

# BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Zoom meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) Chairman, Christopher Broadbent (CB), Roderick Chapman (RC), Ed Erith (EE) Vice Chairman, Ms Zoe Gleisner (ZG), Stephen Thorneycroft (ST) & Mrs N Vadorin (NV).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs V Ades (Clerk), District Cllrs Tony Ganly (TG) and Martin Mooney (MM), County Cllr Ms Davies (AD) *will arrive after attending Peasmarsh PC meeting* and one member of the public.

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1. **Apologies for absence.** None.
2. **Declarations of interest** whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda. None.
3. **Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.**

**ZG** reported she had attended the PCSO Police Meeting on Friday 26 February, which was fairly quiet and focussed mainly on break-in's around Rother.

**ST** reported the potholes in Horseshoe Lane which were breaking up had still not been attended to.

**Report to AD later.**

**CB** announced he would be standing down from council following the meeting on 6 April.

**EE** reported finger posts at Main Street/Rectory Lane and the one opposite require attention.

**TL to investigate and send details to the Clerk.**

**TL** thanked **CB** for all his work over the last 10 years which he had spent on the Council and the term he served as Chairman. She said his skills, especially on wildlife and his letter writing expertise would be greatly missed. He has kindly offered to continue to advise on work at the Frog Field. Members echoed their thanks.

Reporting on complaints about **footpath 18** at the junction of Main Street/Buddens Green she advised the adjacent fields had been sold and the new owner had horses on the field. The owner had paid to have some land levelled to enable access for a horsebox and a water supply for the horses had been installed. She did not feel these changes would present any problems. **Members supported her comments.** **Frog field** hedge is being finished and the removed trees/hedges will be shredded into chippings, which will be spread on the ground. She thanks the Horticultural Society for their donation of £50 which is for bird boxes. Restrictions on the **MUGA** are being eased and the tennis court net will be available from Easter. A tennis coach has asked to use the court for coaching and a nominal charge £5 per 90-minute slot will be applicable. **Steve Bunn, a resident, will run the booking system.** There are nettles around the perimeter of the court.

**EE** pointed out chippings from the trees would be sharp and may not be suitable for spreading. The correct chippings should be purchased. **EE will obtain details of a suitable week-killer.**

4. **To consider and approve** the minutes of the PC meeting of 2 February 2021. The minutes were approved and will be signed by TL.
5. **Planning Applications** – to consider those received from RDC and any other planning matters. **RR/2021/351/T DEL Combe House, Main Street.** Works to two Oak trees with TPO's. (information only).
6. **Resident's request for a grit bin at Hobbs Close.** CB has looked at the close and feels there are only two areas suitable to house a bin. **Highways will be contacted to obtain details.**
7. **Litter Pickers** – request from resident for more litter pickers in the village. A resident has already collected 6 large sacks of litter. Should any residents wish to help clear litter please let the Clerk or Chairman know.

**7.50pm – AD arrived.** She reported Covid figures in Rother continue to fall and shielded people can get help via the NHS. There are five community hubs in East Sussex assisted by volunteers. TL reported to her potholes requiring attention in Moores Lane and those requiring additional repair in Horseshoe Lane and the request

for a grit bin in Hobbs Close.

**AD will advise Highways.**

8. **RALC** – two representatives required. **Cllr Vadorin and TL will become the RALC representatives.**
9. **Donation request – Beckley Village Hall.** The Committee had reported exceptional expenses had been incurred and with the loss of bookings over the last 11 months they were in great need of funding. **Members authorised the normal £500 annual donation** and asked if the money the village hall had lost from the PC's bookings could be added. The Clerk said this was approximately £150 pa. **She was asked to check the PC's reserves with a view to increasing the donation by the £150.** **Clerk.**
10. **Appoint a 3<sup>rd</sup> signatory for cheques.** ZG volunteered and members agreed. **Clerk.**
11. **Accounts** for approval (*Reclaimable VAT shown for items exceeding £100*).

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
Admin costs		946.12	Ralph N Hobbs - consultancy		£365.00
IdVerde final	78.23	469.41	Frog Field		

**RC proposed and ZG seconded the accounts for payment – carried.**

12. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 6 April 2021**
13. **Matters** for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting.
14. **Public questions** - not to exceed 10 minutes. None.

**ZG** asked for the date of the Census. TL said 21 March and codes will be sent in the post.

**TL** said she and the Clerk had attended a virtual meeting run by independent consultants appointed by RDC to obtain ideas to improve the planning system in Rother.

**Paul Redstone** introduced himself as having been selected to stand as a County Councillor at the forthcoming County Council elections. He has lived at Cripps Corner for 30 years. He was sorry to hear our County Councillor Ms Angharad Davies was stepping down and hoped he would be joining us.

**The meeting closed at 8.16pm.**

Questions may be emailed to the Clerk at:- [clerk@beckleyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@beckleyparishcouncil.org.uk).

Reports, as written, from ESCC and RDC councillors are attached.

