

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4 February 2020 at 7.30pm.

- PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) Chairman, Christopher Broadbent (CB), Roderick Chapman (RC), Nic Hamilton (NC) and Phil Spurgin (PS).
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs V Ades (Clerk), District Cllrs Tony Ganly (TG) and 10 members of the public. *ESCC Cllr Ms Davies (AD) will arrive after attending Peasmarsh PC meeting.*
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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 recorded in the minutes.
 - On behalf of many residents in Hobbs Lane one reported as follows on the continuing and progressive, unacceptable noise and movement of large vehicles, day and night, along the lane when visiting Bentley & Hall (B&H). In their Vehicle Management Plan B&H stated customer's vehicles were no larger than 7½ tons, but their customer, 'Life Style', stated their smallest vehicle is 15 tons and a 30-ton lorry is used to take away their waste material. To accommodate these large vehicles contractors have moved the site protection railings of the opposite Manroy demolition site two metres back, leaving pedestrians exposed to lethal concrete and rebar, and parts of a contaminated site. Residents are alarmed to note that the Highways Agency recommends approval of B&H's application (**RR/2019/2376/P Change of use from B1 to B8 retrospective**) to move from a Class B1 business use to a Class B8 storage or distribution use stating it will create less traffic. The resident was advised to put in a report for the Planning Committee which meets on 13 February 2020 when the application will be heard. **TG will report more at item 4.**
 - A resident remarked on recent events at the Northlands Farm on the Beckley/Northiam borders about caravans being placed on the land close to residential curtilages and also livestock resulting in unpleasant smells. TG was asked to take up the matter with RDC as residents found reading the various policies difficult to understand. **TG.**
- Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Cllr E. Erith and District Cllr M. Mooney. *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, District and Parish Councillors.** County and District reports had been circulated. **TG** reported on B&H (see item 1) saying Highways approved the application and RDC is proposing 12 months temporary approval subject to B&H submitting an appropriate Traffic/Delivery/Despatch Management Plan. He explained procedures should the application be approved at the planning meeting on 13 February saying as RDC does not have the means neighbours would have to monitor the situation, keep notes of any contraventions of the conditions and inform RDC. As contraventions and abuse of the current conditions are taking place daily and reported to RDC members felt it was totally unacceptable for residents to have to continue this constant monitoring. **CB said letters should be sent to our MP, Huw Merriman and Rupert Clubb, Director of Communities, Economy and Transport at ESCC. Agreed. CB/Clerk.**
TL reported Beckley School was not one of the two local schools recommended for closure. An email received on crashes on the A268 near to Bixley Lane and asking for a speed reduction had been forwarded to ESCC for comment.
- To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 7 January 2020. The minutes had been amended to read Cllr Erith had chaired the meeting and TL had taken notes.

8.05 Cllr Ms Angharad Davies arrived.

- Planning Applications** – to consider those received from RDC and any other planning matters.
 - RR/2019/2823/P BECKLEY DEL Kitchenour, Kitchenour Lane.** Demolition of existing C20 barn and erection of new timber-framed barn in the same location – and -
 - RR/2019/2824/L BECKLEY DEL Kitchenour, Kitchenour Lane.** Demolition of existing C20 barn and erection of new timber-framed barn in the same location. **Members unanimously supported the application 5:0**
 - RR/2019/2829/P DEL Gate House, Horseshoe Lane.** Addition of a bespoke timber framed garden room with double glazing – and -
 - RR/2019/2830/L DEL Gate House, Horseshoe Lane.** Addition of a bespoke timber framed garden room with double glazing. **Members unanimously supported the application 5:0****Permissions Granted** – none advised.

