

## BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre at 7.30pm on TUESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2019

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Valerie Ades (Parish Clerk), District Cllrs Tony Ganly (TG) and Martin Mooney (MM) and seven members of the public. *ESCC Cllr Ms Davies (AD) arr 8.02pm.*

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- 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.  
**Mr Taylor** of Hobbs Lane, referred to planning application RR/2019/2376/P which refers to Trade Carpets/Bentley & Hall, whose premises are on the Manroy site. He said contrary to information contained in their statement that they had deliveries from two lorries per week they in fact had many lorries including HGV's every morning which used the lane for reversing and turning, in addition to other vehicle visits and carpet fitters' vans when collecting and dropping off carpets and equipment. He presented photos of HGV's parked and reversing in Hobbs Lane during day and night hours, whilst visiting the company. There is a container outside the premises containing hazardous waste. The fire brigade visited and told them to remove it within two hours, but it is still there.  
**Mr Bowler** expressed his thanks to residents for putting up with road and lane closures etc during the 10K race on 3 November. He said all money raised would go to the village hall.  
**Mr Baverstock** complained about the work done on the Pendular Beech tree which had fallen in the field. He complained again about the ditch in Bixley Lane not being dug out by ESCC. He was advised to take up the matter with ESCC.
  - Apologies for absence** were accepted from Cllr Christopher Broadbent – away on business. *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.
  - Reports from County and District Councillors** had been circulated. TG added the cost of garden waste was set to rise from £35 pa to £40 next year then up to £60 over the next two years. Next year RDC will not support costs for grass cutting.  
**Reports from Parish Councillors.**  
**PS** asked Mr Baverstock to give a few details on his complaints. As Mr Baverstock was not happy with the work done on the tree it was suggested to ask Mr Bullock to give his opinion. Mr Baverstock said vehicles constantly got stuck in the ditch in Bixley Lane and he would no longer dig it out. He said as ESCC cut the verge then the ditch was their responsibility. He was again advised he should take up the matter with ESCC or Cllr Ms Davies. **Clerk.**  
**TL** reported a vehicle had been seen acting suspiciously in the village and was reported to the police. They attended and the occupants were arrested.
  - To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 5 November 2019. The minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.
  - Planning Applications** – to consider those received from RDC and any other planning matters.  
**RR/2019/2281/P (D) The Lanterns, Main Street.** Proposed loft conversion with dormer window. Members unanimously supported the application 5:0.  
**RR/2019/2376/P (D) Manroy Engineering, Hobbs Lane.** Change of Use from B1 to B8 (Retrospective). **PS declared a personal interest.** Members discussed the access problems along Hobbs Lane. The lane is very narrow in a rural, predominantly residential area and was never intended for use by large vehicles or HGV's. They noted the application stated there were two vehicle movements per week, but this conflicted with residents' reports, supplied earlier in the evening with supporting photographs, that they had many deliveries daily and often those vehicles blocked the lane and property entrances/exits. Members considered the size of the lane and the sizes of the lorries and HGV's attending these premises and discussed the added problem that there were no parking facilities in Hobbs Lane nor was there room for turning. They felt the application was untenable and unanimously voted 4:0 against support.
- 8.02 Cllr Ms Davies arrived.**  
**Notification only - RR/2019/2396/FN (D) Kings Bank Lane -** Land to the south east of. Erection of steel framed agricultural building.  
**Permissions Granted**  
**RR/2019/1769/P - Combe House, Main Street.** Erection of fence along part of eastern boundary (retrospective).

**RR/2019/2990/P – Hobbs Farm, Hobbs Lane.** Conversion of redundant agricultural building to holiday let accommodation.

7. **Matters arising:-**

- a. **Wood** - Refurbishment seating on the field, the bridge in the Frog Field and play area. The wood has arrived and Wil will endeavour to repair the platforms to the climbing frames.
- b. **Tennis court refurbishment.** Consider quotes, will the PC increase its donation from £1000 to £1600 and approve a contractor. Members had looked at all the quotes and TL proposed Sovereign’s quote of £29,170 be accepted. She said to date £28,540 had been raised, but the fund was short by £630 and asked if the PC would increase their promised £1000 to £1630. **Members resolved unanimously (5:0) to donate £1600 and to accept Sovereign’s quote.** TL said Sovereign would make a path from Kings Bank Lane to the new gate at the tennis court. She added an auction in the Rose & Crown public house had raised £800 and Northiam Bonfire had very kindly donated £500 towards goal posts. **Clerk.**
- c. **Zip wire** - Eibe’s response to adjust the wire. Eibe had not responded and RC said the adjustment would require two men. RC and NH will attend. **RC/NH.**
- d. **Telephone Boxes.** Defibrillator housing box for the box opposite the village pub. Decide on use for box closest to the school. PS had secured a defibrillator housing box at a reduced price from Safelink. Mike Rowe will find out details of electricity supply to the box. Clerk will thank Safelink for their generosity. **Clerk.**
- e. **Verges** – consider nominating all lane verges as wildflower verges and reduce cuts to one per late August early Sept. Discuss process and how to ensure corners which become overgrown can be manually cut. AD will send to the clerk ESCC’s arrangements for verge cutting for 2020. Discussion deferred to December. **AD/CB.**

**TL asked AD** if she wished to add to her report which had been circulated. **AD** said certain premises from where children’s services operated would close, but it would not affect the services. She said Jempson’s had invited her to a meeting regarding thefts as they appear to have been targeted by a man and woman wielding knives and stealing from their premises. CCTV cameras show who these people are and the Police have been informed, but there appears to be no crime numbers or any follow ups. Katy Bourne and Hew Merriman have been informed.

8. **Discuss VE Day celebrations** – TL said next year's May bank holiday on 4<sup>th</sup> will be moved to 8 May to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day. She said the parish would be putting on celebrations to include a sing-along, vintage vehicles, a tea dance etc and money raised will go to Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion. The **PC agreed (5:0)** it would cover the hall’s reduced hire cost of £50.
9. **Consider request from RDC for a donation towards the Rother Rural Trust.** The work of the RRT was discussed and who benefitted. A donation of £50 was agreed (5:0). **Clerk.**
10. **Approve bank reconciliation - July- 30 September 2019.** Approved.
11. **Appoint a 3<sup>rd</sup> bank signatory.** PS agreed to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> signatory. **Clerk.**
12. **Suggestions for the 2020/21 budget and precept. Residents’ ideas welcome.** TL would like to see a replacement programme for finger posts. Verge cutting may have to be included. The Clerk will produce some budget figures for members to look at in December.
13. **Accounts for approval (Reclaimable VAT shown for items exceeding £100).**

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH – Hall Sept.		16.40	Mrs Langmead – fuel - attending		19.35
Admin costs		763.65	Planning meeting Battle October		
HMRC reissue of cancelled chq no 2285		335.40	Battle Town Council-Planning meeting		15.00
Royal British Legion - wreath		17.50	IdVerde - Sept	35.27	176.34
V Ades-reimbursement Parker Building Supplies 4 x sheets Buffalo Board			Total	318.82	53.14
V.Ades- reimbursement Hampshire Flag Co–Union flag and rope for Jubilee Field			Total	35.33	<b>354.15</b>

**Bank balances** - Current Account £44775.08. Reserve Account £600.77.

The accounts were proposed for payment by EE and seconded by PS.

14. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 7 January 2020.**
15. **Matters** for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting.
16. **Public questions** - not to exceed 10 minutes.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

## **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](http://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](http://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.

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## **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".

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