

# BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held by ZOOM video link at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5 May 2020.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) Chairman, Christopher Broadbent (CB), Roderick Chapman (RC), Ed Erith (EE) Vice Chair, Nic Hamilton (NC).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs V Ades (Clerk), County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies (AD) and District Cllrs Tony Ganly (TG) and Martin Mooney (MM) and one member of the public.

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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. None.
- Apologies for absence.** None. The Clerk reported Cllr Phil Spurgin had today resigned from the PC for personal reasons. Clerk was asked to send him thanks for his services. **Clerk.**
- Declarations of interest** whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda. None.
- Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.** Reports from CC and DC's had been circulated.  
**AD** added Highways would be carrying out work on Main Street. Our Road steward would look at and report back on work carried out in Bixley Lane. Much work is being done for shielded people. Business East Sussex is working hard for local businesses which are suffering with financial problems and there are possible money loans available. For details go to [businessseastsussex@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:businessseastsussex@eastsussex.gov.uk).  
**TG** added planning officers have recommenced posting planning notices and are visiting some sites. Planning Committee meetings which had been cancelled will recommence and be held remotely. (Note: the next meeting is on Thursday 28 May 9.30am).  
**Parish Councillors:**  
**NH** reported a booking system would be available for those wishing to use the MUGA facilities once shut down ends. He asked if a charge would be made and for a discussion on the facility to be discussed in June. **Clerk.**  
**TL** reported a noticeboard would be placed at the MUGA which would contain details of how to book the court. VE day celebrations are cancelled, but there is a programme of events which is on Face Book. Grants have been received towards the cost of the MUGA; £1166 from Tesco and £900 from The Co-op.  
**RC** reported some maintenance was necessary on the play equipment. He would attend. **RC.**
- To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 7 April. The minutes were approved and would be signed at the next face to face meeting.
- Planning Applications** – to consider those received from RDC and any other planning matters.  
**RR/2020/152/P(D) - Forge House, Main Street.** Repair and resurfacing of exiting driveway and the addition of a turning area. Councillors **unanimously (5:0) supported** the plans provided the surface was porous. (5:0).  
**RR/2020/284/P-(D) Apple Orchard, Horseshoe Lane.** New detached single story pitched roof bungalow. The background history of Apple Orchard was reviewed and discussions included details of the previous property on the land. It is not an isolated piece of land; it is surrounded by other properties. Councillors **unanimously supported the application- (5:0).**  
**Permissions Granted:**  
**RR/2020/215/FN BECKLEY DEL Stoddard Farm.** Extension of existing agricultural building. Notification only.
- Ebrofrost** – CB said by default there is an industrial site springing up at Hobbs Lane which is causing many problems and a resident has complained about noise, thought may have been caused by installation of acoustic panels. On Thursday 9 April 2020, noise was recorded at 81 decibels, but since lockdown noise has not been apparent. Enforcement will visit. The cooling fans are extremely noisy and along with the other noise it is disturbing and causing some neighbours much distress. He was asked to draft a letter to Ebrofrost asking them to let the PC know what measures they are taking to alleviate the noise. **CB.**
- Covid-19** - update on matters or any concerns within the village. Letters had been sent to residents and one from Rye Mutual Aid group giving phone numbers to call for help with shopping etc or just to have a chat if a resident is lonely. Food parcels are available in Rye.
- Groundwork tenders** – consider amended contract price which reduces the number of grass cuts from 20 to 18 and includes an additional hedge cut in January/February. Councillors accepted the revised quote of £1564.87+VAT. TL said the damaged pendula beech tree on the Jubilee Field had survived.

