

# BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Beckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm in the Beckington Memorial Hall, Bath Road, Beckington, Frome BA11 6SH.

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**PRESENT:** Cllr Paula Fox (Chair), Cllr Kevin Bishop, Cllr Clive Winterbourne and Cllr Rory Ingleby-MacKenzie.

**ALSO PRESENT:** One member of the public and the Parish Clerk.

Prior to the commencement of the main Council meeting a minute's silence was observed in memory of Mr Chris Rose who passed away recently. The funeral would be taking place on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024..

Prior to the start of the meeting fifteen minutes was allowed for questions and comments from members of the public.

### **160. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Liz Wright (health)

### **161. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No Declarations of Interests were made.

### **162. MINUTES**

Council considered the minutes and **RESOLVED** to formally approve and adopt the minutes of the Council meetings held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Council agreed to suspend Standing Orders and bring forward Agenda Item 167.

### **BECKINGTON CRICKET CLUB**

It was noted that Council were faced with two choices going forward:

- Continue with the status quo and take no immediate action;
- Register the land as Custodian Trustees.

No documentation regarding the Title Deeds for the land had been identified despite a wide ranging search that had incurred some legal fees. It was noted that the Cricket Club had put the upgrading of the cricket pavilion on hold due to funding issues.

It was agreed to draw up a statement which would:

- Outline the roles and responsibilities of each of the main users of the land;
- Confirm that the Memorial Hall Committee was the operator of the site;

- That the Parish Council was the Custodian Trustees;
- That the Beckington Cricket Club used the site as its home pitch and had sole use of the pavilion.

This would provide a Without Title Guarantee by the Parish Council.

Council **RESOLVED** to support any future lease for the Cricket Club in principle and would consider the matter when it came forward in the future.

### 163. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Council noted that a Neighbourhood Plan meeting was taking place at the same time as the Parish Council meeting to discuss the launch event which would be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

The launch event would take the following format:

- Commence at 6pm;
- Presentations at 7pm;
- Close at 8pm;
- Wine and nibbles would be provided;
- A consultation exercise would be held as part of the launch.

Cllr Fox and Cllr Winterbourne met the consultants undertaking the Design Guide as part of the Plan and took them round the village. Information including the surveys that had been undertaken between 2008 and 2016 were passed on alongside the 2002 and 2010 Conservation Area Appraisal. A new survey would be launched on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and would run through to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

### 164. PLANNING, LICENSING & TREE APPLICATIONS:

The following update was received from Cllr Ingleby-MacKenzie. The following application was considered.

**Proposal:** Construction & operation of a solar photovoltaic farm with battery storage & associated infrastructure, including inverters, security cameras, fencing, access tracks & landscaping. (Revised information received 29/02/2024)

**Location:** Land to The South East Of Bradford Road Rode Frome Somerset

**Application:** 2023/2183/FUL

**Response:** Council **Resolved** to support the objections raised by Rode Parish Council to this development. The developers have not made significant changes and Beckington Parish Council continues to strongly object to the scheme as follows:

- The changes made to the scheme since the original consultation period are very minor and do not materially address any of the concerns or issues previously raised.
- Beckington Parish Council remains unanimously opposed to the application, primarily for reasons of scale, its proximity to the historic village of Rode, and its impact on the local

countryside. In addition, there are significant concerns regarding one of the proposed access routes.

- Great care should be taken to site any such development appropriately bearing in mind the visual impact of such developments especially when the location is adjacent to a small historic village.

#### 165. **BECKINGTON LOOP**

Council considered the suggestion to apply for the Beckington Loop to be recorded/upgraded on the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way (the legal record) under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Following discussion it was agreed to look into this and report back in due course on the process to be undertaken to register the Loop.

#### 166. **SECTION 106 SUBMISSION**

Council noted that the agreement had now been signed by Somerset Council and funding would be forthcoming. Following receipt of the funding the work would commence on delivering the project.

#### 167. **BECKINGTON CRICKET CLUB**

This item had been considered previously.

#### 168. **HIGHWAYS SERVICES DEVOLUTION**

Council noted that an Expression of Interest had been submitted to Somerset Council. No further update had been received.

#### 169. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) **Payments** – Council **RESOLVED** to approve the payment below:

Supplier	Service	Net	VAT	Total
Paul Russell	Locum Clerk – March 24	£750.00	£0.00	£750.00
A Richards/Wix.com	NP Website/Domain	£179.62	£33.60	£213.22
Beckington Memorial Hall	NP Hire	£96.00	£0.00	£96.00
Stuart Todd	NP Consultancy	£770.70	£154.14	£924.84
P Fox	NP Costs	£23.09	£4.63	£27.72
Fossil Design	Email update/Annual Fee	£85.00	£0.00	£85.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£1,904.41</b>	<b>£192.37</b>	<b>£2,096.78</b>

(b) **Banking** – Council noted that the process to transfer the bank account to Unity Trust had commenced. A further update would be provided at the next Xouncil meeting.

(c) **Council IT Provision and Purchase of a Council Laptop** – Council considered the quotation received from MicroshadeVSM to provide an IT cloud solution and the purchase of a new laptop.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED**:

- To note the report;
- To purchase a laptop for the Council and its Clerk at a cost not exceeding £350 + VAT and to delegate the purchase of the laptop to the Clerk;
- To enter into a 3 year contract with MicroshadevSM to have its electronic data hosted and accessed through a Citrix login at an initial cost of £594.58 + VAT followed by an annual fee of £479.58
- That it would set up Councillor emails using its existing provider, Fossil Design.

(d) **Insurance** – Council confirmed that it would continue insuring with Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd.

**170. NEXT MEETING**

Council noted that the next meeting of Beckington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

There being no other business the Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9:00pm.

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**CHAIR:**

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**DATE:**