

BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Beckington Parish Council meeting held in the Clifford Suite, Beckington Memorial Hall on TUESDAY 11th July 2017 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors; Ms S Brooke, Mrs E Wright, Ms J Beresford and Mr J Rider (Meeting Chairman).

In attendance: Simon Pritchard (Parish Clerk) & Four Members of the Public.

Before the start of the meeting sometime 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:

Clive Jones, Landlord of The Foresters pub had attended the meeting to talk to Members of the Council about parking issues in Sandy Lane. After some discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Brooke, with the possible input from Cllr Wilson, would carry out a site visit and offer to mediate between the parties to try and find a resolution.

Action Cllr Brooke

Ms Brooke, resident of Standerwick Court Lane made a statement to the Council about the ongoing situation with the highway at Standerwick Court Lane. The statement is reproduced below in full:

Initially SCC ignored my complaint and refused to accept the complaint against Cllr Fothergill, who in the interim has been made leader of the council. I repeated my complaint and sent further evidence regarding Cllr Fothergill's comments (to David Warburton, MP in March) being inaccurate/false. I was then invited to a complaints meeting in Taunton with Karen Bissex and Alyn Jones. I have sent a detailed update of the outcome of this meeting to the BPC Chairman and I still await any formal minutes of the meeting from SCC, (these were initially promised before the meeting ended, and was the reason given by SCC as to why I was not allowed to record the meeting, but at the meeting I was asked to wait to receive them later). I will send these on to BPC ... if they ever materialise.

I can advise the Parish Council that SCC seemingly have no intention of simply following the Public Inquiry Inspector's report recommendations and approving the existing raised verges under s.92 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. SCC now wish to spend further public monies undertaking an audit of the situation, carry out a risk assessment and have no budget/funding available, no idea of possible costs to create engineered grass verges, or any will to prioritise this issue and prevent further illegal encampment in Beckington moving forward.

Cllr Mockford attended the Public Inquiry hearing and has written to BPC in response to SCC's latest approach. (which I read out to attendees) I have advised David Warburton of Beckington Parish Council's 'Right to Challenge' approach to the problem and he has written a note of support to BPC's Chairman and also written to the new Cllr responsible for highways in respect of s.92 sign-off.

Accordingly I will now pursue looking into the detailed process of driving the 'Right to Challenge' under the Localism Act 2011 forward and will work closely with Cllr Wilson on this highways matter.

I thank the BPC for it's continued support and will update you again at your September meeting.

County & District Councillors reports: - None received

As both the Parish Council Chairman and the Vice- Chairman were absent the Clerk called for nominations for Chairman for the meeting.

Cllr Beresford proposed; Cllr Rider this was seconded by Cllr Wright. There were no other nominations. **It was unanimously resolved to elected Cllr Rider as the meeting Chairman**

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr Fox (Away), Cllr Wilson (Holiday (Flight delayed))

2. Declarations of interest – None

3. Adoption of previous Council minutes:

A. Tuesday 13th June 2017

The Clerk had circulated the draft minutes with in a week of the meeting, but the amended draft minutes had only been sent out the day before the meeting. Cllr Brooke expressed concern that the amendments that she had put forwards for the 'Public Participation' part of the meeting had not been made and therefor the minutes were factually incorrect.

The minutes were withdrawn for redrafting. The Clerk confirmed that his aim was to have minutes with Council Members within a week of a meeting taking place.

4. Actions outstanding from 13th June's minutes:

- Cllr Oliver's objection to the industrial park planning application was not on the Mendip District Council website, as it had got lost in the District Councils system. Cllr Brooke could confirm that the Planning Officer now had Cllr Oliver's objection and it was on the website.
- The highways meeting that Cllr Oliver had been asked to organize had been superseded by the meeting that had been referred to in the public session.
- The new website was noted as having been commissioned.
- The Clerk made a plea to Councilors Beresford & Wilson to take their bank forms into NatWest and have their identification verified, as the Council urgently needs for them to become bank signatories.

