



BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in THE VILLAGE CENTRE on TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2023 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors, Mr Steve Bunn (SB), Mrs Catherine Penny (CP) and Mr Stephen Thorneycroft (ST).

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

1. Public Questions at 7.30pm

Notice: Talk about the Village Map of 1815- Friday 24th November at 7.30pm Village Centre

Notice: 10K Race – Sunday 5th November, 11am to 12.30am. Helpers would be welcome.

Request for the overgrown hedge along the B2165 to be reported to highways.

Advice that hedges around Carman Bridge had been cut back making the signs visible again.

Complaint: Contractors parking at Pippins were obstructing the pavement. Councillor Penny would speak the property owners.

Request for residents to remember at night to park with the rear reflector lights showing to oncoming traffic.

Advice that the Police had chased poachers in Kitchenours Lane.

The meeting convened at 7.40pm

2. Apologies

Councillors Vadorin and Mitchell.

3. Declarations of interest

None.

4. The Meeting adjourned for Reports from County and District Councillors 7.43pm

a) District Councillors Reports

Councillor Biggs advised that there was a consultation running about the suitability of polling stations and that the PCSO had reported 2 thefts: from a van and of plant, both in Northiam and vandalism to the shelter and goalposts on Jubilee Field.

Councillor Ganly had already provided a written report.

5. The Meeting reconvened at 7.43pm

6. Approval of the Minutes of 12th September 2023

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

7. Planning

a) Applications considered:

- i. **RR/2023/1944/P Eastlands Cottage, Stoddards Lane: Variation of condition 3 on RR/2023/845/P to allow accommodation to be occupied by friends and family as well as short term let. It was unanimously resolved to support.**

b) Planning Permission Approved:

- i. RR/2023/1655/P The Gallery, Main Street: Internal refurbishment upgrading the thermal elements and additional 3 no conversion roof lights. Approved.
- ii. RR/2023/1655/P The Gallery, Main Street: Internal refurbishment upgrading the thermal elements and additional 3 no conversion roof lights. Approved.
- iii. 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. Approved.
- 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.

8. Finances

- i. Financial Report. The Second Quarter budget monitoring had been circulated and is available on the website. Following the change of councillors due to the elections and a new clerk, the progress on objectives is delayed and is reflected in the council's low expenditure. However, the regular running costs of the council seem to be in line with expectations. The clerk suggested holding a reserve of £10,000 to include the issue of any data protection security breaches.
- ii. Monthly Running Balances (considering un-presented cheques) were signed off and were as follows:
 - 30th April £41,437.06
 - 31st May £37,758.80
 - 30th June £36,558.44
 - 31st July £36,586.08
 - 31st August £34,215.90
 - 30th September £44,666.74
- iii. Budget for 2023-2024
The council was anticipating spending some funds on the play equipment.
- iv. Asset List
Progress is ongoing.

9. Jubilee Fields, Play Area and MUGA Repairs and Improvements

- i. Note: Councillor Penny had removed all the glass from the play area and is emptying the bins at the play area.
- ii. Report on regular checks of Jubilee Fields was deferred. It was noted that Councillor Burton also inspects these from time to time.
- iii. Update on moving the bins from the centre of the field to beside the roadside bins.
The bins may not be anchored. Following discussion, it was thought better to leave the bins in position and Councillor Penny would continue to empty them.
- iv. Jubilee Field – gap in hedge opposite the village hall
Councillor Penny offered to fill the gap with hedging saplings from her garden.
- v. Review the maintenance specifications (grass/hedges/spraying).
The current contract is for fortnightly grass cutting from April depending on ground conditions plus twice a year hedge cutting and weeding around the tennis court. Following discussion, it was thought the specifications were appropriate but consideration of the wildflower meadow would be deferred to the next meeting. The current contractor had

quoted £200 to cut and clear the wildflower meadow.

