

BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Clifford Suite,
Beckington Memorial Hall on:

THURSDAY 13th February 2020 @ 7:00pm

Present:

Councillors; Mr M. Wilson (Chairman), Mrs E. Wright, Mr C. Winterbourne, Mrs P. Fox.

In attendance:

Mr S Pritchard - Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
0 Members of the Public

Public participation:

(None)

County & District Councillors reports:

(Not present)

Agenda Number:	Agenda Item:
85	<u>Apologies for absence:</u> Mr R. Kelly – Away. Mr K. Bishop – Away.
86	<u>Declarations of interest & dispensations to participate:</u> A. None B. None
87	<u>Adoption of previous Council minutes:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">14th January 2020 <p>It was proposed by Cllr Winterbourne to adopt the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved unanimously.</p>
88	<u>Planning, Tree & Licensing applications:</u> A. To receive any planning, tree or licensing applications made to Mendip District Council and pass comment: 2020/0259/TCA - Works to trees in a conservation area:- T1 - Oak, prune back heavy overhang. T2 - Western Red Cedar, reduce height by 2-3m and trim overhang 7 Frome Road Beckington Frome BA11 6TD Members objected to any works been done to the height of the tress unless they are truly diseased. The Tree Officer will be asked to visit the site before the determination date and if there is no disease then the Council objects to the works, if there is sign of disease then the Parish Council resolves that it should be left to the Tree Officer.

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	<p>B. To note responses sent to MDC between meetings under the Clerks delegated authority: (None)</p>
89	<p><u>Parish Council Accounts:</u></p> <p>A. Payments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr J. Macey – Parish Lengthsman (Dec 19) -£1100.00 2. Mr J. Macey – Parish Lengthsman (Jan 20) - £935.00 3. Cllr Wright – Spring Bulbs - £220.00 4. M. MacLaine – Spring Bulbs - £7.99 5. Beckington Memorial Hall – Annual Room Hire - £143.00 <p>It was proposed by the Chairman to make the listed payments, seconded by Cllr Winterbourne and resolved unanimously.</p> <p>B. To receive the bank reconciliation and budget to date: This was received and noted.</p> <p>C. Writing off overpayment: While adding up three payments in November the Clerk had miscalculated the total amount by .18p – Members needed to resolve if the Council will write-off the overpayment. Members agreed to write-off the .18p overpayment.</p>
90	<p><u>Parish Council’s Banking Arrangements:</u></p> <p>The Clerk reported that while the current banking arrangements with NatWest are free, the Council needed to ask itself if the account was fit for purpose, as the processes for adding new account signatories was so painful that so far it has taken 6 months and it still hasn’t been done. It is also not possible to make online payments with the current NatWest account. The Council should consider moving to a Unity Trust Bank online account that has the same securities that is required in local government with two Members still being required to go online and authorise each transaction. The process of adding and removing signatories is also much easier and online payments can be made. The two current signatories, Councillors Winterbourne & Wright, expressed concern over such a change and a preference for the current banking arrangements. No vote was taken, so the Clerk can bring this back at a later date for further debate but will now press ahead with adding a signatory to the current NatWest bank account.</p>
91	<p><u>Subscription to Accounting Software:</u></p> <p>The Clerk recommended that the council subscribe to Scribe accounting software at a cost of £271.68 per year.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Fox that the Parish Council subscribe to Scribe accounting software, seconded by Cllr Winterbourne and resolved unanimously.</p>
92	<p><u>Bettering Beckington 2019 to 2023:</u></p> <p>Cllr Fox offered to start to get a survey together based on the results of the BB2 consultation event. The Chairman suggested that of further ideas were needed as the feedback from the event was limited.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action – Cllr Fox</p>

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<p>93</p>	<p><u>MDC Local Plan II – Consultation Response:</u></p> <p>Information about the main modifications to the Local Plan Part II had been emailed to all members on 22nd January by the Clerk. The former Redrow II site in Beckington has now been put into the Local Plan Part II by MDC, as the Planning Inspector has dictated to MDC that it must find sites for at least 505 more homes in the North—East of the district. It is just the main modifications to the Local Plan II, that includes further sites in Norton St Philips, Beckington, Rode & next to Midsomer Norton that are being consulted upon (This closes on March 2nd).</p> <p>The Chairman reported that informal conversion had taken place between Himself, the District Councilor and a local landowner with regards to land near to the David Wilson Homes site with it in mind that this could be the preferred site for development in the Parish, instead of the Redrow II site. The Chairman promoted the idea that is site could become a legacy development that would be offered to MDC instead of the Redrow II site. It was noted that the Village has issues with the sewers that must be resolved before any development can take place.</p> <p>There was concern from Members that by offering an alternative site that all will happen is the Village will get both. Having attended the MDC Local Plan Part II training on Tuesday, the Clerk reported that it was important for the Council to respond to what the proposal in the consultation actually was as in it is consulting on the Redrow II site only, the constitution is not asking for other sites to be put forward. MDC has focused on the Redrow II site as MDC know it is deliverable and the district council wants to have the whole plan adopted by September this year.</p> <p>The Local Plan Part I will start to be reviewed very soon so the opportunity for putting forward new sites into that plan would exist within the next 18 months.</p>
<p>94</p>	<p><u>Legal Expenditure:</u></p> <p>The Chairman reported that the total cost to the three Councils (Norton St Philips, Beckington & Rode Parish Councils) to engage DLA Piper UK LLP to response to the MDC consultation (agenda item 93) would be £6,000 +VAT.</p> <p>It was noted that the approach should be that the Redrow II site in Beckington is rejected as is any further development in the Parish of Beckington.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Winterbourne to spend up to £2,500 on representation from the Planning Barrister, seconded by Cllr Fox and resolved unanimously.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that the Council should have its first draft response from DLA Piper by February 21st</p> <p>Further advice would be sought from DVL Piper as to if it is appropriate that the Parish Council consult residents on alternative sites while the current process is taking place, of if this would just undermine the Parish Councils position.</p>
<p>95</p>	<p><u>Promoting Safe Cycle:</u></p> <p>Cycle Training: Cllr Fox reported that she had contacted the Bike Ability Team but had not been able to get a response from them. Bike Ability has three levels and it would be the top level that would be of interest to put on as an event.</p> <p>There is also one-to-one coaching but so far, she hadn't been able to find any information on this. Will keep trying.</p>

Bike Warning Signs: The Clerk reported that Somerset Council Highways wont just put up signs throughout the Parish, they will only consider putting them up in areas or at junctions that are known to be dangerous for cyclists. This would have to be assessed by the Highways Officer who has offered to come out and meet someone on site. Each sign would then coast between £250 to £300 each.

Cllr Fox reported that she knows of a few places in the Parish where cycling is dangerous and offered to meet with the officer and Cllr Wright

Action - Cllrs Fox & Wright

Cllr fox also felt that the Parish Council should be promotion some special hi vis jackets with an arrow on the back of them in the parish magazine.

Action – The Clerk

End of formal meeting: 20:51

- Cllr Wright reported that Rudge would like a new Grit bin, this could be put in the 2021/22 budget.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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