

BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Date of Publication: Tuesday 4th February 2025

To: Cllr Paula Fox (Chair), Cllr Kevin Bishop, Cllr Rory Ingleby-MacKenzie, Cllr Simon Milner, Cllr Anne Owen, Cllr Clive Winterbourne and Cllr Liz Wright.

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend the Beckington Parish Council meeting to be held on **Tuesday 11th February 2025 commencing at 7:30pm** in the Beckington Memorial Hall, Bath Road, Beckington, Frome BA11 6SH.



Paul Russell
Locum Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Please note that prior to the start of the meeting Councillors will be attending a training session.

Prior to the start of the meeting fifteen minutes will be allowed for questions or comments from members of the public. Any resident wishing to address the Council will have a maximum of 3 minutes to speak. Questions may not be answered at the meeting but a written reply will be provided within 7 days. Once the meeting has started members of the public are reminded that they have no right to speak.

The Somerset Councillors are invited to make a report to the Parish Council in this time as well.

AGENDA

131. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence and resolve to accept the reasons.

132. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members to declare any 'Pecuniary' or 'Other' interests under the council's code of conduct. Members are reminded of their responsibility to register their interests with Somerset Council and to keep that register up to date.

133. MINUTES

To formally approve and adopt the minutes of the Beckington Parish Council meetings held on Tuesday 22nd January 2025 (attached)

134. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- (a) **Neighbourhood Plan Development** – To consider accepting the quotation from Brodie Planning to review the policies following the drafting of the Neighbourhood Plan at a cost of £1,680 + VAT.
- (b) **Consultation Budget** – To consider resolving to allocate funding of up to £3,900 towards the costs of a Consultation Budget resolution for the parishioner consultation on the preferred site allocation following the Call for Sites initiative. Two quotations have been received. Company A: £3,900. Company B: £2,400.
- (c) **NPSG Public Meeting** – This will take place on 17th February 2025. Council is requested to ratify expenditure of up to £500 + VAT to enable Brodie Planning to attend and answer questions as well as providing advice.
- (d) **Ditton Marsh Neighbourhood Plan** – To consider making a comment on this Plan due to its close proximity to the Parish.

135. PLANNING, LICENSING & TREE APPLICATIONS:

- (a) The following applications will be considered:

Proposal: Ash - Fell.
Location: 14 Church Street Beckington Frome Somerset BA11 6TG
Application Type: Works/Felling Trees in a CA
Application: 2025/0179/TCA

- (b) **Planning Application 2024/2309/FUL at Land at Tower Hill Farm** – To formally resolve a response to this planning application. A report was commissioned from Context Planning and is attached (to follow). The closing date for comments to this application is Friday 14th February 2025. Council may wish to consider submitting a draft comment and delegate authority between the date of the meeting and 14th February 2025 to the Lead and Deputy Lead of Planning and the Clerk to add any further comments that may be of value.

Council is also requested to ratify the appointment of Brodie Planning to review the Context Planning Report. The cost will be £80 and hour plus VAT. Council is requested to consider a budget for up to 2 days at 7 hours per day. (£1,120 + VAT)

136. ALLOTMENT AGREEMENT

To formally sign the new allotment agreement.

137. BOUNDARY REVIEW

To consider whether to submit a response to the Boundary Review Commission regarding the proposed boundary changes.

138. CHURCH NOTICE BOARD AND PEDESTRIAN SIGNAGE AT THE END OF SUE'S WALK BECKINGTON

To consider the request received from the PCC. Please see the attached email.

139. NETWORK MAGAZINE

To consider articles for inclusion in this magazine.

140. FACEBOOK POSTS

To consider posting regular Facebook updates about the work of the Parish Council.

141. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) **Internal Audit** – To appoint a new internal auditor for 2024/25. Please see attached quotations.

(b) **2023/24 Year End External Audit** – Please see information received from PKF Littlejohn.

