

BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Council Meeting** held at Beckington Memorial Hall
on: **Tuesday 8th November 2022 @ 7:00pm**

Present:

Councillors: Mrs Paula Fox (Chairman), Mr Clive Winterbourne, Mr Kevin Bishop, Mrs Elizabeth Wright, Mr Mark Hollyoake
County Councillor Adam Boyden

In Attendance:

Public Participation:

(None)

County & District Councillors Reports:

Cllr Adam Boyden the District Councillor gave a report see below:

A G E N D A

73. Apologies for Absence:

- A. To receive any apologies for absence and reason, made to the Parish Clerk: None
- B. To resolve if to accept any apologies for absence: None

74. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations to participate. None

75. Minutes of the previous meetings : Minutes 11thOctober 2022 were approved by the meeting having been proposed by Cllr Winterbourne and seconded by Cllr Wright and signed by the Chair. The minutes of Extraordinary meeting 20th October 2022 were approved by the meeting having been proposed by Cllr Winterbourne and seconded by Cllr Hollyoake and signed by the were Chair.

76. Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) adoption Judicial Review Summary of reasons for the review. The Judicial Review took place on October 18th and 19th 2022. To receive a report from Councilor Wright. To resolve on the criteria and process and terms and conditions for the agreement for the Parish Council to pay towards the legal costs of Norton St Philip Council for the Judicial Review. To resolve to commit to put aside a payment provision of up to £20,000 contribution toward the Judicial Review legal costs of the Norton St Philip.

The Councillors were reminded of the background to the Judicial Review by Ian Hazell the Chair of Norton St Philip's PC and also it was suggested that support from BPC would foster greater collaboration in the future between NSP, Rode and Beckington.

Cllr Wright presented a report to the meeting. (please see attached to these minutes). Afterwards it was agreed that the correct governance procedures had been followed for the agreement for BPC to pay towards the legal costs of the Judicial Review and that due diligence had been carried out with regards to the terms and conditions for payment.

The following resolution was agreed:

To resolve to commit to put aside a payment provision of up to £20,000 contribution towards the Judicial Review legal costs of Norton St Philip Parish Council.

This was proposed by Cllr Winterbourne, seconded by Cllr Hollyoake and agreed unanimously by the meeting.

77. Beckington Cricket Club To discuss the way forward.

Cllr Winterbourne reported that there had only been 1 quote in so far from the 5 solicitors approached so until more have been received it will have to be carried over to the next meeting.

78. Beckington Allotments:

Cllr Bishop reported that BPC are awaiting a response regarding fees from local solicitors before taking further steps with the arrangements for a basic lease. Once received Governance advice to be sought from the Council's Governance advisors. In the meantime Cllr Winterbourne has made a temporary repair for a water leak at the allotments. The Council thanked Cllr Winterbourne.

79. Beckington Christmas lights

A grant application for £500 had been received. It was felt that more detail was needed and the Chair agreed to seek this.

80. Beckington Tennis Association To discuss the grant application.

A wide ranging discussion took place and it was felt that a detailed costing was needed. The Council felt it might be possible to make a contribution but a final decision on the amount was deferred while further information was sought. Governance advice to be sought from the Council's Governance advisors.

81. Bus timetables Update from Cllr Hollyoake. To discuss next steps following information at last meeting. To resolve to pay for a bus timetable for the village.

Cllr Hollyoake had met with Peter Travis. Peter Travis will re-purpose a leaflet, originally for Rode, for Beckington giving details of bus timetables until April. The cost to BPC would be £200 for 750 leaflets. BPC will arrange for the distribution of the leaflets probably by putting them in Network.

It was suggested that Beckington, Rode and NSP could work together on this matter. The big issue is that passenger numbers need to demonstrate viability of the bus services. It was resolved to pay for the bus timetables for the village and raise a cheque for £200.

82. Planning, Licensing & Tree Applications:

2022/2047/TCA T1 - Lawsons Cypress-Fell.

