



## BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in THE VILLAGE CENTRE on TUESDAY 11 July 2023 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs Natasha Vadorin (NV), Mr Steve Bunn (SB), Mr Ed Erith (EE), Mrs Catherine Penny (CP) and Mr Stephen Thorneycroft (ST) who was delayed on route.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Cllr Paul Redstone (PR), District Cllrs Tony Biggs (TB) and Tony Ganly (TG), The Clerk M Philo and two members of the public.

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#### 1. Public Questions

None

#### 2. Apologies

Councillor Mitchell.

#### 3. Declarations of interest

Councillor Erith advised of a minor interest in the Chestnut planning application.

#### 4. Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.

##### District Councillors Reports

Councillor Biggs continued liaising with the area PCSOs and had suggested a separate 'whatsapp' group to include them, the Police Sargent and the parish council representatives. He stressed the importance of reporting all incidents whether (999 in an emergency or 101 otherwise) as it builds a picture of crime in the area and allows the Police to detect patterns which the Police can then prevent or deter.

Rother District Council is looking into a food waste collection as part of a joint waste group with Wealden. A public consultation will go out should the idea move forward.

Councillor Thorneycroft arrived and advised he had no Declarations of Interests.

##### Parish Councillor Reports

SB advised that the dog bin was now again welded to its post and would be reinstalled outside the school during the holidays. The bench in the play area had been repaired and all the defibrillators had been registered with the national register 'The Circuit'. Two pairs of scissors are need. **ACTION: The Clerk**

SB had changed the tennis court booking system to allow bookings on the half hour. Court revenue had increased. Wimbledon had focused people's attention on the sport.

SB reported that the Bowls Club had hung a directional to the club to one of the village fingerposts. The Clerk had not had any communication from the Bowls Club.

**ACTION: The Chairman to speak with them.**

The Clerk was advised that there was approved budget of £2,000 to have further refurbishment work on the fingerposts. **ACTION: The Clerk**

ST asked about the Music Festival advertised for the first weekend in July. This had been cancelled due to insufficient ticket sales. The event was to raise funds for the school.

#### 5. Approval of the Minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Following amendment, the minutes were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed.

## 6. Election of Vice Chairman

Councillor Bunn proposed Councillor Erith and Councillor Thorneycroft seconded. **It was unanimously agreed to elect Councillor Erith as Vice Chairman till the next annual meeting of the parish council in 2024.**

## 7. Planning

- a) Delegation of planning comments during the August Recess

**It was resolved to delegate to the Clerk, during the summer recess, making planning comments unless a large or complicated application came in and a time extension is not permitted.** (LGA1972 s101). The clerk would contact members for their views.

- b) Planning Applications Considered

**RR/2023/127/L Chestnuts, Main Street.** Replacement of existing bay window with a new painted timber joinery unit. **Members unanimously supported the application.**

**RR/2023/1274/P Methersham Farm – Owl house, Hobbs Lane.** Change of use of existing building to single, independent dwelling house (class C3) **Members supported by a majority the application. Councillor Erith abstained.**

**RR/2023/1100/P Great Bellhurst Bungalow, Land north of Hobbs Lane.** Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) imposed on RR/2023/1581/P to improve layout and appearance. **Members unanimously supported the application.**

**RR/2023/927/P Boormans Cottage, Whitebread Lane.** Part conversion, demolition and extension of barn to 2no holiday lets and installation of sewage. **Members voted to comment as follows: Beckley Parish Council were unable to consider the application because there is little information on the treatment plant and the council is aware a stream runs close by.**

**RR/2023/1130/P 3 Coombs Cottages, Hobbs Lane.** Single storey side extension to be used as an annexe (retrospective). **Members unanimously supported the application.**

**For Notification Only**

**RR/2023/1276/FN Ludley Farm, Land to the South West, Ludley Hill.** Application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed erection of a new agricultural building

- b) Planning Application Decisions Advised

RR/2023/60/P DEL Great Knelle Farm, The Old Dairy building, Whitebread Lane. *Information /amended plans and/or description:* Conversion of a redundant agricultural building (The Old Dairy building) to a residential dwelling. Approved conditionally.

