

BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

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Minutes of the Beckington Parish Council meeting held in the Clifford Suite, Beckington Memorial Hall on TUESDAY 12th September 2017 at 7:30pm

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

In attendance: Linda Oliver – County Councillor, Simon Pritchard - Parish Clerk & Seven Members of the Public.

Before the start of the meeting some time is put aside for questions / comments from Members of the Public and Reports from the District and County Councillors that represent the Parish of Beckington:

Public Participation:

Mr Steve Eyles, Chairman of Rode Parish Council and part of the 267 evening bus service action group attended the meeting to share with the Council his disappointment that the 267 evening bus service was not on the agenda and the Council has chosen not to support the 267 evening bus service by making a second financial contribution of £400 towards it. He felt that without everyone working together the service will be lost. According to Mr Eyles and First Group, the service needs 10 more regular users on the service to make it financially viable for First Group to operate, and those people could come from Beckington. Mr Eyles requested that the PC help by way of a financial donation and to publicise the evening timetable to residents. Cllr Brooke outlined her negative experience with the service. Cllr Oliver felt that it was unfair that the surrounding Parishes are footing the bill for Beckington residents, the Council should have some bus time tables printed and distribute them to all residents. Cllr Oliver said that reference had been made by the Chairman to an anonymous donor and a possible £200 and wanted to know who this was? It was noted that Frome Town Council had not given a second grant to the 267 evening bus service this time, but they had printed & distributed bus timetables. Cllr Brooke floated the idea of putting the timetable in the parish Network magazine along with a survey of bus use.

Mr Stan Wilson asked about the progress of the new bus shelters along Bath road. Cllr Brooke confirm that planning permission had been granted by Mendip District Council, but the Council would now have to look at funding as there was not enough money in the S106 pot to fund them alone.

Mr Wilson also wanted Members to be aware that he had supplied the Clerk with a digital copy of the Memorial Hall original conveyance and a copy of the legal advice that the Parish Council gained in June 2014 with refence to the idea of the Cricket Club taking over the management of the Clifford Suite and recreation field. This information will be emailed to all Members

Action: The Clerk

Mr Mike Mower had attended the meeting to talk to the Council about the small housing development that he has outline planning permission for. He is looking to change the development from 3 bedroom homes to 4 bedroom homes with garages. He is working with a building company, Crossman homes from Bath. Homes to be high eco standard. The outline planning permission he has was for under 1000 square meters to avoid having to have affordable homes or make a contribution of money. The new plan would be to go over 1000 square meters so he would have to

contribute more money, but he would like to see the money stay in Beckington. Mr Mower had brought some plans to show members. This development could provide a significant sum of money to the Village that could be used to buy some amenity land. Cllr Oliver warned that it was likely that the extra money would have to go towards affordable housing in another area within the District.

Ms Shannon Brooke read a statement to the Council:

The person at SCC I was asked to meet (7th July) to resolve matters did not produce a set of minutes as agreed, but sent a side of A4 SCC biased overview, by post, 2 weeks after the meeting. I responded accordingly and copied in the BPC chairman (30th July). 2nd August I was advised that this person no longer worked for SCC and had in fact left SCC on 31st July. I consequently submitted a further 3 complaints to SCC regarding their complaints handling process - April- Aug and submitted a comprehensive document including 34 major areas of complaint over 5 years to the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman normally only considers matters within a 12 month period, but agreed to look at my more lengthy saga and has now advised that YES they will be investigating the matter in full. My complaint has accordingly now been passed to the Ombudsman's Investigation Team.

In the interim SCC have replied to my 30th July email to state that they will be conducting an audit of the site etc - again this correspondence and my reply have been sent for information to the BPC Chairman (4th Sept.).

2 men were witnessed conducting the site audit on 17th August, so I now await a formal report from SCC, which I am advised will be sent to me and also to BPC.

SCC have failed to reply to communications from a. former District Councillor Knibbs and current District Councillor Mockford b. MP David Warburton c. BPC Chairman Mark Wilson. Cllr Oliver can update you on the failure of the new Cllr responsible for highways to agree to undertake a site visit and address a resolution.

Therefore the Right to Challenge under the Localism Act 2011 looks to provide the greatest probability of a successful resolution to the issue and I can now fully brief Cllr Wilson and the Parish Council on how this process works and also how the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) can support the Parish Council in a Right to Challenge submission for a joining fee of £40, if BPC are not already members. (As previously agreed Standerwick Court Lane residents will meet all costs i.e. including this £40 payment).

Having outlined the next steps, I will continue to liaise with BPC and all other parties affected and involved in seeking a resolution to this issue.

Once again my thanks to BPC members for their continued support and I will update you again at your October meeting.

