



## BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in THE VILLAGE CENTRE on TUESDAY 12 September 2023 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs Natasha Vadorin (NV), Mr Steve Bunn (SB), Mr Joel Mitchell (JM), Mrs Catherine Penny (CP) and Mr Stephen Thorneycroft (ST).

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

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#### 1. Public Questions

A resident advised that there had been another accident close to Carman Bridge where the road narrows. A priority sign or an additional warning sign on the other side to the current one, was suggested as resolution.

Some residents spoke about their concerns about the planning application for Church Farm.

#### 2. Apologies

Councillor Erith.

#### 3. Declarations of interest

None.

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

##### a) District Councillors Reports

Councillor Biggs advised that there had been a break in and a van stolen. Residents should be cautious.

Councillor Ganly had already provided a written report.

##### b) Parish Councillor Reports

CP advised that a crack had appeared in the front wall of the bus shelter opposite The Rose & Crown following South East Water works there.

**ACTION: Councillor Redstone to speak to South East Water. Clerk to write to Southern Water.**

JM reported that the perspex panel of the shelter near the MUGA was cracked, the court surface needed strimming to clear undergrowth; a bench in the top field needs considerable work and several other minor issues.

**ACTION: Councillor Bunn would review again.**

SB advised that the fingerpost opposite Kings Bank Lane was deteriorating and needed refurbishing. Several hedges along Main Street needed cutting back and the hedge was overgrowing the flashing sign.

NV advised that the other flashing sign was constantly flashing.

**ACTION: Clerk to obtain a quotes for the post and advise highways of the hedges and signs.**

CP advised that there was glass under one of the climbing frames.

**ACTION: Councillor Penny would clear it away the following day.**

## **5. Approval of the Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

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

## **6. Planning**

### **a) Comments made under delegation during the August recess (LGA 1972, s.101)**

- i. RR/2023/1414/P The Willows, Furnace Lane: Conversion and extension to existing outbuilding to create ancillary living accommodation and improved garage/workshop – Support.
- ii. RR/2023/1445/P Freshfields, Horseshoe Lane: Variation of condition 2 imposed on planning permission RR/2023/766/P to allow for an amendment to the approved extension and a change of material for the roof tiles – Support.
- iii. RR/2023/1310/P Chestnut Cottage, Main Street: Demolition of existing garage and store and erection of a new garage building containing home office – Support.

### **b) Applications considered:**

- i. **RR/2023/1655/P The Gallery, Main Street: Internal refurbishment upgrading the thermal elements and additional 3 no conversion roof lights. It was resolved unanimously to support.**
- ii. **RR/2023/756/L The Gallery, Main Street: Internal refurbishment upgrading the thermal elements and additional 3 no conversion roof lights. It was resolved unanimously to support.**
- iii. **RR/2023/1641/P Beckley Gallery, Peasmarsh Road: Erection of North and South single storey extensions with pitched tiled roofs and minor changes to fenestration. It was resolved unanimously to support.**
- iv. **RR/2023/1691/P Little Heron House, Hobbs Lane: Demolition of disused stable block and replacement with an ancillary building to provide a plant room and guest accommodation. Change of use of land to domestic curtilage and associated works. It was resolved unanimously to support.**

Councillor Redstone arrived.

- v. **RR/2022/2763/P Church Farm Bungalow, Main Street: Retrospective application for the erection of a wooden cabin to be used as ancillary living accommodation. It was resolved to comment as follows - Beckley Parish Council are aware that concerns have been raised and ask officers to consider it in line with policy. It was further unanimously resolved to ask District Councillor Ganly to call in the application.**

### **c) Planning Permission Granted**

- i. RR/2023/1270/L Chestnuts, Main Street: Replacement of existing bay window with a new painted timber joinery unit. Granted.
- ii. RR/2023/1310/P Chestnuts, Main Street: Demolition of existing garage building and store and erection of new garage building (with south facing solar panels) containing home office. Approved.
- iii. RR/2023/1100/P Great Bellhurst Bungalow, Land north of Hobbs Lane: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) imposed on RR/2022/1581/P to improve layout and appearance. Approved.

- iv. RR/2023/1414/P The Willows, Furnace Lane: Conversion and extension to existing outbuilding to create ancillary living accommodation and improved garage/workshop. Approved.
- vi. RR/2023/1130/P 3 Coombs Cottages, Hobbs Lane: Single Storey side extension to be used as an annexe (retrospective). Approved.
- vii. RR/2023/927/P Boormans cottage, Whitebread Lane: Part demolition and extension of no.2 holiday lets and installation of sewage plant. Approve.
- viii. RR/2023/717/P Boormans Cottage, Single storey near extension. Approved.
- vi. RR/2023/1445/P Freshfields, Horseshoe Lane: Variation of condition 2 imposed on planning permission RR/2023/766/P to allow for an amendment to the approved extension and a change of material for the roof tiles. Approved.

