

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) Chairman, Christopher Broadbent (CB), Roderick Chapman (RC), 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. *ESCC Cllr Ms Davies (AD) arr 7.55 pm.*

- 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 recorded in the minutes. Northiam councillor, Tony Biggs, reported on a meeting with members of ESCC and the police to try to reduce the speed limit at the junction of the A28/B2165 at Horns Cross. It looked like it would be difficult to achieve this and he asked if he could leaflet homes on/and adjacent to the B2165 and Clay Hill. **Agreed.**
- Apologies for absence were accepted** from Cllrs E Erith, unwell and P Spurgin, business commitments.
- Declarations of interest** whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda. TL declared a personal interest in item 6, RR/2019/2435.
- Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors. Reports from District and County had been circulated.** TG added the DASA report was ready for final approval. TL said the defibrillator had been fitted to the telephone box opposite the Rose and Crown. Mr Mike Rowe had done an excellent job in replacing the 'Telephone' glass with 'Defibrillator' glass had engaged the services of his son-in-law, an electrician, to do the electrical connection. She asked that a letter of thanks be sent to him. **Clerk.**
- To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 5 November 2019. Two amendments were made – item 4 **change '£60' to '£50'** and item 14 **change date to 3 December.** The minutes were signed by TL.
- Planning Applications** – to consider those received from RDC and any other planning matters. **RR/2019/2435/P (D) Grove Orchard, Watermill Lane.** Erection of detached garage and annex. With one declared personal interest two councillors questioned was upstairs accommodation over a proposed detached garage suitable for an infirm lady. They resolved to support the application **provided a condition be placed on the garage that it be tied to the house and could not be sold off separately. 3:0 in support.**

7.55 Cllr Ms A Davies arrived (AD).

Permissions Granted

RR/2019/2396/FN - Kings Bank Lane (land to the south east) Erection of steel frame agricultural building.

RR/2019/2281/P - The Lanterns, Main St. Proposed loft conversion with dormer window.

- Matters arising: -**
 - Wood** - refurbishment seating on the field, the bridge in the Frog Field and play area. Ongoing.
 - Tennis court refurbishment** – Contract has been offered to Sovereign Sports - £29,170.00. Work should commence in January 2020 provided the ground is sufficiently dry.
 - Zip wire** – wire adjustment – **RC.** Will be adjusted when ground is drier. The pendular beech has been re-staked.

d. **Telephone Boxes.** Electricity supply to defibrillator housing box for the box opposite the village pub. Completed – see TL’s comments item 4 above. Use for box closest to the school - undecided. **Clerk.**

e. **Verges and grass cutting** – consider ESCC quotes for 2020-21. It was resolved to accept ESCC Option 2 proposal of two free cuts plus 4 more cuts at a cost of £506 pa to Main Street, Clayhill, the Beckley area of Whitebread Lane and Oakhill towards Jempsons. Lanes will be designated ‘wild flower’ areas and should be cut only once in late August/early September. Clerk will contact ESCC for yellow markers for the lane verges and will ask if a discount can be applied as without the lanes, only the main roads/streets in Beckley will be cut. **Clerk.**

8. **Suggestions for the 2020/21 budget and precept. Residents’ ideas welcome.** The Clerk said a CIL payment of £3228.65 had been received from RDC against developments RR/2018/3079/P and RR/2018/1062/P at Coach House/land adjacent to on Main Street. TL said this money was earmarked for improvements to the Frog Field. The Clerk had produced a gestimated budget for 2020/21. The net spend should be £60K which includes the cost of the tennis court refurbishment, and based on keeping the precept at the current £23K, plus money from grants, the income for 2020-21 should be approx. £45K. With an estimated balance at 31 March 2020 of £40K it should leave a balance of approx. £25K at 31 March 2021. The budget was approved and following January’s meeting the Clerk will apply to RDC for the £23K precept. **Clerk.**

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

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH – Oct meeting		12.60	Mrs Langmead – fuel – attending Mapping meeting Battle 6 Nov 2019.		19.35
Admin costs		785.32			
HMRC reissue cancelled chq no 2299		85.86	IdVerde – Oct	35.27	*176.34
Care Signs		52.80	Rother Rural Trust-donation		50.00

*The Clerk said as she had not received IdVerde’s official invoice she would not make that payment.

