transport information. With these funds from the DfT ESCC have worked with more than 100 workplaces, more than 50 schools, four job centres, community groups and universities and colleges across East Sussex.

ESCC has been awarded £145,000 to extend its successful East Sussex Careers Hub for secondary pupils to primary school children from the age of 5. This is a one year pilot. From September, the county council will be able to develop a careers strategy that covers the full range from age 5 to 19 or 24 for SEND pupils. The only local authority to receive this funding, the Primary Careers Hub will work with 24 schools and more than 8000 pupils from reception to year 6 to embed career support early. We will share this pilot across the county.

Transport for the SE has agreed major road improvements to the A259 between Brighton and Eastbourne, and the A22 in Wealden. If approved for government funding, the schemes, which are aimed at cutting congestion, speeding up journey times, and boosting the economy would be delivered by 2025.

Investment in the South East economy has resulted in 2000 jobs in the last 5 years. ESCC has worked with partners to secure more than £600m in capital investment since launching the growth strategy for the county in 2014. This investment which is predicted to result in a further 1000 jobs was highlighted in the recently published State of the County Report.

Roads across East Sussex will receive a summer make over programme in the form of surface dressing to extend the life of the road and to stop potholes. 29 miles of road will be treated between August 19th to September 3rd.

A new garden has been designed to promote wellbeing at a respite centre for adults with learning difficulties. The garden at Grangemead Respite Service in Hailsham has had a complete renovation using recycled or locally sourced materials. This was a collaboration by the University of Brighton's Community21 Team and staff and guests of the service. The project has helped shape new research by Community 21 into how a service like Grangemead can work creatively with the local community and can enrich peoples' lives.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT September 2019 Tony Ganly & Martin Mooney - Northern Rother Ward

Performance Report First Quarter 2019/20

For this financial year the focus is on four themes – housing and homelessness, benefits performance, waste and recycling, and financial performance of investment assets.

Housing & Waste Collection

- (a) Days taken to process new housing benefits claims:
Target 28, Result 18, lower is better.
- (b) Days taken to process changes to existing claims:
Target 14, Result 16. Target not achieved.
- (c) Average weeks households in temporary accommodation.
This measurement is the average number of weeks that households in temporary accommodation have remained in temporary accommodation.
The target for 2019/20 is 10 weeks but the result at the end of the first quarter was 17 weeks. Target not achieved.

- (d) Missed bins. For every 100,000 collection the target for 2019/20 is 120 missed bins per 100,000 collection. The result for the first quarter is 207 missed bins. However, this is a slight improvement on the final quarter for last year and this is expected to improve as the new contract sets in.

Percentage Return on Investment Assets

The target for 2019/20 is 6% return on investment. The current forecast result is 6.93%.

Provision of Temporary Accommodation

In July 2018 the Housing Issues & Finish Group made a series of recommendations to Cabinet to acquire emergency and temporary accommodation through the purchase of property for conversion or delivering new build temporary accommodation and purchasing accommodation for those in housing need i.e. those already on the Housing Register.

The purchase of properties to include a mixture of both houses and flats. This will provide the Council with more control over the quality of temporary accommodation available locally as well as being able to achieve greater control of revenue costs. The £3m. investment will enable the Council to reduce its costs by approximately £70,000 annually excluding the impact of any appreciation or depreciation in value.

Community Grants Scheme

The Council Community Grants Scheme (CCGS) makes provision for up to £130,000 per annum to be made available to community groups or organisations that meet the grant criteria.

The Panel considered round 1 of 2 rounds made annually. From a total of £94,488 requested, £67,541 was approved. Amongst those receiving a grant was Beckley Parish Council of £18,500 towards transforming the old tennis court for use as a multi games area (MUGA) at a total cost of £37,000. A further £5,000 was granted to Beckley Village Hall to replace and upgrade the kitchen at a total cost of £25,442.

VE Day 2020 Celebrations

To support this activity the Council is providing match funding, pound for pound relevant expenditure to a maximum of £500 of grant funding per application. A total fund of £10,000 is set aside for this purpose and this will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Application forms are available from the Community Grants Scheme Office, Rother District Council, Town Hall, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex TN39 3JX or email communitygrants@rother.gov.uk.