10. **Appeal** from RDC and ESCC for food bank items or donations. TL would ask Chris at Rye Food Bank if any financial help was required. **TL.**
11. **Insurance** – consider quotes and cover for voluntary workers. Clerk said Zurich would insure voluntary workers helping out during the Covid-19 epidemic, which would include Wil if doing CV related work, but risk assessments must be carried out. CB felt we should leave matters as they are and ask Wil to ensure he looks at the risks. Councillors asked for the phone boxes to be removed from the quote and include the two defibrillators. They accepted Zurich’s quote for £641.99, with an adjustment made for the foregoing. **Clerk.**
12. **Internal audit** – confirmation to continue using the services of Mr Keith Robertson. Agreed.
13. **Bank reconciliation** January - 31 March 2020 – approved.
14. **Accounts** for approval (*Reclaimable VAT shown for items exceeding £100*).

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
Admin costs		910.00	Subscriptions ESALC 295.63 – NALC 64.14		359.78
Kent, Surry & Sussex Air Ambulance		500.00	RDC – dog waste bins	156.00	936.00
			ESCC – grass cutting	101.20	607.20

The accounts were proposed by RC, seconded by NH and carried.

15. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 2 June 2020.**
16. **Matters** for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting.
17. **Public questions** - not to exceed 10 minutes.

**The meeting closed at 8.45pm.**

## ESCC Report for Parish Councils May 2020

This is such an odd time!!! I am sure you are all feeling as if this is an “out of world experience”. It is not like anything we have lived through before. I know that all the parishes in Northern Rother have been working hard to help all those who are on their own, or especially vulnerable, and I thank you all for your supreme effort.

At this time there are 504 published cases of Covid/19 virus in East Sussex (26/04/20). There are 26,097 deaths in hospitals, care homes and the community to end April. Many more tests for antigen are now being carried out and this has been extended to Care Home clients and carers, as well as the over 65s with symptoms. Soon testing and contact tracing should provide more evidence that the pandemic in this country is being brought under control. It seems that the end to lock down is going to be slow and gradual. The NHSE graphs at the moment still show a flattish trend. However there is a 16% decrease in hospital cases across all parts of the UK and critical care beds are at 40% capacity showing good ability to cope.

The “shielded “group of residents who received a letter from the D of HSC gets a parcel each week and a phone call. They can ring 01273 481242 to change their requirements. This group should isolate for 3 months. This service is managed by ESCC.

Rother Community Hub looks after the group B Covid /19 vulnerable group who may be worried, alone or unwell, short of money, or who can't get prescribed medicines or food supplies, because of lock down. These people can ring 01424 747000 option 4 . Nicola is in charge of the Rother Hub. She links with local (parish) hubs when necessary.

Anyone can contact their local “Helping Hands “group or their Parish Council. Anyone can contact me at any time for help 01580 831969

“Northiam Together” has now set up “Northiam Talking” which is a system for people to interact with each other by phone, or email or facetime or skype. Write 20 words describing yourself and send this to [northiamtalking@gmail.com](mailto:northiamtalking@gmail.com). You will then be linked up to another person by Jane who is coordinating this new idea.

I just want to let everyone know that Highways maintenance has continued throughout lockdown. Road maintenance across East Sussex is continuing in the normal way with social distancing, and road maintenance teams are key workers.

Despite alarming reports from the media, we have a policy in East Sussex in relation to Care Homes (Nursing and Residential). Care homes are private providers (not NHS). Before discharge from the NHS, patients are either tested, or are nursed in an NHS setting to ensure they are clear of infection before moving to a Care Home. During the initial phase of the pandemic, routine testing was not available, this being the national and local position. Covid /19+ and symptomatic patients were however not discharged to Care Homes until they were ready.

ESCC sends Care Homes a daily bulletin and we have regular web based provider forums. We have a specific email address for questions and issues. We respond individually or through the bulletin. For PPE we have a specific email address for enquiries. If providers identify shortages we have a standard form for them to complete and we then prioritise allocation.

