

BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL meeting held at The Clifford Suite, Beckington Memorial Hall on **TUESDAY 4th April 2017** at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors; Mr S Cundy (Chairman), Ms S Brooke, Mrs E Wright, Ms J Beresford, Mrs P Fox, Mr J Rider and Mr M Wilson.

In attendance: Simon Pritchard (Parish Clerk)

- 1. Public Participation** – Shannon Brooke brought the Council up to date with the issues on Standerwick Court Lane and the County Councils Highways department. A formal complaint has been made by Ms Brooke against SCC Highways. Cllr Linda Oliver is meeting SCC Highways people tomorrow. The next step is to take the matter to the Secretary of State, via David Warburton MP. A meeting is arranged for 21st of April.
- 2. Apologies for absence** – County Councillor Linda Oliver.
- 3. Declarations of interest** – There were none
- 4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 7th March 2017** were proposed for adoption by the Chairman and approved.
Questions were raised about what information goes into the minutes. The Clerk confirmed the minutes were not verbatim, so bits of debate maybe missing from minutes if they did not carry significant relevance.
- 5. Report from District and County Councillors** – Cllr Mockford and Cllr Oliver were both absent. The Clerk had requested a report from both if they were unable to attend. Cllr Oliver had sent an email to say that there was not much to report but noted the agenda item 'Highways Matters' on tonight's agenda and offered to assist the Council with any issues:
 - 'Rudge' sign at the A36 junction with Green Park Lane is still laying on the ground
Action: Cllr Oliver
 - Large highways sign on the A361 east bound approaching the White Row roundabout has collapsed. Highways England matter
Action: Clerk & Cllr Oliver
 - The Parish needs to have a SID survey to identify suitable sites for a SID
Action: Cllr Wilson
- 6. Matters Outstanding from Previous Meeting**
Members had been emailed the Action List with the agenda:
 - Bus Shelters:** Third installation quote - Cllr Brooke - Not yet obtained, but hopes to have within the next month. It was noted that the quoted price of the Bus Shelters themselves had increased significantly. Cllr Rider also reported that he so far had been unable to talk with Mrs Pritchard about her letter from the last meeting.
Action: Cllr Brooke & Rider
 - Grit Storage:** This had not been advanced. Cllr Beresford offered to become the Councils grit coordinator for Beckington itself, using Facebook to find places to store the grit and willing people to spread it when needed.
Action: Cllr Beresford
 - Dog Poo Bins:** This had been given a high priority in the 'Bettering Beckington' survey. It had previously been confirmed to the Council that MDC would empty the bins if the Parish Council purchased them. Cllr Brooke offered to take on looking at the locations, types of bin available and the costs and bring the information back to the Council.
Action: Cllr Brooke
 - High-speed Fibre Broadband:** following this service becoming available earlier this year in the village Cllr Cundy asked village members what speeds they were now obtaining. He will undertake a Beckington Facebook survey to see the speeds village residents are getting.

At this point, Cllr Brooke was asked to leave the meeting by the Chairman.

The Full Moon, Rudge: The Chairman highlighted to members the incredible amount of extra work that Cllr Brooke had carried out in objecting to the Full Moon holiday cottages being converted to 7 new residential houses redevelopment planning application and addressing the subsequent planning appeal to the Inspector. The Operational Assessment document that Cllr Brooke had produced was to a professional standard in her qualified professional capacity. Had the parish council asked an external professional consultant to undertake the work then it would have cost £1000's. The document had been used by MDC themselves in submitting their refusal objection to the Inspector. The Chairman advised members that he had asked for advice from the CEO of SALC as to whether the Council could pay Cllr Brooke for the work she had carried out, in lieu of her lost self-employed days of work, in producing this document. He had been advised it's a grey area, not against the law and that the Council could do so. The Clerk advised the Council that he would want to seek his own advice on this matter and that it would have to appear as an agenda item for the Council to make any formal decision. The Clerk also advised the Council that in many Councils the Members that undertook extra areas of responsibility received an annual allowance, this was perfectly normal and legal and maybe something the Council should look at. The suggestion of a one-off payment did not receive support from Members.

At this point, Cllr Brooke re-entered the room

7. Highway matters

The Clerk advised that the Council verge side grass cutting contract was now up for renewal and it seemed that the Council was paying about £226 per month for this service. A list of the areas cut was readout to the Council. Members of the Council queried the frequency of this cutting and all these locations and agreed to suspend the contract until further investigation could be carried out. Members requested to see a worksheet.

