

BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

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Minutes of the Beckington Parish Council meeting held in Beckington Memorial Hall on TUESDAY 13th June 2017 at 7:30pm

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

In attendance: County Councillor Linda Oliver, Simon Pritchard (Parish Clerk) & Two 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:

County Councillor report:

Cllr Oliver gave a verbal report. A large map of the proposed industrial planning application was given to the Council and members spent some time looking it over. It was noted that it had been requested that if the planning officer was minded granting approval for the application then it be referred to the planning board, but it could not be guaranteed that this will happen. Cllr Oliver's and Frome Town Councils objections were not on the Mendip DC website, Cllr Brooke will investigate.

Action – Cllr Brooke

Public Participation:

Cllr Oliver reported that she had had a meeting with highways about Standerwick Court Lane and that bunds were the best option. Somerset CC Highways department had said that the scheme would have to be paid for by the local 'Small Improvements Scheme' – Cllr Oliver did not consider this an appropriate use of this pot of money and didn't think that the issue qualified for the scheme in any case. It was confirmed that the highways authority at Somerset CC is the responsible body and holds a statutory duty to residents, as pointed out by the inspectorate at the public inquiry. The bunds just need to be signed off by Alan Jones (as Section 92 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 allows the use of any form of obstruction whatsoever).

The Chairman requested that Cllr Oliver arrange a meeting in Beckington with Alan Jones (Head of Operations), to try and resolve the matter.

Action – Cllr Oliver

Standerwick Court Lane:

Shannon Brooke, speaking as a resident of Standerwick Court Lane gave an overview of the history of the highways issue. Key gate not an option. Ms Brooke requested that the Parish Council take on the management of the highway under the Localism Act 2011, via a community right to challenge. The road would remain in the ownership of Somerset Highways, but the Parish Council would take over the management, the residents would then manage the road, at their own expense, on the Parish Councils behalf. The Chairman said that both negotiations with the highways department and a community right to challenge should be pursued.

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllr Fox had said she would be late (as the meeting commenced Members revived notification that Cllr Fox was unable to make the meeting at all)
- 2. Declarations of interest** – None

3. Adoption of previous Council minutes:

A. Tuesday 4th April 2017

The Clerk had circulated the draft minutes, Cllr Brooke had put forward an amendment to item 8 that the Clerk was unable to accept. Members agreed to adopt Cllr Brooke's amended minutes. The Chairman requested that going forwards all requests for adjustments to the minutes are made through him.

B. Tuesday 16th May 2017 (Extraordinary meeting) - Adopted

4. Actions outstanding from 4th April's minutes:

Dog poo bins – now emptied. Cllr Brooke to host a site visit next Monday at 1am to identify sites within the Parish for new bins.

5. Publication of Council minutes:

(Not covered) *NB: The standard practice is that once the Clerk has written the draft minutes they are sent to the Chairman for approval. Once they have been approved, they are then sent to all Members for comment. After this they are posted on the Parish Council website as draft / unadopted.*

6. Assets Register:

This was agreed as accurate, a few items had the value updated and the register was adopted.

7. Internal auditor's report 2016/17

A. To receive & consider the internal audit report

The Council received and adopted the report. The Council acknowledged the issues raised in the report.

B. To adopt the Councils action plan:

In response to the internal auditor's report the Council had come up with 7-point action plan that address all the issues that have been raised. Many of the action points had already been put in place. The Council formally adopted the action plan and the new expenses form. It was resolved to appoint the internal auditor to carry out a further audit before December to see if the Council has improved.

8. Annual governance statement:

Adopted and signed by the Chairman

9. Accounting statement:

Adopted and signed by the Chairman

10. To receive Planning & Tree applications:

- **2017/1346/TCA** – Leave to Tree Officer
- **2017/1376/TCA** – This Application was sent to the Parish Council but was noted by Members as not being within the Parish boundary as the address was incorrect, Mendip District Council have been informed.
- **2017/1573/TCA** – Leave to Tree Officer
- **2017/1509/LBC & 2017/1481/LBC & 2017/1508/FUL** Rudge Methodist Chapel – Cllr Wright to arrange a site visit and respond on behalf of the Council.

11. Parish Council Website:

The issues with the current website were noted, the biggest issue being that the Clerk is unable to upload documents to the site and as a result it very poorly serves the Parish as it lacks up to date information.

It was Proposed by Cllr Brooke and seconded by Cllr Beresford; To appoint FossilDesign to build a new website for the Parish Council at a cost of £780 +vat and a hosting cost of £120 +vat (for two years) – Resolved unanimously

Action: Clerk

12. Payments:

The following payments were approved:

A. Clerk's salary & overtime (May) £340.08

B. Idverde – Grass cutting (Oct 2016) £226.92

A discussion was held around Idverde neglecting to cut some of the areas as contracted. The Chairman will call Idverde and request a resolution.

13. Bank reconciliation:

The account balances were noted.

14. Cheque signatories:

The Clerk reported that the Council ideally needed at least 3 Members as cheque signatories as every cheque must have two Members sign it. The Council had already agreed to appoint Cllr Beresford, the Chairman offered to become a signatory to bring the number of Councilors that can sign cheques up to 3. It was resolved to appoint Cllr Wilson as a cheque signatory.

15. Email database for the Parish

Members did not reach agreement on whether to create a database and agreed to bring the matter back as part of a bigger debate about how the Council communicates with Residents.

16. Council Vacancy

The Chairman reported that three residents had expressed an interest in the vacant seat. It was agreed that as the Council already has three residents interested in the vacancy further publicity was not needed.

17. Bettering Beckington projects update:

Idea floated of buying recreational land with S106 money.

Bus Shelters: Cllr Rider said he will continue with project after he leaves the Council.

Playground: Noted to be in poor condition Beckington Memorial Hall meeting notes showed they are aware.

Cllr Brooke felt a review of the comments made on the 'Bettering Beckington' survey forms have been overlooked – Cllr Brooke keen for someone to go over them with her.

18. Members portfolio verbal reports:

A. Allotments update. Noted that the Council do want ownership of the allotments.

B. – No report

C. Blocked / changed footpath FR117 noted – Cllr Wright & Beresford to investigate.

D. – No report

E. – No report

F. Noted that the Agenda had not been placed on the notice board, Cllr Wright to take over responsibility for the posting of the agenda in Rudge.

G. No report

H. No report

I. No report

19. Items for the next agenda:

- Finger post quote
- Invoice for internal audit

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10:00 pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____