Location: 19 Church Street Beckington Frome Somerset BA11 6TG

It was agreed by the meeting to leave the decision to the tree officer but if approved request a replacement tree is planted close to the original felled tree.

Action: Clerk to submit the decision via the portal.

2022/1998/FUL Conversion of barn to 1no four bedroom dwellinghouse.

Location: Duck Pool Farm Duck Pool Lane Beckington Frome Somerset

It was agreed to support this application subject to the applicants adhering to the wildlife surveys and advice. Action : Clerk to submit decision to MDC via portal

2022/2097/HSE Erection of single storey rear extension.

Location: The Rookery Rudge Lane Rudge Frome Somerset

It was agreed to support this application. Action: Clerk to submit decision to MDC via portal

83. Cycling and Walking LCWIP Update on progress

For personal reasons' the report will be delayed and delivered in December

84. Parish Council's Accounts:

A) Budget to Date:

Business reserve account £111,966.85

Current account £10

B) Payments required: Zoom subscription needs a valid debit/ credit card to continue. Clerk's card was used to set up the account and it needs to be replaced – It was decided that Zoom subscription is no longer wanted.

Pay Sara's invoice for locum minute taking £229.50 – Cheque was raised for this amount

C) Precept – email received regarding 2023/ 2024 precept. Deadline is 20th January 2023

D) Contribution to Big Green Week: Printing of 1,250 leaflets: £189.00 Printing of 500 maps: £130.00 Money from sale of teas, etc: (£80.66) Total net costs: £238.34 If the total is rounded to £240.00, this would equate to £80 for each Parish Council, Rode, Norton St Philip and Beckington.

It was agreed by the meeting to a contribution of £80. Cheque was raised for this amount.

E) Agree and sign amended AGAR forms for external auditor

85. Verbal Reports and Updates – It was agreed to defer the reports and updates to the next meeting

a) Planning & Development:

b) Footpaths & Rights of Way:

c) Highways & Local Transport:

d) Local Environment & Council Assets:

e) MDC Parish Forum & SALC Rep:

f) Rudge Rep:

g) Allotments Reps:

h) Parish Grant Funding and S106 Money:

i) Frome Town Council - Unitary Group:

86. Confidential Sessions to resolve to enter a confidential session as item 87 relates to staffing matters

87. Staffing Matters

End of meeting Beckington Parish Council Tuesday 8th November 2022

County Councillor Report by Adam Boyden (Somerset County Councillor for Frome North)

Local Community Networks consultation: Around 600 people responded to the public consultation on Somerset Council's proposed new Local Community Networks, effectively area committees for the new council, which ran for six weeks up to mid-October. Following analysis of the findings, a formal decision paper will be submitted to Somerset County Council's Executive meeting on 16th November 2022, with all reports available at <https://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Cid=433&Year=0> later this week.

Hundreds sign up to help shape council services: More than 300 people have signed up to join the new Customer Panel which will help shape the future of council services in Somerset, and there is still time for people to get involved – see <https://newsomersetcouncil.org.uk/hundreds-sign-up-to-help-shape-council-services/>.

Bus services saved for now but work needed to increase passenger numbers:

The D2 Frome-Bath evening and weekend services, which serve Beckington, have been saved until April.

However, work is needed to increase passenger numbers to save the evening and Sunday services in the long term, which the Somerset Bus Partnership is having regular meetings about now, so please do get involved if you can help. The next SBP meeting is this evening Monday 7th November 7.30-8.30pm online via Teams, so please contact somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com if you would like to attend. The last SBP meeting was attended by over 100 people, you can see a recording here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSYB22Qz7cQ> and slides from the meeting are here <https://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/news>. A

further meeting about the D2 specifically is expected soon, again coordinated by Peter Travis of the Somerset Bus Partnership.