5. Co-option of a new Member of the Parish Council:

Three candidates had applied for the vacancy and had attended the meeting; Mr M. Hayes, Mr K. Bishop, Mr C. Winterbourne. The Chairman explained that the Council has 7 seats and only one vacancy at this time, it was felt by the Council Members that the Council had too few seats considering the workload and the size of the parish and so the Council would look at the possibility of starting the formal process with the District Council to have some new seats awarded to it. In the meantime, the Council Members were delighted that three such high caliber candidates had shown an interest in becoming a Parish Councilor and the Council didn't want to turn any of them away. It was noted that by the September meeting it was likely that the Council would be able to co-opt to a further seat as Cllr Rider was going to resign his seat after the meeting. The Clerk had also had an idea about residents with a special interest being invited to join in with some parts of the meeting, but under no circumstances could non – councilors take part in debates or vote on Council business matters. Members agreed they wanted the Clerk to develop this idea for Council consideration.

Action: The Clerk

Mr Winterbourne expressed an interest in the sort of role that the Clerk had outlined, it was also felt that a few others would fit well into this special interest category including the outgoing Cllr Rider. **With the prospect of one of the candidates becoming a special adviser and the Council having two seats available to co-opt on to at the next meeting it was proposed by the Chairman that this agenda item be put off until the September meeting, seconded by Cllr Beresford and resolved unanimously.**

6. To receive Planning & Tree applications:

- **2017/1736/FUL – Support**
- **2017/1619/HSE - Support**
- **2017/1509/LBC & 2017/1481/LBC & 2017/1508/FUL** (from last meeting) Cllr Wright had arranged a site visit and respond on behalf of the Council – **Support**
- **2017/1480/FUL (Rudge Chapple) – Support**

7. Parish Council Accounts

A. Payments:

The following payments were proposed for payment by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Brooke and resolved unanimously:

- 1. Clerk's salary June 2017 - £252.63**
- 2. Mrs N Phillips – Internal Audit - £50.00**

B. Bank reconciliation:

Received and noted

8. 267 Evening Bus Funding:

Members considered a request for further funding for the Monday – Thursday evening service. Members supported the service, but regrettably felt unable to commit any further Parish Council money. **It was proposed by the Chairman to decline the request for further funding, seconded Cllr Brooke and resolved unanimously.**

9. Finger Post Quote:

This was received as being £80 - £100. **It was proposed by Cllr Brooke to accept the quote, seconded Cllr Beresford and resolved unanimously.**

10. Bettering Beckington projects update:

- David Wilson Homes (DWH)– Will need a footpath with steps or a ramp to get to and from the Doctors surgery from the new car park that is to be built by DWH. Cllr Brooke has asked DWH to build a connecting footpath but DWH say the connecting land does not belong to them so they can't. A Meeting to take place with the Practice Manager and Dr John Beaven to see if the landowner can be persuaded to give consent for a footpath.
- Memorial Hall open space - The Memorial Hall Committee wants to complete the kitchen refit first before engaging with the Parish Council about the open space / play park enhancement.
- Dog poo bins – site visit has now taken place and the appropriate bins and sites have been identified. Full costing will be brought to Council as soon as it is received from Mendip District Council.

At this point Cllr Brooke left the meeting.

- Questions were raised by members as to how the responsibility of the management of the Memorial works and what the legal responsibility of the parish council was as guardian trustees of the freehold.

11. New website update: – Not covered.

At this point Cllr Wilson joined the meeting.

12. Members portfolio verbal reports:

- A. - Nothing to report
- B. - Nothing to report
- C. - Nothing to report
- D. - Ongoing issue covered under 'Public Participation'
- E. - No report
- F. Full Moon pub now on the market for £350,000
- G. - Nothing to report
- H. - Nothing to report

- I. - The Memorial Hall committee has still not received the £13,000 S106 money from the District Council that it has requested for the kitchen refit. It was noted that once the Memorial Hall committee had received this money it would not leave enough money in the pot for the Bus shelters, this may delay the project until more S106 money comes in from some of the new development.

13. Items for the next agenda:

- Cllr Wilson wondered if the community was receiving enough S106 money from the Warminster road development and should it be an item for next time. After discussion, it was agreed that the S106 money was probably fair.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21:38 pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____