Action: Clerk

8. Bettering Beckington

Outdoor play equipment: Cllr Brooke & Beresford to have a meeting with officer from MDC. It was noted that nothing had been formally agreed, some items of equipment had been looked at and priced, but that the Council was still in information gathering mode.

Action: Cllr Brooke & Beresford

Memorial Hall: It was noted that there is £19,000 left in the S106 fund and that match funding for any S106 project should be looked at. It was noted that the Parish Council had a letter from the M.H.C. stating that they would pay back into the S106 pot any grants they received from other sources for the re-fit works. Concerns were raised by other Councillors about M.H.C. members not understanding the Parish Councils work on other Bettering Beckington initiatives. Cllr Brooke agreed to clarify these matters at the next M.H.C. meeting. Cllr Wilson offered to attend and assist.

Action: Cllr Brooke & Wilson

Other Projects: A few members were concerned that it was not fully understood how much more S106 money the Parish may receive and how much the Parish wish list would cost to deliver. Concern was expressed that some higher scoring projects are being overlooked. The % ranking chart from the survey to be circulated to members.

Action: Cllr Fox

9. Correspondence

The Council received a letter asking it to take on the ongoing cost of the defibrillator in Beckington. Members wanted to know what such costs were likely to be, whether the Council had already given money for the purchase and if local businesses had been approached to sponsor it.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk had received a request from a PR company working for Redrow housing requesting a meeting with the Council. The Council had requested a meeting prior to the 16 March public meeting and / or to attend that meeting, but this had been refused by Redrow. Members could see no point now in having a meeting and the offer was refused.

Action: Cllr Brooke

At this point, Cllr Fox left the meeting

The next agenda item was brought forward by the Chairman to allow debate before anymore members had to leave the meeting.

13. Grant Request – Life Education Wessex

The Council delayed a decision on this. It was agreed to write to the Primary School head teacher to see if the School supported this scheme or had one of their own.

Action: Clerk

10. Accounts and Financial Matters

Payments of the following accounts were proposed for payment by the Chairman & approved:

i.	Clerk's Salary (March)	£202.10
ii.	HMRC PAYE (March)	£50.53
iii.	MDC – Lahs Place, Waste Bins	£107.00

At this point, Cllr Rider left the meeting

11. Planning Applications and Other Matters

Since the agenda had been issued the Council had received one Tree application:

Application Number: 2017/0811/TCA

Fell one Eucalyptus in rear garden too large for its location and pushing into neighboring boundary. There is sign of rot around base of this tree. Fell one twin stem Yew tree in rear garden - poor specimen and root stock coming out of ground.

Location: 21 Castle Corner Beckington Frome BA11 6TA

Applicant: Nicholas Ives Application Type: Works/Felling Trees in a CA

Members agreed that the decision be left to the Tree Officer

Action: Cllr Brooke

12. Website

Members were informed that the Parish Council website was not operator friendly and needed updating / replacing. The Clerk was unable to upload documents onto it. It was proposed by Cllr Wilson and Seconded by Cllr Beresford that the Council get a quote for the services of Gary Peters for a new website

Action: Cllr Wilson

14. 267 Bus Survey

Cllr Wilson reported that the Mon-Thurs 267 bus service was not viable after 6pm and that he sees no future for the service. He had received an email requesting £30 from the council for the laminating of A3 posters to promote the service – This was not agreed. The Council will promote the service on the Beckington Facebook page and in the Network magazine

Action: Cllr Wilson

15. Email Database for the Parish

This was agreed to be a low priority. Cllr Beresford asked when it had ever been agreed to carry out such a task and felt the Council should have a vote on the matter.

16. Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Clerk reported that he had no recommendation to make as to who the Council should appoint as internal auditor, but that it would be useful for him if it was someone near his home. An appointment by the Council should ideally be made in the next few weeks. It was agreed to delegate the power to appoint an internal auditor to Cllrs Beresford & Cundy - The Clerk will give them a recommendation.

17. Member & Clerk Training

The list of available courses had been circulated to members. It was agreed that the Clerk would attend all 3 Clerk's courses.

18. Date and Venue of Next Meetings – Clifford Suite, Beckington Memorial Hall –

- Annual Parish Assembly 2nd May - 7:00pm
- Annual Council Meeting 2nd May - 7:30pm

It was agreed to move the Council meetings back to the second Tuesday of the month, effective from the June meeting, provided that the Clifford Suite was available.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10:15 pm.