County & District Councillors reports:

Cllr Oliver reported to the Parish Council that she would be spending a day driving around her ward with the Leader of Somerset County Council, David Fothergill and Patrick Flaherty CEO of Somerset County Council to look at issues within her ward, mostly highways related. They will be going to Standerwick Court Lane, hopefully John Woodman (Cabinet member for Highways) may join then at that point.

Cllr Oliver questioned if the Village had a problem with the speed of drivers and wondered what had happened to the traffic action group? People on Facebook had reported cats been killed. It was confirmed that the Council does receive S.I.D. reports, but that it was not clear from the data if the Village has a speed issues or not. The Chairman agreed that they need to establish if the traffic action group was still operational.

Action: Cllr Wilson

| Agenda Item Number: | Agenda Item: |
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| SEP1 | <u>Apologies for absence:</u> None received |
| SEP2 | <u>Declarations of interest:</u> Cllr Brooke in any matter relating to Standerwick Court Lane |
| SEP3 | <u>Adoption of previous Council minutes:</u> A. Tuesday 13th June 2017 B. Tuesday 11th July 2017 Proposed by Cllr Beresford, seconded by the Chairman and resolved unanimously to adopt both sets of minutes as a true record of the meetings. |
| SEP4 | <u>Actions outstanding from 11th July minutes:</u> Sandy Lane Parking Issues: Cllr Brooke had met with the Landlord of the Foresters pub on a site visit and with the resident that cannot access their drive. It was felt that the white-line should be increased around the corner, this will lose two car spaces and a new white-line should be installed opposite the resident's driveway. Lahs Place has a lot of land space and this should be looked at to be used for extra parking. The land could accommodate up to 12 spaces if the land was dugout. Owners of the land would need to be approached. <p style="text-align: right;">Action – Cllr Wilson</p> |
| SEP5 | <u>Co-option of two new Members of the Parish Council:</u> Mr K. Bishop had been unable to attend the meeting and sent his apologies. Mr R. Hayes was present and spoke to the Council to say that it was he who had been approached by a Council member to come on board and help with the Council's finances. He has since become aware that the Council has an appointed Member for finance and while he was willing to help with the finance or the Charities in an informal role, he was withdrawing from co-option to the Council. Mr C. Winterbourne said that he may be willing to put himself forwards but he wanted to give it a month for him to think and to give the Council time see who else may be interested. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Brooke to postpone this agenda item until the October meeting, resolved unanimously. |
| SEP6 | <u>To receive Planning & Tree applications:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017/1839/FUL – Leave to Planning Officer • 2017/1803/FUL & 2017/1804/LBC - Support • 2017/1985/FUL & 2017/2407/LBC – Support • 2017/2286/FUL – Support Members wanted clarification whether the plans include a Post Office and if the one in Rode was closing. Cllr Brooke agreed to investigate before responding to the application. <p style="text-align: right;">Action – Cllr Brooke</p> |
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| <p>SEP7</p> | <p><u>To receive the external audit results and agree to publish:</u> The Council has received the results of the external audit for 2016/17. No new issues have been identified and the auditors are satisfied with the measures that Members have put into place to correct the findings of the internal audit. As the Clerk had been able to provide all the extra information the external auditor required no charge has been made to the Council this year. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Fox to publish the results of the external audit 2016/17.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>SEP8</p> | <p><u>Parish Council Accounts:</u> A. Payments: The following payments were proposed for payment by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Beresford and resolved unanimously:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clerk's salary July & Aug 2017 - £408.00 2. Tim McCarthy – Fingerpost - £90 3. Clerks expenses March – June 2017 - £144.89 <p>B. To note payments made under the Clerk's delegated authority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jason Macey – Cutting of Sue's Walk - £75 <p>C. To receive Bank reconciliation, Budget spending to date and PAYE HMRC accounts reports: Received and noted</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>SEP9</p> | <p><u>Grants and donations 2017/18:</u> Members attention was brought to the budget for 2017/18 that earmarked money for a list of local organizations. The Clerk had already received a request from one of the organizations listed for the release of the money. The Chairman had received a request from the preschool requesting a donation as they were in serious financial difficulties. Members considered this request, but felt that the Council should honor the commitment that it had made in setting the 2017/18 budget towards the listed organizations, furthermore Cllr Fox was sure that Somerset County Council holds S106 educational money from Beckington that the preschool can tap into. The Clerk was asked to find out who had taken over from David Clues, as they would be aware of the money. It was proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Fox to release the money earmarked in the 2017/18 budget to the respective organizations and resolved unanimously.</p> <table data-bbox="363 1464 1262 1756" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Beckington PCC - Grass cutting grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£900.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Beckington Memorial Hall - Grass cutting grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£400.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Burial grant Beckington Baptist Chapel</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Donation to Network</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Donation to Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Donation to Citizens Advice Bureau</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Donation to Mendip Community Transport</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Total grants and donations:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1650.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>It was noted that going forwards money was unlikely to be earmarked in this way again, the Council will be looking to adopt a general grants pot with unallocated money, local organizations will then have to apply to the grants pot. The Clerk will inform the listed organizations of this possible change to next year's grants pot.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: The Clerk</p> | Beckington PCC - Grass cutting grant | £900.00 | Beckington Memorial Hall - Grass cutting grant | £400.00 | Burial grant Beckington Baptist Chapel | £100.00 | Donation to Network | £50.00 | Donation to Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance | £100.00 | Donation to Citizens Advice Bureau | £50.00 | Donation to Mendip Community Transport | £50.00 | Total grants and donations: | £1650.00 |
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| <p>SEP10</p> | <p><u>Rudge Noticeboard:</u> Cllr Wright informed Members that the noticeboard in Rudge had fallen apart. The doors had come off and would need replacing and the structure of the noticeboard itself was not wonderful. 7 people had been approached to quote for the work, only one was interested in looking at it and that would not be until after Christmas. The noticeboard had now been removed from the wall and was sat on her drive. Cllr Wright looked for support from Members for a new oak noticeboard that can fit 12 sheets of A4 paper on. It was proposed by Cllr Beresford and seconded by the Chairman to precept £900 in the 2018/19 budget for a noticeboard and forward fund up to £900 from the general reserve to purchase one this financial year.</p> <p>Cllr Brooke informed Members that she had a quote for a much cheaper one from a local craftsman that she will provide to the Council</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action – Cllr Brooke</p> |
| <p>SEP11</p> | <p><u>Community Governance Review:</u> The Clerk had circulated a report to members with the agenda. Members agreed not to pursue a review</p> |
| <p>SEP12</p> | <p><u>Council Special Advisers:</u> The Clerk had nothing further to add to his comments from July. Such special advisers would not be Council members and would not be able to join in the Council business debates or vote. However, the reports section of the agenda did lend itself to residents being given an area of special responsibility and reporting to Council.</p> |
| <p>SEP13</p> | <p>Bettering Beckington projects update: A. To receive and approve dog bin quote of £1,168.00 Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Fox and resolved unanimously to accept the quote. B. To receive verbal updates: Surgery footpath: Meeting with the surgery practice has taken place. Agreement between David Wilson Homes and the surgery for the sort of ramp needed, but will need permission from the landowner. Meeting with the landowner yet to take place. Village Pump: The Chairman brought Members attention to the poor condition of the Village Pump, he had some slates that can be used to repair the roof. It was agreed to seek a few quotes to have the pump renovated. Sue’s Walk: Would be nice to revamp this area, cut back all over grown plants and grass area on the corner and maybe put a bench there.</p> |
| <p>SEP14</p> | <p><u>New website update:</u> The new website is still being built, it is hoped this will be up and running by the next Council meeting. In the meantime, the old website cannot be updated.</p> |
| <p>SEP15</p> | <p><u>Members portfolio verbal reports:</u> A. Planning & Development - Cllr Brooke: Cllr Brooke suggested that the Council work with Mr Mower to try and achieve the best result for the Village. Members pointed out that the size of the homes had increased</p> |