Helping Somerset become a cultural destination - consultation on the Somerset Cultural Strategy: The five Councils across Somerset are working on a Somerset Cultural Strategy, to raise the profile of Somerset as a cultural destination and 'embed arts and culture within the council's services'. People are being asked to respond to a consultation to say what you would like to see happening in your local area

Have your say on Somerset's SEND strategy: A consultation has been launched to invite feedback from residents on a new draft strategy for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) in Somerset. Improving SEND services in Somerset is one of this council's main priorities. The consultation will run until Friday 23 December. To read the strategy and provide feedback please see: <https://somerset.inconsult.uk/SENDstrategy/consultationHome>

£300k boost for Somerset tree planting plans: Somerset County Council has recently been successful in a joint funding bid with the Exmoor National Park Authority to the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund and has been awarded £300,000. The funds will be used to accelerate the delivery of tree planting in the next two seasons and deliver the Somerset Tree Strategy which is nearing completion. Planting significant numbers of new trees is a key part of Somerset's Climate Emergency Strategy.

Environment Scrutiny Committee meets: Earlier this year the new Somerset County Council Lib Dem administration formed a new Scrutiny Committee for the Environment to look how a wide range of county council policies affect environmental and climate change outcomes. I am Vice Chair of the committee which has met twice so far, in September and October, when we scrutinised reports on the local aggregates assessment, the local economic assessment for Somerset, the Connecting Devon & Somerset broadband programme, climate change and the economy, the county council's Electric Vehicles Strategy and its approach to fleet decarbonisation. The meeting agendas, reports and minutes are available at <https://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=445>. The next meeting is on 30th November at 10am and will cover: Phosphates issues agreed from a recent Phosphates Summit, Nature Recovery, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty overview, and Chard and Ilminster flooding report findings. Please let me know if you want to raise any issue or have queries.

Support to mitigate Cost of Living crisis this winter: In July, Somerset County Council also declared a Cost of Living emergency and set-up a cross-party working group to investigate action the Council can take to help people through this period. Somerset County Council's Executive has now approved a wide-ranging package of support to help local people deal with the impacts of the Cost of Living crisis this winter. This support includes financial assistance with food and energy bills through the Household Support Fund, a 'Warm Welcome' network of venues where people can find warmth and company, and targeted support for clinically vulnerable people in cold homes. For more information about support available for Somerset residents, please visit: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/additional-support-for-somersetresidents/> To make an application to the Household Support Fund, please visit <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/somerset-household-support-fund/> or call 0300 123 2224. Mendip District Council's energy saver website is also there to help residents save household energy, reduce energy bills and learn what financial assistance is available – please see www.somersetenergysaver.co.uk. MDC's benefits calculator here <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/hbcalculator> will help people see what benefits they are entitled to claim.

Winter flu and COVID booster jabs available: It is now time to get your free 'flu vaccine and COVID-19 autumn booster as soon as you are offered them. There are clinics across Somerset where you can book your appointment now - please see:

- COVID: <https://bit.ly/SomersetCovidBookings> • Flu: <https://bit.ly/SomersetBookFluJab>

Green spaces consultation: An online consultation has been launched to help Mendip District Council identify the extent and nature of the district's existing local parks, woodlands, recreation and green spaces (see here). Residents are being encouraged to read and have their say on two things: - a draft Supplementary Planning Document, which gives guidance on the implementation of Local Plan policies DP2, DP16 and DP1 on the provision and protection of open space and greenspaces; - a Greenspace Audit which aims to map and describe the main existing green spaces in the district. The map for Beckington is shown below. Please see the

documents and a feedback form to provide your comments and views at <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/sci>. The consultation closes on 25 November 2022. Planning policy will transfer to the unitary Somerset Council on 1st April 2023.

Fair payment for towns and parishes: Earlier this month, the Leader of Somerset County Council Cllr Bill Revans wrote to all town and parish councils in Somerset about two things. Firstly, next year the new Somerset Council will be paying the parish and town councils their share of Council Tax (precept) instead of the District Councils, and it will do so in one lump sum in April 2023 instead of in two payments, which should be better for parish and town councils' cashflow. Secondly, Cllr Revans wrote about the parish councils' precepts in the context of the 2023/24 Somerset Council budget, in which he outlined the financial challenges and encouraged parish and town councils to think about their forthcoming budgets for any ambitions they may have.