

Minutes of the Meeting of Beech Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 20th January 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Graham Webb (Chairman)
Councillor Daniel Gordon
Councillor Tony Ransley
Councillor Ruth Duffin
Councillor Alana Coombes
Mrs Louisa Thomson – Clerk to the Council

20.01 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public asked the reason for the Neighbourhood Plan public hearing being held on the 12th February. Graham Webb explained the public hearing had been called by the Neighbourhood Plan examiner to ensure developers representations had been fully taken into consideration in the draft plan.

20.02 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – **RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th December 2019, copies previously circulated, **Proposed as a true record by Tony Ransley, Seconded by Daniel Gordon and signed by Chairman Graham Webb.** (Ruth Duffin and Alana Coombes abstained as they did not attend the December meeting.)

20.03 PLANNING

Council considered two applications their comments to be forwarded to East Hampshire District Council, comments to include reference to the draft Beech Neighbourhood Plan where applicable.

i) 22366/003 47 Medstead Road

NO OBJECTION

First floor extension to side and new car port following removal of existing single storey rear extension.

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

ii) 27887/010 Keepers Lodge, Basingstoke Road

OBJECTION

Outline application – Single storey museum building to display ‘cold war’ era artefacts with a café and shop (D1 use) (All Matters Reserved).

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley and RESOLVED.

(Ruth Duffin abstained.)

The application incorrectly states that the site is within the Alton town boundary. The site is in fact within Beech parish. Therefore the policies of the emerging Beech Neighbourhood Development Plan, which covers the whole parish and is currently at the stage of independent examination, should be taken into account.

The application contravenes Policy BPC02 (Development outside the Settlement Policy Boundary) in that it is non-residential development outside the SPB and not in a location permitted under Policy BPC09 (Site of the Departure Lounge and Village Businesses), and the development is not for the purpose of agricultural, forestry or other rural enterprise or rural conservation needs, nor the conversion of redundant rural buildings, nor essential utility infrastructure. Also, we do not believe that the site is the only suitable location in the district for this development, as claimed in the application.

The application contravenes Policy BPC03 (Preventing Coalescence with Alton and Medstead/Wivelrod) in that the development is within the defined Beech/Alton Non-Coalescence Area and will contribute to the risk of coalescence between Beech and Alton. Part of the justification that the application makes for this site is that “the settlement of Alton is expanding westward along the Basingstoke Road, closing the strategic gap between the town and Beech”. The purpose of Policy BPC03 is to prevent the closing or narrowing of that gap, so keeping Beech as a distinct settlement.

The application contravenes Policy BPC10 in that it does not adequately take into account the nature and volume of additional road traffic generated, and its effect on the amenity of Beech residents. The Transport Study states that the access onto Medstead Road will be reconfigured to accommodate large coaches, but that even larger articulated vehicles will be needed to regularly transport large exhibits (including tanks, artillery and jet aircraft) to and from the site, and that these very large vehicle traffic movements will need to be managed outside peak hours and be escorted, i.e. they will be obstructive and slow to execute. No tracking data is provided for any vehicle larger than a large coach, so it is doubtful that the proposed access can actually accommodate even larger vehicles. Medstead Road is a well-used, narrow C-class through road connecting Alton with Beech, Medstead and the villages beyond, and is unsuitable for such

attempted traffic movements. The situation is compounded by the access point being only about 50 metres from the A339/Medstead Road junction, meaning that congestion from protracted large vehicle movements could spill out onto the A339.

Other comments:

- *The frequency of bus service to the A339/Medstead Road junction is significantly overstated in the Transport Study. Stagecoach services 13X and 613 (Basingstoke-Alton) do stop once each day, but do not run on weekends and public holidays. Cresta Coaches service 208 (Alton to Medstead loop) runs only on Tuesdays and Fridays. So none of the bus services run on prime museum visiting days.*
- *The proposed shop on site is unlikely to be of much benefit to residents of Beech. There is no footway access through the village to the site, on a road considered hazardous for pedestrians. Potential shop customers would overwhelmingly travel by car, in which case they will have greater shopping choice in nearby Alton.*
- *There is no assessment or statement regarding the environmental impact of running a significant heavy vehicle storage and maintenance operation on this site, e.g. fuel supply and storage, oil & waste disposal etc.*
- *The Transport Study explicitly covers Phase 1 of the museum only. It is not clear whether this planning application covers only Phase 1, or whether further future development is contemplated on this site, beyond that contained in this application.*

20.04 ROAD SAFETY AND FOOTPATH PUBLIC MEETING – 24TH FEBRUARY 2020

Graham Webb, Daniel Gordon, Tony Ransley and Alana Coombes confirmed their attendance.

