

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre at 7.30pm ON TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2019

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) Chairman, Christopher Broadbent (CB), Nic Hamilton (NC)

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

1. **Public Questions – (10 minutes)** to allow questions 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 may be recorded and may be reported in the minutes.
Miss Howse said the new kitchen should be installed by February 2019.
Mr Bowler said the Annual 10K Run which goes through Beckley's Lanes takes place on 3 November and notices with details will be posted in the village.
Mr Baverstock asked what was the PC going to do about a Pendular Beech tree on the recreation ground which he said looked like it had been mown down. He said a previous PC had planted a number of trees, some had died, but this one had survived. TL asked what was so special about this tree and not those which had died. He said he was concerned because this tree had started to grow. The Clerk produced a list of trees which had been planted during 2012 and 2013 and their prices. CB asked for a copy of the list and said he would look into matters.
2. **Apologies for absence.** County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies-holiday and Cllrs Rod Chapman-holiday and Phil Spurgin-transport problems.
3. **Declarations of interest** whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda. None.
4. **Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors and the Clerk.**
County and District Cllrs reports had been circulated. **MM** added that RDC had held a meeting regarding residents' complaints about the businesses in Hobbs Lane. Bently & Hall have been informed they must make a planning application with regard to vehicle movements and Ebrofrost is working hard to get in replacements for the noisy machinery. Two representatives from Hobbs Lane attended the meeting and were happy with outcome. **TG** added an emergency Climate Change steering committee has been set up at RDC to address problems.
TL said a PCSO had attended a recent Farmers' Market and she had given a 'speed watch' session. She will try to attend again, but is the only PCSO in Rother.
The Clerk reported for our 2020/21 budget the PC needs to know who will be financially responsible for cutting the verges in Beckley – ESCC, RDC or ourselves. TG said he did not think this had been decided, but he would endeavour to find out. *RDC has plans to arrange a meeting to discuss the DaSA when PCs should be invited. *A PC has written to RDC requesting answers to a) why PC's weren't informed until too late that they could apply for grants from the CIL monies RDC holds, after RDC awarded £192,901 as part contribution to a scheme in Sidley comprising a BMX track, a new skate park, floodlighting, improved accessibility and toilets to facilitate competitions. b) how much CIL money had been received from developments in rural areas and how much had been paid back and the same details for the Bexhill area. *The Clerk said her annual review, due last month should take place in November.
5. **To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 3 September 2019.
Signed.
6. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** – to consider those received from RDC and any other planning matters.
RR/2019/1953/L DEL Hobbs Farm, Hobbs Lane. Proposed internal and external alterations and refurbishment 3 dormer windows to front elevation, new and replacement windows, new side door and replacement tile hanging. Members unanimously **supported the application (3:0)**.
RR/2019/1958/P DEL Gooseley Farm Oast, Main Street. Removal of condition 2 imposed on RR/88/0188 to allow non-agricultural occupiers to the dwelling house. Members recognised that there were very few agricultural workers in Beckley and **supported the lifting of the condition, but asked that a condition be put on the property that the land be tied to it. (3:0)**.
Permission Granted:
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.
Appeal against RR/2018/1302/P Aztec House, Main Street had been granted.
Appeal against RR/2019/32/P the former council depot in Whitebread Lane had been refused.
7. **Matters arising:**
 - a. **Wood** to refurbish seating on the field, the bridge in the Frog Field and play area. Out of stock.

- b. **Tennis court refurbishment.** TL had circulated details and prices from four contractors and these were discussed. She gave details of monies already received for the refurbishment totalling approximately £28k. CB proposed we accept Sovereign's quote, seconded by NH.
 - c. **Zip wire** - Eibe's response to adjust the wire. No response to date.
 - d. **Telephone Boxes.** Cllr Spurgin had obtained a price of £330 plus carriage and VAT for the defibrillator housing box and as a figure of around £300 had been approved at September's meeting members resolved to raise a cheque for its purchase. Many ideas for the 2nd box's use had been received from the school children and the most popular suggestion was a book exchange and information centre. Councillors deferred deciding what its actual use would be until November's meeting.
8. **Report from County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies.** (On holiday)
9. **Discuss and approve suggested changes to the agenda format.** Agreed to include a notice on behaviour at meetings.
10. **Verges – does the PC wish to designate any verges as 'wild flower' areas. CB to report on maintenance etc.**
11. **Wreath** – With Cllr Chapman's previous connections with the forces TL will ask if he would like to lay the wreath. If not, TL will lay it.
12. **Village Centre users** – responsibilities of those using the centre. Clerk advised what hirers are responsible for.
13. **End of Year accounts 2018-19.** The Clerk reported these had been signed off without any problems.
14. **Initial thoughts for the 2020/21 budget. Residents' ideas welcome.** Members would discuss ideas in more details at November's meeting. Budget and precept must be finalised by January's meeting, latest.
15. **Accounts for approval (Reclaimable VAT shown for items exceeding £100).**

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH Committee room Aug.		12.60	T Langmead r'bursement Poster paper		6.00
Admin costs		403.31	RDC-election costs		138.35
HMRC income tax/NHI		363.72	PKF Littlejohn-external audit	60.00	360.00

CB proposed payment, seconded by NH.

Bank balances at 5 September – Current Account £47086.61. Reserve Acc £600.57.

16. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 5 November 2019.**
17. **Matters** for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting.
18. **Public questions** - not to exceed 10 minutes.
- Mr Baverstock** explained how roads are classified. The Highways look after 'A' and 'B' roads. Any 'C' and 'D' roads are not recognised by Highways. Kingsbank Lane and Furnace Lane are classified as 'C' lanes and these have a higher rate of service from The Highways. 'C' classification indicates the lane leads somewhere. Most of our other lanes are UCR's – unclassified roads. TL thanked Mr Baverstock for the information.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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

At the beginning of September an anti smoking campaign was launched across East Sussex. The “Be There Tomorrow” campaign urges smokers to quit. An estimated 63,000 people smoke in East Sussex and more than 1000 adults are predicted to die from smoking –related disease. In some parts of Hastings 1 in 4 adults smoke. The campaign features a TV advertisement , also promoted on social media. The public health department at county hall is leading the campaign “there is so much help available locally , it is better to go to your free local ‘Stop Smoking Service’ than to try to stop on your own.”

There is help available in GP surgeries and Pharmacies. Visit www.betheretomorrow.co.uk

People in Eastbourne and Hailsham can meet the four-legged sleuths who sniff out illegal tobacco. Trading standards are making arrangements for residents in different parts of the county to meet the dogs which are so good at sniffing out illegal tobacco. This type of trading activity brings organised crime into our neighbourhoods, undermines efforts to discourage smoking, and in particular, encourages tobacco use among young people due to cheap prices. To anonymously report someone who is supplying or smuggling illegal tobacco call: 0300 999 6 999

East Sussex’s public health team is backing a “know your numbers” campaign. This is a national campaign run by the charity Blood Pressure UK. It urges people to check and know their blood pressure and take action against high blood pressure which can lead to heart attacks, strokes and other problems. NHS Health Checks which used to be carried out in GP surgeries for 40-74 year olds will be done in pharmacies in future. More information from : www.eastsussex.gov.uk/healthchecks.

ESCC is running a campaign again this autumn to encourage parents to get their children to school. “Be a pushy parent” is the campaign slogan. This is targeting parents through social media, and in radio and bus advertisements to ensure their children attend school and arrive on time. Since the last campaign 168 families in the county have been prosecuted for their child’s non- attendance, and ordered to pay almost £30,000 in fines. The underlying message remains that absence from school can adversely affect a child’s education and harm their chances in life and career prospects. Research shows that attendance levels of less than 95% -equating to 9 days absence in the school year- have a marked detrimental effect on a child’s performance. Any parent taking their child out of school without permission may receive a £120 penalty notice per parent per child, and could face court action if they fail to pay.

Subsidised Meals in the Community will be kept for the most vulnerable and for those who cannot afford to pay. ESCC consulted on proposals to remove the subsidy of £4.10 per meal across the summer, and has come to a decision to retain the subsidy for some residents. 39% of respondents said they would be prepared to pay the full amount for a meal £4-£8.

Altogether 679 residents receive Meals in the Community. ESCC ASC department will carry out assessments of need for all clients. Those who are most vulnerable or most in need will retain the subsidy. The proposed changes will save £483,000 from the Meals in the Community budget for 2019/20. For advice ring Health and Social Care Connect HSCC 0300 678 0010

ESCC also consulted on proposals to save £495,000 from the Support for Working Age Adults budget by 2021. We have a higher than average proportion of Working Age Adults (age 18-64) with disability in nursing or residential care, and the proposed changes would focus on more effective community –based alternatives while delivering support that is fair and meets peoples’ needs. Everyone will have an individual review before any changes are suggested and they can appeal that review. We aim to move people to more appropriate community based services and more supported living.

Street lights and council buildings in East Sussex will be powered by 100% renewable electricity from next year. This is a switch to a new environmentally friendly contract from April 2020. This means that all 40,000 of the county’s street lights and illuminated signs, as well as libraries and council buildings, will be powered only from electricity generated from sources such as wind, tidal and solar power to align with the climate change proposals.

Angharad Davies ESCC Northern Rother

Report October 2019 District Cllrs Tony Ganly & Martin Mooney - Northern Rother Ward

Rother Voluntary Action.

RVA has requested a grant of £40,000 to participate in an EU scheme designed to increase rural community capacity in Rother by empowering people to play an active role in the design and delivery of local services. The Council has decided to give this money from the Community Grant Scheme despite the fact that it does not satisfy the terms of the CGS and that the amount involved exceeds the amount allowed under the CGS.

There is concern that this would reduce the amount available for parishes' projects and would also set a precedent allowing grants which do not meet the conditions of the CGS.

Whilst the RVA is worthy of support, if the Council feels it necessary to agree to this grant it could be taken from reserves which the previous administration increased by £7 millions as well as achieving a surplus of £670,000 last year.

Changes to Planning Committee procedure.

- 1/ The cut-off time for late submissions is formally set at 9 am. on the Monday preceding the Thursday Planning Committee meeting.
- 2/ All Planning Committee meetings will be audio recorded.
- 3/ Speaking at Planning Committee meetings by Non-Planning Committee members will be limited to 5 minutes.

4/ Planning site visits are to be made compulsory. If a member fails to attend planning site visits, he/she may speak at the meeting but may not vote.

Performance progress report: 1st. quarter 2019/2020.

Waste & recycling: re-use, recycling & composting targets were met or exceeded while the "missed bins" target was not met.

Benefits performance: both indicators met or exceeded their targets.

Asset income: performance in 2019/20 remained strong. The original income target of £1,520,000 was set prior to the budget setting for 2019/2020. The budget was forecast at £1,939,000 consequently the target was adjusted accordingly.

Housing & homelessness: the target for "Affordable Homes Built" met or exceeded the targets while three indicators failed to meet their targets "Weeks in Temporary Accommodation", "Homelessness Prevention cases" and "New Homes Built".