7. **Matters arising:** -
- a. **Tennis court refurbishment** – report on progress. Work commenced last month and is progressing well. The painted markings will probably not be done until April when the weather should be drier. TL reported she had put up notices about the new defibrillator opposite the Rose and Crown and who held the key.
8. **Affordable housing**– to receive feedback from TL and CB on proposed plans/ideas for affordable housing. 20 houses should be built by 2028 with preferred sites at Buddens Green and the Manroy site. There are currently 14 families from Beckley wanting affordable housing. During a meeting with Graham Maunders of Action in Rural Sussex this morning he suggested we should talk with Icklesham as they are going through this process. A resident has offered a potential plan and Graham Maunders has been invited to attend the Village Meeting when he can discuss plans with residents.
9. **Website** – consider renewing the contract with Netwise Ltd for a further 12 months at a cost of £315 to include email rights. If agreed, sign tonight’s post-dated cheque 9 March 2020 to avoid any service interruption. PS asked what was included in the £315 as he felt this was high. The clerk said she felt it was too late to start looking at alternative websites to start in March. Members should look at this over the next year and she would liaise with other clerks for feedback on their sites. CB proposed and PS seconded to continue with Netwise Ltd.

TL asked AD if she wished to add to her report. AD said the ESCC 2020/21 budget would be known next Tuesday and savings of £3.5M had to be made. There were problems with road closures and drainage work in the area. SE Water will meet to discuss the B2165 and how work will affect both sides of the A28. Major work will last until January 2021. Contact AD if there are any problems. An email re accidents has been sent to the safety team at ESCC. There was a meeting at Horns Cross on road safety. Northiam wants a speed limit of 30mph, but ESCC suggested ‘SLOW’ signs be erected and they wish to know if Northiam and Beckley approve. **Beckley agreed.**

10. **Donation requests:-**
- a. **All Saints Church** – towards church upkeep. With current requests for donations PS proposed and RC 2nd a donation of £200 be made. Carried.
 - b. **Friends of Conquest Hospital** towards replacement cost of 15-year-old, outdated 64 slice CT scanner with a 256-320 slice scanner. £340K already raised of £400K total cost. Members agreed the necessity of this vital piece of equipment and CB proposed a donation of £250, seconded by PS. **Carried. Clerk.**
11. **Annual Village Assembly 2020** – discuss setting a date before the end of May. Members agreed Tuesday 21 April 2020 at 7pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall. **Clerk.**
12. **Appoint a 3rd signatory for cheques.** NH agreed to become the 3rd signatory. **Clerk.**
13. **Accounts for approval (Reclaimable VAT shown for items exceeding £100).**

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH – Dec		12.60	Netwise – see Item 8 above		315.00
Admin costs		754.00	Idverde Jly/Aug/Oct/Nov	141.08	846.44
*Care Signs Ltd reissue of lost cheque		52.80			

Approval was proposed by TL and seconded by NH. Carried.

14. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 3 March 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 8.55pm.

ESCC report for Parish Councils - February 2020

We are working on the budget for 2020/21. The assumptions are that there will be a 1.99% increase in council tax and 2% Adult Social care precept. There is severely reducing government grant funding (based on need). As a county we have the highest number of over 65s and over 85s with increasingly complex needs. We have an increasing number of children requiring help and protection, in line with national trend. We have a relatively weak local economy, some of the most deprived communities in the country, and relatively low earnings.

We are continuing to work with the Core Offer. We have had some lobbying success with central government. We have been given additional funding for social care and continuation of the Better Care Fund. There is additional funding in the SEND High Needs Block, and additional funding in the per pupil funding for schools as promised. We still need to make savings of £3.5m in 20/21.

We await the Fair Funding Review for LG. There must be recognition of strain across all services caused by 10 years of funding cuts. The system must recognise future demand, not reflect old allocation. Locally raised council tax and business rates do not reflect need in areas like East Sussex.

Government investment in local solutions is needed if we are to achieve our target for climate change.

Congratulations to Peasmarsh Primary School for doing so well in their KS2 sats. Children reached the expected standard as follows; 90% reading, 100% writing, and 90% maths and in the greater depth standard the results were exceptionally good as 90% reached the standard in reading, 50% in writing, and 80% in maths.

There has been a recent decision by the ESCC planning committee on adoption of CPE (Civil Parking Enforcement). All the proposals were accepted for Bexhill and Battle but turned down for Robertsbridge (apart for the proposals near the school and bus stop). There will be no meters in Robertsbridge, yet there are serious problems with parking, particularly in Station Road. The Salehurst and Robertsbridge Parish Council will have further discussion on possible solutions.