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

10. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 7 January 2020.**

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

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

Mr R Burrows asked if the Better Beckley project was still operative because Northiam Bonfire Society had donated £500 to cover the cost of goal posts on the tennis court area. TL said the money had been paid into that account and she expressed the council’s grateful thanks for the generous donation.

AD said she had been advised that because ESCC cuts the verges in Bixley Lane the drainage team will again look at the complaint raised by Mr Baverstock regarding who is responsible for clearing the ditch in the lane and the team will report back to her.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

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

The Community Match programme has an annual budget which can be applied to if Parish Councils want to tackle local highways projects. There has to be match funding, and a feasibility study should be carried out initially (which ESCC will do, fee=£500). The programme is headed by Stuart Wilson, but the day to day management is looked after by Vanessa Anscombe at : community@eastsussexhighways.com
the website is: <https://www.eastsussexhighways.com./community-highways>

The new PCSOs began their new duties in the middle of November. They are being assigned to designated areas across the county. Every community across Sussex will have one or more dedicated PCSO to collate community intelligence and improve public confidence. Neighbourhood Policing was modernised 5 years ago giving PCSOs the necessary skills to support Police Officers. However they cannot make an arrest. It would be helpful if our newly appointed PCSO could attend their Parish Assembly.

The Open Doors scheme enables more than 1000 students to experience the world of work. Throughout November, 35 businesses from Forest Row to Hastings will welcome students to the workplace to inspire career choices. The initiative is run by ESCC and Skills East Sussex (the county's employment and skills board). Businesses include civil engineers, website designers, ESCC, a museum, and an off shore wind farm. This year will see 3 larger events held during November including a day at the Towner Gallery, an Into games creative cafe at DLWP, a day at the View Hotel in Eastbourne, and a careers day hosted at Gatwick airport. Open Doors is for students aged 7 to 13 so that they gain insight into the world of work.

East Sussex Highways has launched a consultation so that people can give their views on proposals to **improve cycling and walking at St Leonards**. The plans affect roads running between Queensway and Sedlescombe Road South. They include sections of shared cycling and pedestrian routes on pavements, cycle lanes on roads, upgrading pedestrian crossings and installing new road markings and signage. The scheme aims to improve links between residential areas, the town centre, seafront, employment areas, and educational establishments. This forms part of a wider walking and cycling strategy for Hastings and St Leonards developed by ESCC and HBC. People can view the plans online at www.eastsussexhighways.com/consultations deadline –is December 11th.

Be" Fraud Aware" and help bring scammers to justice. In the last 6 months scores of scams happened across the county but, with only 5% of incidents reported, this is thought to be the tip of the iceberg. International Fraud Awareness week in November was intended to make people aware and East Sussex Trading Standards is urging people to be on their guard. In 2018/19, Trading Standards teams across the UK prevented people from being scammed out of £42m, stopped 20 million illegal products reaching consumers, and prosecuted more than 1100 people who received more than 317 years' worth of prison sentences.

Report scams to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or online at www.actionfraud.police.uk

Contractors working for ESCC will be assessing the site of a **collapsed wall near Lewes Castle** and will carry out emergency maintenance work. The county council is working with partners including Lewes District Council and Historic England to investigate the causes of the wall collapse, and they will formulate a long term plan for this historic site.

Can I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

Cllr Angharad Davies

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

Housing Development Programme.

Cabinet recommends to Council that:

- a Local Housing Company be established and a budget of £30,000 be allocated from earmarked reserves to undertake this
- a £200m Housing Development Programme to be delivered by the LHC be approved and financially supported by the Council
- the Programme aims to complete 1,000 new homes with mixed tenure by 2035
- the LHC be financially supported to purchase land on which to build new homes, accessing borrowing to do so
- £60,000/year be provided to appoint a Housing Development Programme Manager.

Council Tax

Central Government is suggesting that increases to Council Tax be limited to 2%, instead of 3% at present, but is also considering a concession for District Councils to increase up to £5, whichever is the greater. RDC will increase

Council Tax by the maximum permitted. Despite this, voluntary staff redundancies are being sought in the first instance.

Development & Site Allocations Plan (DASA)

The DASA provides the basis for determining planning applications. Cabinet recommends to Council that the submitted DASA, amended to include all the main modifications recommended by the Planning Inspector be adopted.

Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

It is recommended that RDC grant £85,000 p.a. for the next four years to the CAB and should assist the CAB with sourcing and, if required, relocating to suitable premises in Bexhill Town centre and explore further funding through Town and Parish Councils.

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