We have been asked to inform residents that SE Water have provided extra support for customers during the pandemic: 1) 3 month payment breaks 2) automatic renewal of support tariffs, 3) referrals to the priority service register from councils, emergency services, and CAB plus other financial assistance programmes. Contact for support : [payless@southernwater.co.uk](mailto:payless@southernwater.co.uk)

East Sussex County Council is inviting voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations whose income has been significantly affected by the “stay at home “ advice to apply for a £300,000 emergency fund. The CV-19 VCSE Emergency Grant Fund will enable the hardest hit to get a cash boost of up to £50,000 within a few days of applying. [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/funding/emergencyfunding](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/funding/emergencyfunding)

ESCC has also contributed £100,000 to the Sussex Crisis Fund run by Sussex Community Foundation from which organisations can apply for up to £5000 to help them to respond to local needs. <https://sussexgiving.org.uk/sussexcrisisfund>

The Sussex Health and Care Partnership which includes councils and health services has launched a Suicide Prevention Innovation Fund and is inviting groups and organisations to apply for a share of a £155,000 grant. The 2020/21 fund will help groups like community and voluntary groups, charities, and parish councils deliver projects that reduce harm, prevent suicide, and improve mental health. Grants of between £1000 and £15,000 will be considered in 2 rounds, the first round will be in May and the second in September. For more information: [ruth.finlay@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.finlay@eastsussex.gov.uk) apply by 28<sup>th</sup> May for the first round.

Parking charges are suspended for NHS volunteers, health and social care workers provided they park legally on street bays, and on roads, but they must display their identification document on the wind screen . The parking charge increases across the county have been delayed due to the pandemic. Costs for on-street parking and permits were due to rise on April 27<sup>th</sup>, but concerns about the impact of the changes on communities at this time has persuaded ESCC to defer these increases till July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Young people in East Sussex are being helped to survive the lock down with a new social media campaign “STAY”: STAY well, STAY informed, STAY home, STAY sunny

This was devised by the East Sussex Youth Cabinet and the content is shared on its Twitter, Facebook and Instagram pages. It includes tips on how to keep up with school work at home, myth busting about the virus, as well as fun stories to stay

positive during lock down. It brings quality –checked information and guidance in one place. Young people are particularly affected in their education and social lives by lock down.

More information about the Youth Cabinet [www.c360.org.uk/youthcabinet](http://www.c360.org.uk/youthcabinet)

As usual the Youth Cabinet have come up with a great idea!

Wishing everyone good health and calm in difficult times.

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## **RDC Councillors Tony Ganly & Martin Mooney report May 2020.**

The actions of residents and businesses, community groups, volunteers, colleagues in town and parish councils and the RDC's own staff and members are heartening amid the tragedy and uncertainty caused by the ongoing crisis.

Nearly 300 people have so far contacted the community hub, a one-stop shop for advice and help, set up by the district council as part of a national effort.

With greater focus on testing key workers, the district council has now closed Wainwright Road car park to the public and made it available to the NHS as a drive-through testing facility.

The district council is also playing a vital role in ensuring local businesses can access the grants they are entitled to, having already distributed a total of £13.4 million of Government funding to 1,120 businesses across the district. The authority is currently sending out information to eligible businesses who have yet to apply.

While the majority of council services continue to run with little disruption, decisions have had to be made to safeguard some services and protect staff and members of the public.

Following a large number of visitors to Camber Sands in March despite Government warnings to social distance, all car parks serving the beach remain closed. All other car parks, with the exception of Wainwright Road, remain open with parking charges suspended.

Parks remain open for residents' daily exercise, but they are being reminded to observe social distancing and not to meet with anyone not in the same household.

### **Garden Waste collections.**

Collections will resume from Monday 4 May and collections will take place on customers' normal scheduled day.

Levels of garden waste are expected to be significantly higher than usual due to the service suspension, but our staff will work hard to ensure they can deliver as full a service as possible. Due to the expected waste levels, residents are asked not to put additional waste out for collection, but to hold onto to it and add it to future collections. If there is any delay to collections customers should leave their bin at the collection point until crews are able to get there.

Existing customers who are currently being asked to renew their subscriptions, will be charged £35 instead of the increased charge of £40 due to take effect this year. The £5 discount is in recognition of missed collections and any disruption as the services re-establish.

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