

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE CENTRE at 7.30pm on TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2022

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) Chairman, Rod Chapman (RC), Ms Zoe Gleisner (ZG), Stephen Thorneycroft (ST), Mrs Natasha Vadorin (NV).

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr Tony Ganly (TG) and three members of the public.

- 1. Public Questions – 10 minutes.** Allow questions (**maximum 2 minutes per person**) 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 reported in the minutes.**

Mr S Bowler asked for an update on the Buddens Green field and where he could find a copy of the PC agenda? He asked for item 7 on the agenda to be changed to 'grass cutting at Buddens Green'. Ms Howse also asked how long before the meeting was the agenda published on the PC's website.

- 2. Apologies for absence.** Mrs V Ades (Clerk), Steve Bunn (SB), County Cllr Paul Redstone (PR), District Cllr M Mooney – apologies accepted. The Council would like to extend good wishes to Cllr Redstone, who is in hospital, and wish him a speedy recovery.

- 3. Declarations of interest** whether personal or pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda. TL declared an interest in planning application number **RR/2021/967/L DEL The Granary, Main Street.**

- 4. Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.**

TL reported that the dog bin in Hobbs Lane had been reported as needing emptying. There was a collapsed stile in Hobbs Lane that needs repairing. She had attended a police meeting on the subject of 'Big Data'. The police use the information that they receive from the public to determine the best use of their time and resources. They analyse all the calls they receive so it is important that residents inform them of any issues however small which may lead to greater presence in Beckley.

ZG reported received a memo from Woodlands UK who own most of Milldown Woods – they were unhappy with the number of filled dog poo bags left on the ground and on trees in the area. She also asked TG to confirm the planning requirements for solar panels on non-listed houses in the village.

NV advised the Farmers' Market re-starts 24 April 10 till noon, with full capacity.

- 5. To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 1/3/22. Approved subject to final copy being available to sign.

- 6. Planning:** to consider any planning applications received from RDC and any other planning matters.

RR/2022/70/P D - Oxney View, Peasmarsh Road, Four Oaks. Erection of single storey side extension and 2no. open front porches. Erection of two storey rear extension and erection of new double garage. **Approved 4 with 1 declared interest.**

- 7. Mr S Bowler's request** for information regarding cutting the meadow to the rear of Buddens Green. SB met with the contractors – they are due to start mowing the front field any day now. They will mow it in the graduated way as previously discussed, to ensure the newt habitat is kept intact. They will also cut the hedge but only with hand tools as the bird-nesting season has started. The residents of Buddens Green don't want the back field mown – they would like to keep it wild. The meeting was then halted for Mr Bowler to speak. He is of the opinion that one of the conditions of the purchase of the field was to keep it tidy and that as it is available for development it should be kept mown and tidy. – If it is to be kept as a wildflower meadow then it should be properly managed as such. The meeting recommenced. SB to ascertain correct method of maintaining a wildflower meadow.

- 8. Spring Newsletter** minor changes to be made.

- 9. Carmen Bridge** – No ESCC response as yet.

10. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations** – The Lord Lieutenant will be at Beckley Church for the service on Thursday 2nd June 2022 at 10.00am – followed by refreshments from the WI.
11. **Tree survey** – follow up with Steve Curley and Brian Doggett – Deferred until next meeting EE.
12. **Village Clock** – agree cost of replacement lamps - £70 net from Outdoorclocks.co.uk. Agreed unanimously.
13. **Consider request from RALC** to increase annual subscription from £30 to £40pa. Agreed unanimously.
14. **NALC's request** for smaller councils to provide information on services it would like to see provided/improved. No comments.
15. **Storms Eunice and Franklin** – GSH have quoted £650 for the removal of fallen trees in the frog field. Agreed unanimously.
16. **Emergency call-out list** – Deferred to next meeting.
17. **Accounts** for approval (*VAT, if applicable, shown for items exceeding £100*).

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
Reimbursement V.Adess			Admin costs – March		1076.92
Bexhill Computer Repairs 29.3.22		75.00	Beckley Village Hall - Mar		16.40
C J Wildlife (bird boxes) Mar invoices		367.79	Potash Farm Chestnut tree		65.00
Beckley Village Hall 2021-22 donation		500.00			
Rita Rose-damage to car & fence -balance		673.00			
Makin Fencing Ltd - Inv 952 2.3.22		465.00			

Proposed by SB and seconded by NV.

18. **Matters** for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting.
19. **Public questions** - not to exceed 10 minutes. Ms D Cole spoke to the meeting about the 'Home for Ukraine' support group that she is co-ordinating in the village and she is looking for volunteers to offer their services to help with Ukrainian refugees. This may take the form of help with translating, on-line applications, shopping, babysitting etc.
20. **Date of next meeting – 3 May 2022 commencing 7.30pm.**
The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Minuted by Cllr Ms Zoe Gleisner

Report attached from RDC. (No report from ESCC due to Cllr Redstone's ill health).

Northern Rother District Councillors' Report April 2022.

Revenue Budget and Capital Programme – Q3 2022/23.

Cabinet agreed the continuation of two Service Level Agreements in respect of Rother District Citizen's Advice and Bexhill Museum and an extension of funding of £85,000 for Rother Citizens Advice and £8,500 for Bexhill Museum for a further one year.

The Revenue Budget forecast as of 31 December 2021 indicates a surplus of £128,000 against the approved budget drawdown from Reserves of £2.7m. This is an improvement of £222,000 since the Q2 forecast.

Strategy and Planning shows a deficit £677,000 which has decreased by £60,000 mainly due to a predicted reduction of £54,000 in the cost of support from Capita Business Services to clear the planning applications backlog. There was also a reduction in the costs of judicial reviews forecast (£17,000) and additional income from the administration of Community Infrastructure Levy receipts (£38,000), although this was largely offset by a predicted downturn in Planning fee income of £47,000.

The Council's Capital Programme is forecast to underspend by £47.345m in 2021/22, but this is due to timing differences and the five-year programme is still on target to be delivered.

Financial Stability Programme.

Options being considered include:

- a. a/ Public Conveniences, to either:
 - Devolve to Town and Parish Councils including further options to refurbish before devolving or
 - Devolve to Town and Parish Councils providing such Councils with funding to refurbish perhaps through CIL funds or
 - Retain, refurbish and introduce charges or
 - If the Parish or Town Council and the community agree that the facility is not required then redevelop or demolish.
- b. b/ Car parks that are a net cost to RDC, to either:
 - Devolve to Town and Parish Councils or other suitable groups or
 - Retain and investigate introducing charges in sites that are currently free to use or
 - Re-purpose if the facility is not needed by the community.
- c. Grounds maintenance, to either:
 - Agree a programme of devolvement with Bexhill, Battle and Rye Town Councils or
 - Continue with a service contract managed by RDC, but with a minimum specification at lowest cost.

Arboriculture Services contract.

It is proposed to work with Hastings Borough Council to jointly procure and appoint an arboriculture services contractor with an estimated annual cost to RDC of £46,000 and as a separate contract to Hastings Borough Council for a term of three years with an option to extend for a further two years.

Cllr Martin Mooney and Cllr Tony Ganly