We have a considerable amount of traffic disruption in Northern Rother in the foreseeable future. This is good in that there will be drainage works and extensive replacement works and repairs to water mains. **We need this work to be done:**

U6949 Pixies Lane, Horns Cross, closure between 22nd March and 14th May, SE water, water main renewal works

U 6936 Dixter Lane, Northiam from 13th February 2020 to 17th February 2020 SE Water, replacing meter and a stopcock

B2165 The Stream, Beckley/B2165 Beckley Road, Northiam closure to take place between 3rd February 2020 and 28th August 2020 SE water water main renewal works

B2165 Northiam Road, Staplecross /B2165 Horns Cross between 3rd February 2020 and 22nd January 2021 SE water replacement of water main (extensive work)

There is a contact number for SE Water 0333 000 0365

However, I am in the process of discussing these works with an engineer as the closure times seem so extensive. I will also be discussing proposed diversions with highways. Please contact me if there is a particular issue.

East Sussex Highways will be carrying out kerbing and road repair work on the A265 at Broad Oak and Burwash Weald, near Heathfield, in January, February and March.

The winter gritting season started on 1st October and continues till 30th April, during which time the highways service is on standby 24hours a day. Our highway maintenance contractor, Costain, employs a fleet of 23 gritters, 2 spares, and 48 fully trained gritter drivers. There are also 27 local farmers and contractors with snow ploughs across the county who are called upon to assist during heavy snowfall. Costain holds stocks of approximately 10,000 tonnes of dry rock salt (not grit) in our 6 highway depots (Ringmer, Sidley, Heathfield, Polegate, Cripps Corner and Maresfield).

Costain employs weather forecasters using the latest technology to predict when road surface temperatures are likely to drop below freezing or when snow will fall. Most gritting takes place early in the morning when temperatures are lowest. All gritting decisions are published on East Sussex highways website and on social media. Salt is spread on primary gritting routes which includes all A and B roads and some C roads.

During snow fall Highways deliver hippo bags of salt to 51 agreed locations across the county for local communities to use on roads and pavements in their area. We don't have the resources to routinely grit footpaths

or pavements. Residents are encouraged to clear snow and ice from public areas near their properties. ESCC provides over 900 council owned grit bins. These are filled with rock salt in the autumn and are topped up periodically.

For information: <https://www.eastsussexhighways.com/gritting-routes/primary-routes>

<https://www.eastsussexhighways.com/files/winter-leaflet.pdf>

Angharad Davies East Sussex County Councillor Northern Rother

February Report - District Councillors Tony Ganly & Martin Mooney : Northern Rother ward

Residential development at Blackfriars, Battle.

Plans to develop this 40 acre site have been ongoing for many years, delayed by the fact that parts of the site are in the hands of several owners. Subject to the agreement of full Council it is intended to:

a/ acquire land in third party ownership to allow for a whole site development

b/ to begin the Compulsory Purchase Order process for parts of the land should it be necessary, subject to a full report later c/finalise the delivery vehicle, that may include the Council's housing delivery company, through which the site will be developed.

Council Tax.

The draft Revenue budget for 2020/2021 plans to increase the Council tax by £5 on a band D property which is the maximum allowed without a referendum.

Garden Waste collection.

The charge for this service will increase from £35 p.a. to £40. It is intended to increase this to £60 before the end of the current term.

Housing Allocations Policy.

There are presently 1600 households on the Housing Register with only 192 allocations having been awarded in 2018/19.

It is proposed to

reduce the assessment criteria from four bands to two called "Urgent Need" and "Waiting List", the latter of which is formed of a points system.

change the order in which households are nominated for and allocated social housing. The Council will firstly prioritise households on the Housing Register with the highest level of housing need. From the remaining list of households an assessment of local connection will be made. Finally, the length of time the household has been on the register will be considered then a nomination will be made.

give a higher priority to the armed forces.

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