20.05 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PUBLIC HEARING – 12TH FEBRUARY 2020

(Ruth Duffin declared an interest and took no part in this item.)

- a) Graham Webb and Tony Ransley will represent the Parish Council with Daniel Gordon, Alana Coombes and Planning Consultant John Slater also attending.
- b) **Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley and RESOLVED** that the East Hampshire District Council notice is published on the Neighbourhood Plan website and Nextdoor Beech and the hearing is added to the event calendar on Nextdoor Beech.
- c) East Hampshire District Council formal notice to be published on the Parish Council noticeboards and website with a link for further information to EHDC website.
- d) **Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Daniel Gordon and RESOLVED** that the proposed speaking material, appendix A, for the hearing is accepted.

(Ruth Duffin rejoined the meeting.)

20.06 HAMPSHIRE 2050 – PARISH COUNCILS MEETING – 9TH JANUARY 2020

Report from Graham Webb.

The Hampshire 2050 Commission published its report in late 2019. It can be found here www.hants.gov.uk/visionforhampshire2050.

It has six strategic themes: Demographic & societal challenges; Economy; Work, skills & lifestyle; Environment & quality of place; Mobility, connectivity & energy; and Rural Hampshire.

In fact this meeting was all about the challenge of climate change and the conservation of resources. And how all organisations in Hampshire (public, private & third sector) are going to have to work in partnership to meet the challenge. We can't leave it all to HCC or even central Government.

The first presentation bombarded us with figures about Hampshire's carbon footprint, energy usage etc. Only 1.8% of Hampshire's energy comes from renewable sources, whereas it was claimed that we could get up to 50%.

Part of the answer, apparently, is community energy schemes; we should be looking to harness our local natural resources by installing wind farms on exposed 2 acre plots (e.g. Old Park Farm?) or solar PV installations on 5 acre plots of land or on roofs of public/commercial buildings (e.g. the village hall roof?). The difficulty for Beech Parish Council is

that we own no land or buildings, and we have no access to funding to funding with which to participate in schemes – unlike, say, district councils.

The other part of the answer is making new and existing housing energy efficient, even carbon-neutral. Again, our difficulty is that neither national nor district planning policy mandates this, and we can't insist on being stricter ourselves in neighbourhood plans. Nor do we have any power or much influence over national or district planning policy.

The second presentation was about parish-level programmes to save energy, water etc. – see www.greening-campaign.org/#. The woman who started this campaign is local (it started in Petersfield). Much more manageable as a parish initiative, and practically everyone in the room showed interest. Council to decide if and how to take this forward.

20.07 GRIEVANCE & DISCIPLINARY POLICY

Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Alana Coombes and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to adopt the amended National Association of Local Councils model policy.

20.08 GRANT APPLICATION

Proposed Daniel Gordon, Seconded Ruth Duffin and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to award Citizens Advice East Hampshire a grant of £150.

20.09 ACCOUNTS

I) Summary of Receipts & Payments for 3rd Quarter Ended 31st December 2019 presented to Council detailing bank reconciliation as follows:

Current Account Balance	1,422.18
Less: Cheques drawn but not debited as at 31.12.19	-140.00
Deposit Account Balance	8,843.64
High Interest Bonds Balance	<u>24,568.31</u>
	34,694.13

Reconciliation checked and agreed by Councillor Ruth Duffin.

II) **Proposed Daniel Gordon, Seconded Tony Ransley and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the following payments are approved:

a) Clerk's Salary (January 2020)	£710.57
b) Clerk's expenses (January 2020)	£ 12.96
c) Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's Pension – January 2020)	£159.52
d) DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd – Monthly payroll processing	£ 30.00
e) Beech Village Hall & Recreation Ground – meeting room & hall hire	£129.14
f) Index eBusiness Ltd - HOST100 annual web hosting	£119.94
g) Treloar Trust (IKC) – Road safety public meeting flyer printing	£ 24.00
h) PHS Group – Speed Limit Reminder sign move	£ 78.00
i) Westcotec Ltd – Speed Limit Reminder sign battery & charger	£177.00

20.10 MEETING DATES - Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 24th February 2020 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 8.50pm.

signed:

Chairman Beech Parish Council

date: 24th February 2020