RR/2023/61/L DEL Great Knelle Farm, The Old Dairy building, Whitebread Lane. *Additional information /amended plans and/or description* Conversion of a redundant agricultural building (The Old Dairy building) to a residential dwelling. Granted.

## 8. County Councillor Report

At the meeting with South East Water, planned for the end of August, Councillor Redstone would be raising the late delivery of water bottles (courtesy water) to Cripps Corner, Rye Foreign and Iden, plus the system capacity failure. Councillor Bunn thanked him for assisting with resolving the long-term water meter leak pouring on to the pavement at Kings Bank. The bollards were still on the pavement which also needed pressure washing. Councillor Redstone had also reported the Footpath at Buddens Green issue to Planning Enforcement and passed on the noise issue on Whitebread Lane to the district councillors who are now looking into these. The county council is receiving good reports about Flexibus and will be sending posters for the village noticeboards.

## 9. Health and Safety Statement

Deferred to the next meeting. Statement to be amended to include volunteers.

**ACTION: The Clerk**

## 10. Play Area and MUGA

The clerk had met with a play provider to review soft landing surfaces for the junior and toddler wooden climbing equipment to obtain some guideline pricing.

**It was resolved to acquire a new junior swing seat and two cradle seats and chains from the manufacturer £745.70 including delivery but plus vat.**

With regard to the small holes on the tennis court surface and wear on the baseline, it had been suggested that the guarantee was checked. **ACTION: The Clerk**

The clerk reported that the tree branches were over hanging the senior climbing frame and should be cut back as soon as possible. **ACTION: SB to review**

## 11. Council Data Back Up and Email Account

The council laptop information is not currently being backed up (no cloud nor portable hard drive).

**It was unanimously agreed to acquire for the Council Laptop Microsoft Office Business Basic with 1 TB of cloud storage, word, excel, power point, share point, business class email, teams, which is £4.90 plus vat a month per user or £58.88 plus vat a year.**

## 12. Council Banking

Following discussion of options with Natwest, Lloyd's and Unitary Bank, **it was resolved to open an account with Lloyds Bank Business Banking for parish councils, Treasurer's Account (current) and Instant Access (savers) with online banking with dual authorisation for payments and delegated authority to the clerk to set up payments, print statements and other administration.** No charge for running the accounts nor for online banking. **Full Authority Signatories will be Natasha Vadorin and Steve Bunn.** Others to be determined later.

**In the meantime, with regard to the NatWest Accounts, it was resolved to issue special instructions for the new Clerk Mary Philo to be able to order cheque books, ask about the bank balances and to receive statements and other similar administration but not to include authority to sign cheques.**

**Further to agree to transfer £25,000 into the NatWest Reserve Account.**

## 13. Buddens Green

The Clerk and the Chairman had been to visit the field allocated for housing to find that the area was in need of attention. A fuller report would be given at the September meeting.

## 14. Dog Control Consultation

Beckley Parish Council considered the issues raised in the consultation and voted that with regard to –

**Beckley Sports and Recreation Ground;  
Buddens Green (by Buddens Green Houses);  
the School Field (Beckley CE School)**

**to remain with the current position which is the requirement that dogs remain on leads whilst on these facilities all year round. Signage to this effect is already in place. The parish council makes no comment on the other parts of the consultation.**

## 15. Accounts

| Recipient                            | VAT £ | Total £ | Recipient   | VAT | Total £ |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---------|---|-----|---------|
| Clerk's Salary                       |       | 738.84  | Refund N Vadorin: Parish Assembly Refreshments      |     | 105.32  |
| Refund S Bunn new padlock for bench  |       | 4.99    | John O'Conner groundwork June                       |     | 213.95  |
| Beckley Village Hall - PC 7/13.06.23 |       | 18.90   | Refund M Philo 2 <sup>nd</sup> class book of stamps |     | 7.20    |
| Refund V Ades for New Flag           | 16.98 | 101.87  |   |     |         |

The accounts were unanimously approved for payment, when a new cheque has been received.

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

Update on Banking  
Accounts  
Buddens Green Field

**17. Public Questions**

Following advice that the RALC meeting was not online, the Clerk was asked to send the council's apologies and to ask if the venue could rotate between the councils.

Date of next meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 commencing 7.30pm village hall. Meeting closed at 9.08pm.