

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Beech Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 25th June 2018

PRESENT: Councillor David Woodrofe (Chairman)
Councillor Ruth Duffin
Councillor David Fazakerley
Councillor Ian Hardy
Councillor Graham Webb
Mrs Louisa Thomson – Clerk to the Council Neighbourhood Plan Working Party member

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – NON AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman David Woodrofe informed Council that the clerk had received an email complaining about horses using the Medstead Road footpath, the clerk will find out if horses are allowed to use footpaths.

Council raised concerns regarding the correct process and procedure of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Working Party are to be invited to attend the July Parish Council meeting where correct procedure can be decided upon.

Mr Kevin Lamb expressed his regret at leaving the Council and wanted Councillors to know how much he had enjoyed working with them.

Mr Lamb also informed Council that he and his wife have submitted a LAA application for their site on Snode Hill. He feels any development that has a negative impact the traffic and road safety on Medstead Road should be avoided in favour of sites that don't affect Medstead Road.

18.82 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

18.83 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st May 2018, copies previously circulated, **Proposed as a true record by David Fazakerley, Seconded by Ruth Duffin and signed by Chairman David Woodrofe.**

18.84 REGISTER OF INTEREST

Councillor Graham Webb stated he had an interest in item 9 b) Settlement Policy Boundary around Kings Hill.

18.85 CODE OF CONDUCT

Clerk to find out if Hampshire Association of Local Councils have a model Code of Conduct for Parish Councils, if not to adapt the new East Hampshire District Council Code of Conduct to Beech Parish Council and bring to the July meeting for adoption.

18.86 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- a) **Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded David Fazakerley and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** That any changes to the Neighbourhood Plan need to be tracked using Word.
- c) **Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Graham Webb and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** Not to review the new draft document and that no further work should be carried out on the document and East Hampshire District Council and the Planning Consultant should not be contacted for advice until the procedures have been confirmed at the July Parish Council meeting. Clerk to email the Working Party Chairman to this effect.
- b) (Councillor Graham Webb left the meeting for this item.)
A member of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party presented the proposed Settlement Policy Boundary around Kings Hill which would allow more permitted development rights for the residents but may also increase new development allowing building in front and rear gardens or several houses being built on one site. **Proposed Ian Hardy, Seconded David Fazakerley and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** That there should not be a Settlement Policy Boundary around Kings Hill.
(Councillor Graham Webb joined the meeting.)
- d) Set date for the Landscape Character Assessment village consultation – this item is postponed.

18.87 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – The review had been carried out at the May meeting.

18.88 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

- a) Privacy Notices – Graham Webb to adapt the template privacy notices to suit Beech Parish Council and present at the July meeting for adoption.
- b) Clerk to arrange meeting with Graham Webb and David Woodroffe to carry out a data audit.

18.89 EAST HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS MEETING – Report from Ruth Duffin as follows:

East Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils

Thursday 14th June 2018 at Hawkley village hall

Speaker and Q@A with Rt Hon Damien Hinds MP

Q: How do villages keep their village schools?

A: Villages have to have children, which is why there is a need for more housing in villages.

There has been a 50% increase in funding for schools since 2000. Currently they are culling back monies which have been wasted ie: Advertising/over use of Agencies

Q: Internet or lack of in villages

A: Basically it all comes down to cost although they are trying to ensure schools receive the internet they require.

Q: Devolution

A: The Government is in favour of Devolution although it is difficult to implement. DH is currently quite happy with the way things are run via Town and Parish councils.

Q: Farnborough Air Field

A: DH has been having meetings with Lasham and Farnborough these have been ongoing and is currently waiting for feedback, the latest date for this was July, but this has already been put back several times.

Q: Adult/elderly care

A: People are living longer which has increased the need for care, the Government, NHS, Social services are aware that more funding is needed. Housing and care are the most talked items in Government both need extra funding.

Q: Capping the precept

A: DH wasn't quite sure but would look into it.

Q: Road/Traffic calming in Villages.

A: Needs more funding

Q: Empty Military Housing, why couldn't it be used for social housing?

A: Military housing is governed by the Military and they haven't released any.

General Meeting resumed

GDPR

Councils must make sure that their policy is compliant, Keith Budden from Liss PC is an expert in this field as is happy to help PC's although some charge may be made.

106 monies

106 monies have been taking a very long time to come through, this problem should be rectified within the next 3 months as a community team is taking on all 106 and Cil monies.

Boundary Commission Consultation

No new information available.

Parish Charter

EHAoP@TC urge all councils to read their Parish Charter to ensure all parties are working together.

Hampshire Road safety Council feedback

As above: This is an ongoing issue for most villages, funding being the biggest problem.

HALC

Stephen Lugg is currently very unwell, but HALC is still being run very well.

EHDC Lack of Travellers sites

Six new sites have been allocated although this is an ongoing problem as there are currently not enough sites for Gypsy/ Traveller community.

Next meeting will be 19th September

Possibly at BEECH VH depending on Hall Availability

18.90 TRAFFIC CALMING – COMMUNITY FUNDED INITIATIVE

David Woodroofe reported on a site meeting he had on Wednesday 20th June with a Highways Engineer from Hampshire County Council who will put new proposals and costings together for Councils decision. The Engineer will also contact the Police and request for speed camera signs to be installed.

18.91 EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PASSENGER TRANSPORT FORUM – Report from Graham Webb as follows:**EAST HAMPSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT FORUM – 19 JUNE 2018****Meeting Purpose**

The meeting consisted of a presentation by Hampshire County Council on proposals to make £1.1 million savings from April 2019 to their Passenger Transport Services and Concessionary Travel Scheme. In particular, to make the necessary cuts to subsidised bus and ferry routes and ancillary services.

HCC has put out a public consultation document on this (and possible streetlight switch off at night) which asks for responses by midnight on 5 August. The presentation was followed by a workshop at which the consultation proposals were considered.

Accompanying this document are PDFs of: (circulated to Councillors)

- Presentation slides
- Consultation information document
- Consultation response form (with draft answers – to be discussed in council)

Passenger Transport***Relevance to Beech***

Aside from (unsubsidised) school bus service 613 (Stagecoach) directly into/from Alton on each schoolday, the only bus service through Beech is the 208 (Cresta Coaches), which runs in a loop Alton – Beech – Medstead – Bentworth – Lasham crossroads – Alton three times (morning to lunchtime) each Tuesday and Friday.

The same single bus provides a loop service 206 Alton – Holybourne – Froyle – Bentley – Blacknest – Binsted – Holybourne – Alton immediately before each 208 loop above.

Current HCC subsidy to the 206/208 route is £16,207 p.a. for about 7,582 passenger journeys p.a. (i.e. about 75 passenger journeys per bus operating day). There are no figures for how many of these journeys are taken by Beech residents, but given relative village populations and Beech demographics I would suspect less than 5 per bus operating day. Other villages on the 206/208 services probably have higher usage.

Response to HCC proposals

I believe that Beech PC should respond to the consultation, but it is more important to encourage Beech residents to respond as individuals, as that is the best way to uncover the opinions of Beech bus users rather than councillors.

For the Beech PC response, see the form and draft answers but in particular my principal suggested responses are:

1. HCC states in its information document that no currently-served village will lose its essential transport connection entirely. The two mornings per week year-round bus service would seem to be the bare minimum requirement, so no reduction in frequency should be accepted.
2. Replacing the 208 bus by a cheaper (for HCC) timetabled taxi-share or “Call and Go” minibus service might be acceptable, in particular if there is an increase in service frequency. Although it would need to work for all villages on the 206/208 routes.

3. When it comes to HCC saving money on printed timetables etc, they should consider distributing bus timetable information to parish/town councils for publication on websites and local hard copy printing (e.g. in Beech, printing timetables in the Beech Newsletter and putting on noticeboards). There is likely to be a high correlation between bus users and older folks who are not computer literate, so hard copy is still important.
4. For support, community travel operators should be pointed as much as possible to the nationwide Community Transport Association (which already provides such services), rather than HCC incur the cost of providing support.
5. Older Person's Bus Pass users should not be asked to pay 50p per journey rather than go free. (To charge would require a law change). My discussion group felt that older bus users are likely to be relatively poor, and could be dissuaded from travelling if there is a charge, to the detriment of their health and social wellbeing.
6. HCC should not remove the right to use the Older Person's Bus Pass for free journeys with taxi-shares, dial-a-rides etc provided by HCC to replace a bus service. This would be a further disincentive to travel for older people, and would appear discriminatory on the part of HCC.

Street Lighting – Switch-off at night (after midnight)

Beech has street lights on Medstead Road, Kings Hill, Wellhouse Road and the A339 (Alton to Beech junction).

I would propose that we would accept all of those street lights being turned off at times when there will be no pedestrians on the road, i.e. midnight (or 1 am) to 6am.

Proposed Actions

1. Beech PC to agree consultation responses at council meeting on 25 June or 23 July, for submission by 5 August.
2. Beech PC to prompt individual Beech residents to respond to the consultation, via the PC website, NextDoor, Facebook (possibly) and the Beech Newsletter (if next publication date by end of July).

18.92 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Council considered on application, their comments to be forwarded to East Hampshire District Council:

Proposed David Fazakerley, Seconded Ruth Duffin and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

57205/002

Land South East of Medstead Road

NO OBJECTION

Change of use to equestrian and construction of all-weather arena for equestrian purposes.

If the application is approved council would request a condition: Prior to construction commencing the Applicant shall submit a design, and obtain approval, for disposal of all surface water within the site. The submission should include calculations to BRE365 substantiating the design.

18.93 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2017-2018

- a) Annual governance statement 2017/18 – Council completed the Annual governance statement which was then signed by Chairman David Woodroffe and Clerk Louisa Thomson. **Proposed Graham Webb, Seconded Ian Hardy and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the statements were correct.
- b) Accounting statements 2017/18 – Councillors David Woodroffe and Ruth Duffin met with Clerk to review the Annual Accounts for year ended 31 March 2018 which were presented to council for approval. **Proposed Ian Hardy, Seconded David Fazakerley and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Accounting statements 2017/18 be approved, which were then signed by Chairman David Woodroffe and the Clerk.

18.94 ACCOUNTS 2018/19 - **Proposed Graham Webb, Seconded Ruth Duffin and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

that the following payments are approved: (Payment to Terra Firma is released as the Neighbourhood Plan Planning Consultant has confirmed it is fit for purpose.)

a)	Salary (June 18)	£683.15
b)	Clerk's Expenses (June 18)	£207.88
c)	Hampshire County Council Pension Contribution (June 18)	£145.80
d)	HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE (April – June 18)	£4.47
e)	DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd – Payroll monthly and year end processing	£30.00
f)	Beech Village Hall – Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan meetings	£81.90
g)	OCS Group UK Ltd – Speed Limit Reminder sign deployment	£74.94
h)	The Terra Firma Consultancy Ltd – Neighbourhood Plan Consultancy	£2419.58

18.95 Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 23rd July 2018 at 7.30pm with public question time at 7.15pm.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

signed:

Chairman Beech Parish Council
date: 23rd July 2018