- vi. **It was resolved to acquire replacement perspex for the shelter from the manufacturer: 3mm thickness 1x Rear Sheet (sold in pairs) and 5mm thickness 1x End panel sheet (sold in pairs) with delivery from Nottinghamshire. Total Cost £798.00 (vat £133).**

10. Land at Buddens Green

Planning officers had contacted the council requesting a progress update on development of the affordable houses for the approved site in the local plan. They had been advised that following the elections the council and clerk were new. Following discussion, it was thought best to set up a committee to look at discovery regarding the affordable units. The public consultation on the local plan was now expected early next year.

11. Bus Shelters and Defibrillator

- i. Hobbs Lane End of Main Street Bus Shelter Noticeboard
It was resolved to replace the noticeboard backing. Estimated cost £70.
- ii. Bus Shelter opposite the pub crack in wall. Deferred.
- iii. It was suggested that the location of the defibrillators could be mentioned in the newsletter. Following the new sign for the defibrillator at Ebrofrost Ltd the public had suggested similar signs were installed for the others. Clerk to write to the hall for permission. The defibrillator in the Phone Kiosk already had a sign on the kiosk.

12. Resilience Planning

Deferred to the next meeting.

13. Newsletter

Deferred to next meeting.

14. Fingerpost Refurbishment

Following discussion, it was thought that the fingerpost at Top Lane did not belong to Beckley Parish. The work carried out to the fingerposts just over a year ago had been for a quick paint. The post on Main Street opposite the junction with King's Bank Lane needs attention. The clerk had contacted four contractors but only one had responded. Following a suggestion from the public the clerk was asked to contact a local person for a quote. The clerk advised that Rother District Council policy on fingerposts was to only agree passive signs if the old-fashioned fingerposts were knocked down or too far gone to refurbish. Match funding is currently available for work to fingerposts.

15. Accounts

It was unanimously agreed to draw the following cheques

£504.96	Retiring Clerk's outstanding 2 weeks salary	
£6.00	Retiring Clerk's Office allowance	
£213.95	John O'Conner Monthly Grass Cutting Fee invoice 101131	
£20.00	Refund M Philo: Large poppies for village entrance (vat£3.33)	
£26.00	M Philo September Office Allowance	
£37.20	Iden PC: Share of Clerk's Mobile Phone June to September	
£738.84	Clerk's Salary	
£18.90	Village Hall September Hire	
£30.00	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Donation	1972 Act, s.137
£4.75	Refund m Philo: administration costs – ream of paper (vat £79p)	

16. Information for Councillors

- i. Police focus groups – online – date will be between 9th November to 1st December.
- ii. East Sussex Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting Tuesday 14th November Uckfield Centre 3 hours including light lunch.
- iii. Playing Field ditches: the Clerk has been contacted by a resident.
- iv. The consultation on increasing the scope of Permitted Development Rights in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty passed without coming, in time, to the attention of most parishes.
- v. RBL thanked the parish council for the donation.
- vi. Residential Development in Rother Event – Thursday 2nd November 10am to 2pm Manor Barn Bexhill. Councillor Bunn will attend.
- vii. Following a request from Rother District Council, the clerk had completed and displayed on the website the Community infrastructure Form that was missing from 2022-2023 year.
- viii. Tennis Courts: Sovereign Sports had apologised for the delay in sending the net winder key but it was on its way. Sovereign Sports will also visit the court to review the tennis surface issue. The tennis coach had also run about the surface during the month.
- ix. The Clerk was still looking into the insurance requirements regarding the tree maintenance but had noticed a condition regarding fidelity insurance that the council did not appear to be abiding by. Clerk to speak to insurers.
- x. Frog Field Information Board: the clerk had chased for contractor for an update.

17. Matters for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting

Buddens Green: clearing the site for affordable houses.

Deferred items.

18. Public Questions

None.

Date of next meeting – 14th November 2023 commencing 7.30pm village hall.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.