



# BECKINGTON, RUDGE & STANDERWICK

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## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019**

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The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held in the Clifford Suite, Beckington **Memorial Hall** on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019** between 7:00pm – 7:30pm

Attendance: **The Parish Council Chairman, 9 Parishioners** (6 of whom were Members of the Parish Council) **and the Parish Clerk.**

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Mark Wilson, Parish Council Chairman.


- I. **Apologies for Absence** – None Received
  
- II. **Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018** – Approved by the meeting
  
- III. **Matters Arising** – No matters arising.
  
- IV. **Parish Councillors' Report** – The Chairman read his report.

Chairman's Report 2018/19:

Firstly may I extend a warm welcome to the parishioners that have joined us tonight for our annual parish meeting, it's great that you can join us and hear about the highlights from the last twelve months and also listen to some of our plans for the next twelve months – very much depending upon our re-election.

I said in my report of last year that bus shelters would be my number one priority for the year and I'm delighted to be able to say these have now been delivered and installed, we are now in the process of recouping some of that expenditure via the section 106 agreements that were put in place during the development of Redrow and DWH. My vision for this council was to be seen to be doing things that are not only for the good of the village, but that are visible to the parishioners. It's important to me that people are able to see exactly what the precept is spent upon, other than administering the duties we are beholden to carry out as part of local government. So this year from a visibility point of view I feel we have been very successful. We have a new website, a new Facebook page. We have increased the number of dog poo bins around the village, and there are now over 14 places to dispose of dog mess. This

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has seen a reduction in the amount of dog mess around the village, and we plan to do more, we have a couple more bins to install and we also plan to engage further with the Mendip Dog Warden team to carry out more patrols around the village. We have installed and filled further grit bins around the village, ensuring salt is accessible in case of bad weather – I believe we have more work to do in this area but we've made a good start. The village pump is well on the way to being restored to its former glory, and the telephone box has been placed on the list with BT to be refurbished, so we can expect to see some activity there shortly too.

There are plans afoot for another Beckington spring clean, after last year's levels of engagement it will be great to see the village come together to have a tidy and spruce up.

We've had great success with the planning inspectorate, and have been instrumental in the rejection of two very high profile planning applications in the village, firstly Redrow phase 2 and just today, the appeal for the proposed Doric development at the bottom of the playing field was dismissed by the planning inspectorate. We produced two exceptional pieces of work as evidence for the inspectors and I'm certain that both those documents gave weight to Mendips arguments. I said last year that we were committed to holding Mendip to account with regards to their local plan, and thus far it's been shown that it's robust and fit for purpose, something that we shall continue to monitor and also stay close to.

This morning Ro and I met with the project manager from DWH to carry out an allotment site visit – there is some work that is still needed on the site to make it useable as an allotment space, but we have agreed a plan and timescale to ensure that we can deliver this public amenity to the villagers as soon as we can, and hopefully in time for them to start the growing season.

We've again improved our own internal processes and procedures to ensure we can make decisions more quickly, without impacting on our governance requirements, helping us to be more agile and lean when it comes to delivering "stuff" to the village, whatever that stuff may be.

We continue to work towards completing the projects identified in the Bettering Beckington Survey, and have allocated funds from this year's budget to ensure we can deliver against those projects.


Whilst speaking of the budget this year we have voted for an increase in the village precept, not only will this bring us closer to other primary villages in terms of available budget, but also means we can carry out even more work on behalf of the village, and whilst the percentage increase may seem high, the real figure represents excellent value to the council tax payers of the village and I'd reiterate that we are a council that wants to be in a position to seriously consider projects and initiatives that villagers bring to us.

Once such initiative is to reduce speeding through the village, and as such we have allocated budget for a mobile speed indicator device, and one of my personal priorities this year is to work hard to try and reduce the amount of speeding traffic through the village.

One personal note I'd like to thank my fellow councillors and the clerk for all of their hard work over the last twelve months, and look forward to a successful next twelve months by continuing to work closely with the parishioners and local organisations to make Beckington a safe and pleasant place to live.

Cllr Mark Wilson - Parish Council Chairman

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V. **District Councillor's Report** - No written report received from Cllr Mockford.

VI. **County Councillor's Report** – (Emailed to the Clerk beforehand)

I always read the PC minutes and agendas and make contact if there is anything included that I should respond to. I can see that the PC have been very active and undertaken a number of beneficial community projects and activities and they are to be congratulated on their success.

My involvement this year to date reflects the key area of my work, which is Highways related. In Beckington the 20 mph speed signs not being compliant was addressed and these have since been replaced. Concerns were also raised about vehicle speeds on all access roads in and out of the village. SCC Highways agreed to my request for speed-readings on Bath Road, Warminster Road and Frome Road. The speed and volume data demonstrated that Frome Road was the one that had higher levels of speeding. This is reflected by the fact that the police regularly undertake speed enforcement activities there. The recommendation from Highways was to increase the number of 20 mph roundels on the road surface to increase awareness to drivers of the restriction. The PC should consider responding to this suggestion.

If there is anything you wish me to do, or give my opinion on, please let me know. I have attached a briefing note for March 2019.


Cllr. Linda Oliver

VII. **Open Public Forum** (Residents are invited to discuss any matter affecting the Parish) –

- It was requested that Church Street be turned into a one-way street, the entry point being from the roundabout next to the Woolpack. The resident, who lives on Church Street, felt that this would solve a lot of the issues at the start and end of the school day and with delivery vans. The Chairman questioned if this initiative would have the support of the majority of residents living along the street and stated that the Parish Council would have to consult with them before supporting such a scheme. Do parking restrictions need looking at? It was also commented upon that parents should be asked to switch off their engines while waiting in the street. It was also noted that the after-school clubs do not observed the current voluntary one-way scheme. The Council will consult with the residents before deciding whether to support the installation of a formal one-way street.
- Parking on the roundabout at the Woolpack, can this be stopped? The Chairman replied that the local police didn't want it to be stopped as it helped slow the traffic down.
- Tannoy at the BP station is often used in the middle of the night, complaint has been made to the staff at the garage, but more tree planning between the BP garage and the homes next door would help. It was agreed that the Parish Council would take a look at the original plans to check to see if the agreed planning had be carried out.

VIII. **Close of meeting** – The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 19:30

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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