#### **d) Planning Applications Refused**

- i. RR/2023/779/P Fortune Cottage, Horseshoe Lane: Proposed woodland access and associated parking/working area for forestry activity – Refused.
- ii. RR/2023/1274/P Methersham Farm – Owl house, Hobbs Lane. Change of use of existing building to single, independent dwellinghouse (use class C3) – Refused.

#### **e) Enforcements**

ENF/332/22/BEC Land South of Whitbread Lane: Change of use – for storage and processing of timber together with stationing of storage container.

### **County Councillor Report**

Councillor Redstone had met with South East Water Operations Director and a briefing will be included in the next monthly report. S E Water would like to recruit a volunteer to man each water bottle station. The water mains had been replaced in Beckley Road and Clayhill.

A good reports about Flexibus had been received.

The county had agreed to fund a further 15 million on roads.

### **7. Finances**

- i. External Audit – It was noted that the external auditor has raised no issues for concern.
- ii. Internal Audit  
**It was resolved to contract Mulberry & Co to complete the internal audit for 2023-2024 and to sign up for three years to hold the hourly rate at £65 plus travel charge.**
- iii. Financial Report  
It was resolved to agree and note the first quarter monthly breakdown.  
First quarter budget monitoring was presented and noted. It was noted that the budget did not reflect all the expected expenditure councillors had mentioned, leaving an allowance for unexpected expenditure the parish council held around £10,000 to spend on a major project such as the play area soft surfacing.
- iv. Publication of Financial Information  
Following discussion, the council will be publishing more financial information on the website.

### **8. Newsletter**

The first Beckley Bulletin had been delivered: a doubled sided colour A4 leaflet. There is currently no free magazine delivered to all households. Concerns were expressed that there would not be enough material and would become repetitive. Delivery of the leaflet could be difficult; however, a resident had offered to help. The council will review the publication in January following the October and November issues.

### **9. Health and Safety Statement**

**It was resolved to agree the proposed policy wording**

## 10. Play Area and MUGA

It was noted that the council did not have sufficient funds to cover the cost replacing the wood bark below both the junior and senior play activities with wet pour, rubber mulch or grass matting, The cost is high as a type 1 base needs to be in place to keep the soft-landing surface level on a boggy incline but it would provide a dry surface for the winter months though there is no path to the play area. It was suggested to replace the fireman's pole with an extension to the equipment.

The key to wind the tennis net was missing. Without one the net cannot be wound up to play tennis. **Action: Councillor Bunn to enquire with Sovereign Sports for another one.**

## 11. Donations

A donation to Air Ambulance was deferred.

**It was resolved to donate to The British Legion Poppy Appeal to including the cost of wreath and 4 large poppies for the village entrances £50**

## 12. Buddens Green

The conveyance of the land at the rear of Buddens Green requires the council to keep the land tidy. The cost of clearing the whole area is estimated to cost between £2000 to £3000. The area although currently a pleasant area with birds and insects, it was probably that the brambles would take over as the tree canopy made the area darker. Those homeowners backing on to the area would prefer to keep the area unchanged. It had been suggested that clearing the grass in the Autumn/Winter would be a first step. Should the countrification of the site continue then it might be possible that this would prevent any further building on the site even though the site is allocated for 6/8 affordable housing in the local plan. **Action: Clerk to seek further advice to be sought.**

## 13. Accounts

It was unanimously agreed to draw the following cheques

Recipient	VAT	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
Clerk Salary including PAYE (July to note that the amount was changed from the June agenda) August September HMRC for July to Sept		(£591.24 £886.43 £738.84 Nil	Refund M Philo 2 <sup>nd</sup> class stamp book		£7.20
John O'Conner groundwork August inv 99333	£35.66	213.95	Playsafety Limited inv. 73305	£34.90	£209.40
ESALC – Planning training x 2	£16.00	96.00	Refund M Philo Beckley Bulletin		£71.11
M Philo July and August Office allowance	Nil	£52.00	Beckley Village Hall		£12.60
Pett Parish Council A third of the mobile phone for the Parish Clerk	Nil	£21.88	Refund Steve Bunn for postmix for bench on Jubilee field	£1.59	£9.54
Refund M Philo Defibrillator sign	£4.05	£24.28			

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

Bus Shelter Noticeboard.

Perspex for the shelter by the tennis court

Review of Asset List.

The clerk suggested altering the agenda to have standing items to cover the councillor reports to avoid several repetitions on the agenda.

#### **15. Public Questions**

None.

Date of next meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 commencing 7.30pm village hall.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm.