

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Beech Parish Council

held in the Village Hall on Monday 24th MAY 2021

PRESENT:

Councillor Graham Webb (Chairman)	
Councillor Daniel Gordon	District Councillor Tony Costigan
Councillor Tony Ransley	
Councillor Alana Coombes	
Councillor Kim Eakers	Members of the Road Safety Working Group
Mrs Louisa Thomson – Clerk to the Council	Members of the Public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

District Councillor Tony Costigan reported that both East Hampshire District Council and the Police were taking the recent event at Keepers Lodge very seriously and are keen to receive witness statements from members of the public.

If any member of the public wishes to either complain about or support the event they should contact East Hampshire District Council Planning Compliance at <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/planning-compliance-and-enforcement>

Tony Costigan will keep the Parish Council informed of any progress/outcome.

Tony Costigan updated the Council that the local police have been issuing tickets in Bentworth, Froyle and Beech and plan to make return visits. It may be worth the parishes joining forces to tackle speeding traffic. Tony will keep the Parish Council up to date and will liaise with Charles Cockburn from the Road Safety Working Group and Councillor Tony Ransley regarding the possible 20mph speed limit.

21.047 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded by Daniel Gordon, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That Councillor Graham Webb be elected as Chairman. Chairman Webb signed a declaration of acceptance of office and took the Chair.

21.048 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Ingrid McCormack and Ruth Duffin.

21.049 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 19th April 2021, copies previously circulated, **Proposed as a true record by Tony Ransley, Seconded by Daniel Gordon, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED and signed by Chairman Graham Webb.**

21.050 COUNCIL REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Council reviewed its internal control systems and procedures, proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that they are current and fit for purpose.

- a) **Standing Orders**
- b) **Protocol for Reporting at Meetings** [Annex to Standing Order No. 3 (I)]
- c) **Financial Regulations**
- d) **Risk Assessment**
- e) **Complaints Procedure**
- f) **Publication Scheme**
- g) **Grant Awarding Policy & Procedure and Application Form**
- h) **Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Procedure**
- i) **Disciplinary and Grievance Policy**

Copies to be loaded on to the Parish Council website detailing the review date and minute reference.

21.051 INTERNAL AUDITOR

Mr Allen Leech confirmed he is willing to continue as Internal Auditor for a further year. **Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Allen Leech will continue as Internal Auditor for the year 2021/2022.** Mr Leech has informed Council this is the last year he will continue as Internal Auditor.

21.052 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Proposed Daniel Gordon, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to adopt the General Power of Competence having satisfied the prescribed criteria, being:

- a) Two thirds of the councillors have been elected, Beech has 100% of elected councillors.
- b) The Clerk holds relevant professional qualifications: Beech Clerk has passed CiLCA.
- c) The Clerk has completed relevant training in the exercise of GPC, unless training was included in (b) above: Beech Clerk has carried out HALC training in GPC and the CiLCA qualification includes GPC.

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders so members of the Working Group can speak.

21.053 ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

- a) Charles Cockburn, Working Group Chairman, reported to Council. (Appendix A)
- b) Tony Ransley reported he had been in contact with Forestry England and had been informed that the land in question is open access woodland. Forestry England aren't very keen on having a made up footpath but as it is open access land if people walked a path Forestry England couldn't stop them.
- c) Tony Ransley informed Council that it may be possible to apply for a 25mph speed limit by contacting the Minister of Justice for Police.

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Daniel Gordon, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

21.054 SPEED DATA ANALYSIS REPORT

- a) **Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Daniel Gordon, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve Tony Ransley's report. (Appendix B).
- b) **Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Graham Webb as the Parish Council Chairman should submit the report to the Police Commissioner and the Head of Community Speedwatch/Policing.

21.055 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Graham Webb reported that the Beech Neighbourhood Plan was on the agenda for the East Hampshire District Council Planning Policy meeting being held on the 2nd June 2021, if it is recommended to adopt the plan it will go before a meeting of Full Council on 10th June 2021 for adoption. Once the plan is adopted Graham will contact EHDC to arrange for the planning officers to visit Beech.

21.056 PLANNING

Council considered three planning items, their comments to be forwarded to East Hampshire District Council.

- a) 37920/007 51 Wellhouse Road, Beech **NO OBJECTION**
First floor extension to stand alone garage to enable habitable accommodation.
Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED.
- b) 23804/008 48 Wellhouse Road, Beech **NO OBJECTION**
Outbuilding for use as garden room and home office.
Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED *Council have No Objection to the application but would request a condition that it will always be ancillary accommodation to the main house.*
- c) Veolia ES Hampshire Limited - Environmental permit variation consultation **OBJECT**
The application is to vary their existing Alton Materials Recovery Facility permit to allow the operation of a proposed waste incinerator, referred to in the application as an Advanced Energy Recovery Facility next to the A31 dual carriageway, near Alton in Hampshire.
Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED *Beech Parish Council strongly objects to the construction by Veolia of an Advanced Energy Recovery Facility (AERF) near Alton, with the increased emissions forming a significant factor in our objections. If, however, the AERF does come to be constructed, then we would naturally expect it to meet all legal requirements, obtain an appropriate environmental permit, and be tightly regulated by the Environment Agency.*

21.057 INSURANCE

Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to accept the quotation and renew the Councils insurance with Zurich Municipal at a cost of £206.08.

21.058 NEW COUNCILLOR TRAINING

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the expenditure of £30 per person to attend the Finance for Councillors training and £95 per person to attend The Knowledge and Core Skills Training for New Councillors for any new Councillors and existing Councillors who haven't yet attended the training.

21.059 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2020/21

- a) Council have received and noted the Annual Internal Audit Report carried out by Allen Leech.
- b) Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 – Council completed the Annual Governance Statement. **Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Daniel Gordon, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** it is signed by Chairman Graham Webb and Clerk Louisa Thomson.
- c) Accounting Statements 2020/21 – The Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 were presented to council for approval. **Proposed Daniel Gordon, Seconded Tony Ransley and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Accounting Statements 2020/21 are approved, and were then signed by Chairman Graham Webb and Clerk Louisa Thomson.

21.060 ACCOUNTS 2021/22 - **Proposed Daniel Gordon, Seconded Alana Coombes and RESOLVED** (Kim Eakers and Tony Ransley abstained) that the following payments are approved:

a) Clerk's Salary (May 2021)	£734.20
b) Clerk's Expenses (May 2021)	£31.01
c) Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's pension – May 2021)	£195.59
d) DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd – Monthly Payroll processing	£30.00
e) Beech Village Hall and Recreation Ground – Neighbourhood Plan viewing	£65.52
f) Treloar Trust (IKC) – Election / Neighbourhood Plan flyer	£18.00
g) Hampshire Association of Local Councils – Membership renewal	£192.00
h) Zurich Municipal	£206.08

21.061 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – No members of the Public or Press were present.

21.062 CLERK'S ANNUAL APPRAISAL

Graham Webb carried out the Clerk's Annual Appraisal, circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. **Proposed Daniel Gordon, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve the appraisal.

21.063 MEETING DATES

- a) **Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**, the following proposed dates for Council meetings for 2021/2022 were approved and will be published. (These dates may be subject to change depending on Government COVID Guidance and Village Hall availability.)

2021

June	21 st
July	26 th
August	Meeting to be scheduled, if required.*
September	20 th
October	18 th
November	22 nd
December	Meeting to be scheduled, if required.*

2022

January	17 th
February	14 th
Annual Parish Meeting plus Council meeting	
March	21 st
April	25 th
Annual Council Meeting	
May	23 rd
June	20 th

- b) Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 21st June 2021 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: 21st June 2021