(c) **Payments** – To approve the payments outlined below:

Supplier	Reason	Net	VAT	Total
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00
Context Planning	Planning Advice	£3,000.00	£600.00	£3,600.00
Paul Russell	Expenses Feb 25	£67.40	£0.00	£67.40
Paul Russell	Salary Feb 25	£551.25	£0.00	£551.25
HMRC Cumbernauld	PAYE Feb 25	£137.60	£0.00	£137.60
Beckington Memorial Hall	Room Hire (3/12/24)	£18.00	£0.00	£18.00
Beckington Memorial Hall	Room Hire (5/11/24)	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
Beckington Memorial Hall	Room Hire (27/01/25)	£4.00	£0.00	£4.00
Beckington Memorial Hall	Room Hire (14/01/25)	£28.00	£0.00	£28.00
Beckington Memorial Hall	Room Hire (2025)	£204.00	£0.00	£204.00
PKF Littlejohn	Audit	£315.00	£63.00	£378.00
		£4,351.25	£663.00	£5,014.25

142. NEXT MEETING

To note that the next scheduled meeting of Beckington Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 11th March 2025 commencing at 6:45pm.**

BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Beckington Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 commencing at 6:00pm in the Beckington Memorial Hall, Bath Road, Beckington, Frome BA11 6SH.

PRESENT: Cllr Paula Fox (Chair), Cllr Kevin Bishop, Cllr Anne Owen, Cllr Simon Milner (arrived 6:21pm), Cllr Clive Winterbourne, Cllr Liz Wright and Cllr Rory Ingleby-MacKenzie.

ALSO PRESENT: The Clerk to the Council.

Public participation: No members of the public were present.

121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Ward Cllrs Bowden and Denton.

122. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The following Declaration of Interest was made:

- Cllr Winterbourne informed Council that he had submitted a parcel of land in his ownership as part of the Neighbourhood Plan Call for Sites as previously declared.

123. MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Winterbourne, seconded by Cllr Ingleby-MacKenzie and **RESOLVED** to formally approve and adopt the minutes of the Beckington Parish Council meetings held on Tuesday 14th January 2025.

124. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- (a) **Neighbourhood Plan Development** – Council noted that the proposal by Brodie Planning to develop the planning policies for the NP had been withdrawn due to personal reasons. The Plan with policies would be drafted by the Clerk and then reviewed by Brodie Planning in March 2025.

It was **AGREED** to contact additional consultants for quotations to help support the drafting of the plan.

(Cllr Milner arrived at 6:21pm)

- (b) **Consultation Budget** – Council **RESOLVED** to allocate a budget for the parishioner consultation on the preferred site allocation following the Call for Sites initiative once quotations on the cost had been received.

Council noted that Cllr Bishop had contacted Highways England to express concern that they had not undertaken any consultation with the Parish Council on the proposed enhancements for the A36 and A361 which would directly

affect the village. If no reply was received then the matter would be raised with the Ward Councillors and local MP.

125. PLANNING, LICENSING & TREE APPLICATIONS:

(a) The following comments were agreed:

Proposal: Beech - Reduce crown height by approx. 4m- finished height approx. 12m, reshape remainder by up to 3m, carry out 10-15% crown thin & crown lift to approx. 5m
Willow - Pollard back to existing pollarded points, remove diseased branches.

Location: 35 Goose Street, Beckington, Somerset BA11 6SS

Application Type: Works/Felling Trees in a CA

Application Number: 2025/0048/TCA

Comment: Submit thanks for being notified of this application and happy to defer to the Tree Officer to determine the application.

(b) **Planning Application 2024/2309/FUL at Land At Tower Hill Farm** – Council noted that a public meeting to discuss this planning application would be held on 3rd February 2025 at 7pm at the Memorial Hall as previously agreed. The production of a flier at a cost of £45.60 was ratified. This would be distributed in the next few days.

126. NEW WEBSITE

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Fox, seconded by Cllr Owen and **RESOLVED** to appoint Aubergine to develop a new website for the Parish Council at a cost not exceeding £700 + VAT.

