

Minutes of the Meeting of Beech Parish Council
Monday 26th July 2021

PARTICIPANTS : Councillor Graham Webb (Chairman)
Councillor Alana Coombes
Councillor Tony Ransley
Councillor Kim Eakers
Councillor Ingrid McCormack
Councillor Ruth Duffin
Mrs Louisa Thomson – Clerk to the Council

21.075 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Daniel Gordon.

21.076 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - **RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st June 2021, copies previously circulated,
Proposed as a true record by Tony Ransley, Seconded by Alana Coombes and RESOLVED

21.077 ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

a) Graham Webb read a report from Working Group Chairman Charles Cockburn.

1) Since my last report to the Parish Council BRSWG has met on 12 July 2021. The minutes of this meeting have been sent to Parish Clerk. Minutes of our meeting of 15 June 2021 were also sent to the Parish Clerk.

2) Our work over the last month has focussed on two main issues:

a) Trying to establish the exact boundary between Hampshire Highways and Forestry England land. This is important because it may define where we are able to put the proposed footpath between Seong Ji's land (where a track is already in place) and the point where the bridleway crosses Medstead Road, which is where the woodlands to the South of the road come to an end.) Getting access to the precise boundary between Hampshire Highways owned land and other privately held land may also be important. This is all part of our effort to provide precision when we respond to Highways' officers call for greater detail regarding our proposals. This in turn will be vital to making progress on gaining HCC support for the detailed elements of the project.

At this point we are getting help from Mark Housby, who is the HCC officer responsible for Hampshire Highways assets. Progress is being delayed by a perceived reluctance to give us access to the HCC GIS system, which is a working document, subject to regular change. Thought we have been offered PDF screen shots of the route we are trying to see if we can get access to the scaleable GIS system which would give us a greater degree of accuracy. Being able to tell villagers exactly where our proposed paths will be could also prove essential to providing an accurate picture of what is being proposed, which is essential if we are to win the support of the village for the scheme.

b) Developing a presentation to put to villagers about the outline proposals of the working group, as approved in principle by HCC. This is a key element of our consultation with villagers which will prove essential going forward if we are to raise money from public donors - we will have to show that we have the support of the community.

3) Campaign to reduce the speed limit. Charles Cockburn had a lengthy conversation with Ian Janes, Road Safety Officer at Hampshire Highways. He explained that current policy is still injury accident led. Since the new policy was introduced in 2016 only once speed limit has been successfully reduced across his entire patch - which includes East Hants, Havant and Hayling Island - on the A325 at Bucks Horn Oak, where the limit was reduced from 50mph to 40mph. However, he believes that policy is likely to change in the next two years as a result of central government policy which is to encourage people to live active lifestyles, which in turn means that money is being made available to encourage cycling and walking. From a BRSWG perspective this reflects our belief that policy is changing in ways that will benefit our project going forward and that the time frame set out by Ian Janes is likely to fit well with the further development of our proposals, including financing.

4) *The draft Communications Strategy and Key Messages for external and internal audiences were attached to last the report submitted to the Parish Council last month. I have received no feedback on them and would be grateful if the Parish Council would now approve these messages in principle. This is important going forward to ensure consistency of message delivery across our various audiences. It is vital that we don't send mixed messages, so a degree of discipline is called for. For safety's sake, I attach a further copy of the draft messages given to the PC last month. We would emphasise that this will be a working document, subject to change as the project develops, but the draft provides all those with interests on the the 'line to take' when dealing with questions from interested parties.*

b) Autospeedwatch report from Tony Ransley.

The police board has rejected our request to allow us to operate an AutoSpeedWatch system

1. *They are concerned that with an automated system they will be flooded with demands for speed watch 'educational letters'. I have proposed throughout that the Police set a limit to these letters as the aim is to address repeat and serious offenders. I suggested just 10 letters per parish per month. I also said the Parish will deal with any complaints received by the police. Their response to this was 'well if we give in to 10 letters a month then what's stopping you to ask for 20 next year?'*
2. *They are concerned about the AutoSpeedWatch not having people on the roadside whilst the camera is in operation.*
3. *They do not like the AutoSpeedWatch signs They feel it should say 'Unmanned Community Speed Watch'*

21.078 BEECH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Ruth Duffin, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to have 25 copies of the plan printed, to be paid for with the remaining grant money.

210.79 EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL – LOCAL PLAN MEETING

Report from Graham Webb

The period between now and the next issued draft of EHDC's new Local Plan in spring 2022, Beech PC will be consulted in three ways:

1. *EHDC has re-written its draft new Strategic Planning Policy S27 on 'Design', following changes proposed in last year's Govt Planning White Paper. EHDC will circulate the revised draft to us in August for written comments. See p4 of EHDC's Briefing Note.*
2. *All Beech parish councillors (and all Alton town councillors) will be invited to attend an online workshop (provisionally set for 6-7.30pm on Monday 9 August) to discuss the proposed housing site SA19 'Land at Brick Kiln Lane & Basingstoke Road'. See pp5-6 & 16 of EHDC's Briefing Note. Beech PC's comments (Spring 2019) on EHDC's previous iteration of their draft new Local Plan, which included lengthy comments on site SA19.*
3. *EHDC will set up four workshops to discuss aspects of the proposed large housing site at Chawton Park Farm. See pp7 & 20 of EHDC's Briefing Note. I have asked EHDC if Beech PC representatives can attend the workshops alongside Chawton PC and Alton TC, as we have 'cross-border' interests due to our proximity, ancient woodland and potential transport/traffic implications. EHDC is considering this (I am hopeful and have copied in Cllr Costigan) but is wary of overcrowding the workshops. They acknowledge the legitimacy of our interest, and have already said that, if we can't attend, they should be able to find a way for us to comment on the workshop materials and output as part of their process later this year.*

21.080 PLANNING

Council considered one planning item, their comments to be forwarded to East Hampshire District Council.

34159/002 4 Kings Hill

NO OBJECTION

Single-storey front extension and car port to front.

Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: Beech Parish Council has no objection to the application.

21.081 ACCOUNTS 2021/2022

Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following payments are approved:

a) Clerk's Salary (July 2021)	£734.20
b) Clerk's Expenses (July 2021)	£ 20.72
c) Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's Pension – July 2021)	£195.59
d) DCK Accounting Solutions – Payroll processing	£ 30.35
e) Hampshire Association of Local Councils – Councillor training	£114.00
f) Beech Village Hall & Recreation Ground – Hall Hire	£ 61.19
g) Mr A Ransley – Neighbourhood Plan website	£ 3.00

21.082 MEETING DATES

Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 20th September 2021 at 7.30pm with Public Question Time. (A meeting may be called in August if urgent matters arise.)

CLOSURE OF MEETING – Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

signed:

Chairman Beech Parish Council

date: 23rd August 2021