## ESCC Report for Parish Councils - March 2021

ESCC agreed a balanced budget on 9<sup>th</sup> February at Full Council. There have been no further savings this year (beyond those identified a year ago) and core services are protected. The county council is fully aware of the pressures on many families, individuals, and businesses. Council tax for services provided by the county council will increase by 1.99% plus a 1.5% social care dividend which amounts to £1 per week for a band D property from April.

Community support is still available and is being continued this year. If you need help to get food, medicines or essentials, or you are lonely or isolated, you can contact your Community Hub in Bexhill.

East Sussex is holding local elections on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 for county councillors and some district/borough councillors, and the PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner). Polling stations will open as normal but people are being encouraged to vote by post. Apply for a postal vote GOV.UK([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) or contact the electoral office at RDC.

Residents over 60 in Rye, Robertsbridge and surrounding villages, are being asked to share their experiences of rural life. **Healthy Ageing through Innovation in Rural Europe (HAIRE)** is a research and community action project, funded by Interreg 2 Seas and the EU's European Regional Development Fund. This is a community research project enabling older people to define what support they need in rural areas in order to reduce loneliness and improve Health and Wellbeing. Please contact Sue Dunkley, Project Support Officer, HAIRE, 07783847944 [Sue.dunkley@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Sue.dunkley@eastsussex.gov.uk) project runs till 2022.

Organisations and businesses are being invited to submit proposals for a holiday food and activity programme set to launch across East Sussex at Easter. ESCC is requesting interested providers to submit proposals by Friday March 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a government funded scheme for the Easter break, which will be free for disadvantaged children (children receiving free school meals, or who are on income related benefits). Priority areas include Bexhill, Eastbourne, Hailsham, Hastings Newhaven and Peacehaven. **The Holiday Food and Fun programme** will run for 6 weeks across Easter, summer, and the Christmas holidays for children and young people up to the age of 16. Interested providers should contact ESCC via: [haf@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:haf@eastsussex.gov.uk) - or submit proposals on <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrens-services/haf-expression-of-interest-application-form-easter/> Deadline for Easter is March 5<sup>th</sup>, and for summer and Christmas proposals Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A free mobile app aimed at protecting children against online dangers has been launched in East Sussex. The **Safer Schools app** will provide information and advice for maintained schools and families about sexting, bullying, mental health, media literacy, gaming, and sexual exploitation online. Police received 92 reports in April 2020, 40% more than the same period in 2019. [www.oursaferschools.co.uk](http://www.oursaferschools.co.uk)

Two road safety intervention projects have started to show promising results. Pilot schemes have been designed to inspire a change in driver behaviour which have started to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads. Using one off funding from East Sussex Public Health, county has worked with the Behavioural Insights Team, Sussex Police, and other partners from the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership to try to address high rates of serious collisions which result in injury or death. New national figures show that 9 in 10 incidents are caused by driver behaviour. Three different pilots were set up. Analysis of results will be available later in 2021.

Attacks on officers enforcing parking regulations in Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, and recently Rother, have become more common and serious. Council bosses have called for an end to unacceptable behaviour towards enforcement officers. Incidents have risen since the end of January, with 2 officers requiring hospital attention in one week alone. Last year there were 22 incidents requiring police involvement, including 8 physical assaults, as well as 18 separate incidents where an officer needed

urgent help from a colleague. Civil enforcement officers play an important role in ensuring that people park safely and sensibly. Unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated.

[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roadandtransport/parking](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roadandtransport/parking)

Angharad Davies East Sussex County Councillor Northern Rother

## **Northern Rother District Councillors' Report March 2021.**

Additional Restrictions Grant – Discretionary Business Grants.

Using the remaining balance of £1.9m in the Discretionary Grants Scheme it is proposed to make such grants available to the following businesses: B & B's, Market Traders, Holiday Accommodation, Hospitality & Leisure Supply chain, Arts & Entertainment,

Home-based "in person" businesses and Shared Spaces (businesses operating in shared office space that do not have their own rating assessment).

Additional information is available in the agenda for the Cabinet meeting of 1 March 2021. Here is the link: <https://rother.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=153&MIId=512&Ver=4>

**Food Hygiene** Nearly 99% of Rother food businesses are broadly compliant with food hygiene standards, scoring three out of five or higher. In addition, nearly 76% of food businesses have been awarded the top score: five out five. There are 989 food businesses in Rother from cafes, takeaways, pubs and restaurants to your local grocery shop, supermarkets and even care homes and they are inspected by our Environmental Health team.

**Fly tipping** We have had 783 fly tips reported to the Council between April and December 2020. This is already more than 40% more than all of 2019/20 and the highest amount for years. We detected 36 fly tips, by finding evidence during our investigations that helped us take action to prevent further offences.

**Car Parks** We are undertaking a review of car parks in light of the introduction of civil parking enforcement in Rother in 2020. Due to lockdowns it has been more difficult to gather data on the impact on our car parks so work will continue in 2021.

Cllrs Martin Mooney & Tony Ganly