

Minutes of the Meeting of Beech Parish Council

Monday 22nd June 2020

(Due to Coronavirus and Government social distancing advice this meeting was virtual)

PARTICIPANTS : Councillor Graham Webb (Chairman) Road Safety Working Group Chairman
Councillor Ruth Duffin Charles Cockburn
Councillor Alana Coombes
Councillor Tony Ransley Members of the public
Mrs Louisa Thomson – Clerk to the Council

20.78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Daniel Gordon.

20.79 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - **RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18th May 2020, copies previously circulated,
Proposed as a true record by Ruth Duffin, Seconded by Alana Coombes and RESOLVED

20.80 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The owner of 76 Wellhouse Road informed the Council that the planning application 56613/001 was nothing to do with 76 Wellhouse Road and actually related to land behind their property.

Council advised them to contact East Hampshire District Council and request that their address is removed from any planning applications relating to this land.

Other members of the public told Council their main concerns were speeding traffic within the village and they were interested to find out what progress was being made with traffic calming measure.

20.81 LETTER TO CHIEF CONSTABLE

Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Alana Coombes and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders so Charles Cockburn can speak.

Charles Cockburn confirmed he had sent the letter to the Chief Constable and had received a reply, he will be drafting a response in a private capacity and will circulate the reply from the Chief Constable and his response to the Parish Council for information.

Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Ruth Duffin and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

20.82 PLANNING

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

- a) 56613/001 The Old Farm, 76 Wellhouse Road **OBJECT**
Single-storey dwelling with associated garaging and landscaping, which will utilise the existing site access, and to create a new access onto the vacant land to the north of the proposed dwelling plot following demolition of an existing hard surface / tarmac tennis court

Proposed Alana Coombes and Seconded Tony Ransley and RESOLVED (Ruth Duffin abstained)

Beech Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds that the proposed development is outside the Beech Settlement Policy Boundary (as set out in the current EHDC Local Plan and recently re-confirmed in the Beech Neighbourhood Development Plan) and has no proven need to be located in the countryside, outside the SPB.

Since the application's Planning Statement was written, the Beech Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has completed its independent examination. In early May 2020 the Independent Examiner recommended a number of changes to the NDP that would ensure that it is fully compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the current Local Plan. EHDC, supported by Beech Parish Council, accepted all of the Examiner's recommendations. The resulting Final Version of the NDP was published by EHDC in late May 2020 and awaits a referendum. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, current Government legislation does not permit referenda to be held until May 2021, but ministerial instructions to local authorities are that a neighbourhood plan merely awaiting a delayed referendum should be given very significant weight in planning decisions.

This application breaches NDP Policy BPC02: Development Outside the Settlement Policy Boundary, in that it does not meet any of the stated criteria that might suggest that the development has a proven need to be located in a countryside location. For similar reasons it breaches EHDC Local Plan Policy CP19: Development in the Countryside.

In the appeal ruling that followed the refusal of the previous application on this site, the Planning Inspector concluded, following a site visit, that there is no reason to consider that the site sits naturally within the Settlement Policy Boundary. The Inspector stated that “The site is not seen as an extension to the settlement...”

As with the previous application, we object to the use of Bridleway 704 as access to the development, which we believe would result in a loss of amenity to the public and additional wear and tear.

20.83 ROAD SAFETY AND FOOTPATH WORKING PARTY

Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Alana Coombes and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders so Charles Cockburn can speak.

Charles Cockburn, Working Party Chairman reported as follows:

- a) The proposed posters have been sent to Hampshire Highways and the Working Group are waiting for approval of the posters and their positioning.
- b) Cala Homes grant application – no update.
- c) Update Working Group Interim report previously circulated.

Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Alana Coombes and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

- d) **Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Ruth Duffin and RESOLVED** (Tony Ransley abstained) that the Working Group should continue.
- e) To ask Daniel Gordon if he would be the council representative on the Working Group following Tony Ransley’s resignation.

20.84 PLANNING continued....

- b) Notification of Planning Appeal Reference: APP/M1710/W/20/3249161
58352 Land North of Lower Park Farm, Abbey Road, Medstead
Change of use of agricultural land to provide 8 pitches for gypsy families incorporating 1 mobile home, 1 touring caravan and 1 utility/day room per pitch and formation of hardstanding and associated car parking (additional information received on 16/12/2019).
Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Alana Coombes and RESOLVED (Ruth Duffin abstained)
Council confirm to the Planning Inspectorate that they have no additional comments to those made on the original application and these comments will be forward to the Planning Inspectorate by East Hampshire District Council.

Ruth Duffin left the meeting.

- c) Decide whether to make an official complaint regarding planning applications 54482, 41 Medstead Road. This item to be postponed until a future date.

Ruth Duffin rejoined the meeting.

20.85 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Update from Hampshire County Council whose interim team will complete the footpath cutting list this summer. Alton Ramblers walk footpaths regularly and will clear footpaths needing light maintenance. Request Alton Ramblers copy the Parish Council with any report regarding footpaths in Beech.

20.86 ALTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Ruth Duffin and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: that Beech Parish Council will, in principle, support a letter requesting that the extra beds are maintained following Coronavirus.

20.87 SPEED LIMIT REMINDER SIGN

Send movement schedule to PHS detailing 4 weekly moves.

20.88 ACCOUNTS 2020/2021

Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Alana Coombes and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following payments are approved:

a)	Clerk's Salary (June 2020)	£715.04
b)	Clerk's Expenses (June 2020)	£48.94
c)	Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's pension – June 2020)	£180.75
d)	HM Revenue & Customs	£10.63
e)	DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd – Monthly Payroll processing	£30.35
f)	Hampshire Association of Local Councils – HR subscription	£192.00
g)	P.J. Grace – Medstead Road footpath	£336.00
h)	John Slater Planning Ltd – Neighbourhood Plan consultant	£441.00
i)	Zurich Municipal – annual insurance	£206.08
j)	Mr I Hardy – Noticeboard oil	£25.95
k)	Mr G Webb – G2graphics Neighbourhood Plan amendments	£62.50

Council wanted to note what a good job PJ Grace had carried out on the Medstead Road footpath.

20.89 MEETING DATES

Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 20th July 2020 at 7.30pm, with public question time at 7.15pm. This will be a virtual meeting in line with Government advice.

CLOSURE OF MEETING – Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

signed:

Chairman Beech Parish Council

date: 20th July 2020