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| | <p>significantly and that Cllr Oliver was probably right that the affordable home money will go into a central pot. Cllr Brooke said the potential difference to the Village would be the difference between £100,000 & £10,000. Cllr Brooke will pursue with Mendip District Council.</p> <p>B. Finance – Cllr Beresford: Nothing to report. Requested a meeting with the Clerk to go over the Budget.</p> <p>C. Footpaths – Cllr Wright: - Nothing to report</p> <p>D. Highways – Cllr Wilson: Reported on the 267 Bus meeting, this had been mostly covered in the Public participation. Cllr Brooke will liaise with Peter Travis.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action – Cllr Brooke</p> <p>E. Local Environment – (Vacant) – No report</p> <p>F. Rudge Rep – Cllr Wright The Full Moon pub not sold yet. Rudge Chapel has started undertaking work.</p> <p>G. Standerwick Rep – Cllr Brooke – Nothing further to report.</p> <p>H. Charities – Cllr Beresford Cllr Beresford had brought a large red folder with her containing the charities information. The annual return for the charity for 2016 needs to be done within the next 48 days. Mr Hayes offered to take a look at the paperwork to see if he could assist. His offer was very gratefully received and the folder handed over into his care.</p> <p>I. Memorial Hall Rep – Cllr Wilson The Cricket Club is looking at the possibility of taking over the management of the Clifford Suite and recreation field. No further details at this point. The legal advice given to the Council in June 2014 will be relevant to this.</p> |
| SEP16 | <p><u>Items for the next agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standerwick Court Lane – Community right to challenge • Local education money • Development of a Council policy for Public Participation |

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 23.05 pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____