127. LAND REGISTRATION

Council noted the estimate received from Wellers Law Group to formally register the Recreation Ground land and clarify the relationship between the Memorial Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council who were the custodian trustees.

It was proposed by Cllr Fox, seconded by Cllr Winterbourne and **RESOLVED:**

- To defer consideration of this item;
- Clarify some of the information contained within the estimate provided;
- Contact the Management Committee to arrange a meeting to discuss the way forward. Cllr Winterbourne and the Clerk would attend.

128. NETWORK MAGAZINE

Council discussed supporting the Network Magazine which had recently been revamped. Cllr Fox had met with the editorial team to discuss the matter.

It was proposed by Cllr Fox, seconded by Cllr Milner and **RESOLVED** to make a contribution of £345 to the Network magazine. The Council agrees that a regular column would be very helpful but could not commit to submitting one every month.

Council received an update on the Baptist Chapel sale. Three quotations had been received and one had been accepted. It was expected that the paperwork would be completed in the next week.

With regard to the burial ground this would be taken over by the Frome Baptist Church who would be responsible for organizing its maintenance. Some discussions were ongoing with St Georges Church to continue to use the burial ground for internments but details needed to be agreed. It was confirmed that the actual management of the area would have to be undertaken locally.

129. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) **Parish Council Priorities** – Council discussed the development of the Parish Council’s priorities for the forthcoming year. The following initiatives would be developed:

- Revision of the footpath booklet including revamped maps;
- Provision of two bus shelters along Frome Road (Cllr Milner to lead);
- Review of the LCWIPs proposals;
- Neighbourhood Plan;
- Parish maintenance (Lead Cllr Winterbourne);
- Parish Steward Initiative – identify improvement works within the village and organise delivery.

It was suggested that the following articles could be included in Network:

- Updating the footpath booklet;
- Parish Precept – how Council is going to spend the money.

It was agreed to place the allotment agreement on the next agenda for formal signing.

(b) **Budget 2025/26** – Council reviewed the draft budget in detail and it was agreed to accept it without amendment.

(c) **Precept 2025/26** – It was proposed by Cllr Owen, seconded by Cllr Milner and **RESOLVED** to request a precept of £55,545 from Somerset Council for the 2025/26 financial year.

(d) **Easypcaccounts** – It was proposed by Cllr Fox, seconded by Cllr Owen and **RESOLVED** to take out a subscription for this accounting package at a cost of £9 per month. A free three month trial would be undertaken to ensure the package is fit for purpose.

(e) **Payments** – Council **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

Supplier	Reason	Net	VAT	Total
Context Planning*	Planning Advice	£3,000.00	£600.00	£3,600.00
Unity Trust Bank*	Service Charge	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00
Paul Russell	Expenses Jan 25	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00

Paul Russell	Salary Jan 25	£551.25	£0.00	£551.25
HMRC Cumbernauld	PAYE Jan 25	£137.60	£0.00	£137.60
Network Magazine	Contribution	£345.00	£0.00	£345.00
Ben Richards	NP Website through WIX	£192.00	£38.40	£230.40
Beckington Memorial Hall	Room Hire (20/11/24)	£32.00	£0.00	£32.00
Beckington Memorial Hall	Room Hire (10/12/24)	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
Beckington Memorial Hall	Room Hire (22/01/25)	£32.00	£0.00	£32.00
Cllr Ingleby-MacKenzie	Fliers	£45.60	£0.00	£45.60
		£4,386.45	£638.40	£5,024.85

It was agreed to investigate access to the footpath west of Beckington.

130. NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next scheduled meeting of Beckington Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 commencing at 7:30pm. Prior to that Councillors would be undertaking a Code of Conduct training session.

The following meeting dates for 2025 were approved:

- Tuesday 11th March
- Tuesday 8th April
- Wednesday 21st May
- Wednesday 11th June
- Wednesday 9th July
- Tuesday 9th September
- Tuesday 14th October
- Tuesday 11th November

There being no other business the Chair thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 8:50pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: