

# BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Louisa Thomson  
Telephone: 01420 562130 E-Mail: [clerk@beechpc.com](mailto:clerk@beechpc.com)

## Minutes of the Meeting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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

### 21.107 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Daniel Gordon and Alana Coombes.

### 21.108 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - **RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021, copies previously circulated,  
**Proposed as a true record by Ruth Duffin, Seconded by Ingrid McCormack and RESOLVED**

### 21.109 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ruth Duffin declared an interest in item 10. Footpath Cutting List and Councillors Tony Ransley, Ruth Duffin and Kim Eakers declared an interest in item 13. Planning, 41 Medstead Road and 63 Wellhouse Road respectively.

### 21.110 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public addressed the Council regarding planning application 54482/012, 41 Medstead Road. The garden has been built up to the extent it is now level with the top of the hedge and therefore overlooks neighbours houses and means the neighbours have no privacy in their rear gardens. It also looks as if soil has been piled up around the trunks of existing trees.

### 21.111 ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

- a) New Footways Project Consultation – 58 consultation response forms have been received to date from 49 households which are 21% of households.  
Final results will be reported at the November meeting and any next steps agreed.
- b) Speed Camera initiative and Autospeedwatch

**Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders so members of the Working Group can report / answer questions.**

The scheme being consulted on is the same as the original scheme. The Hampshire County Council safety audit, which was paid for by HCC, didn't come back with any comments regarding the proposed raised curb separating the road and the footway area. If following the consultation the scheme is given the go ahead the next stage is to produce a detailed design which can be priced / built on and would go to HCC for full approval.  
If possible the scheme would also help to reduce the traffic speed so it may be possible to achieve a 20mph limit in the future.

**Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.**

l) Autospeedwatch update report from Tony Ransley:

*The Gloucester Policy document on the use of the AutoSpeedWatch and other ANPR devices has been delayed because the Inspector dealing with it has been hospitalised. So still awaiting that.*

*There are a number of other non adjoining Hampshire parishes pushing for the adoption of the system in Hampshire which may lead to confusion, hopefully not.*

*Tony Costigan is pushing ahead with getting approval from HCC to carry speed and traffic analysis in Beech, Bentworth and Lower Froyle. If we can do so using the AutoSpeedWatch system in conjunction with the standard tools that would be a great leap forward. The cost of trial for all 3 parishes would be £3600. (£1500 for 6 ground speed detection and vehicle monitors £2100 for 3 cameras and associated signs).*

*My latest chat with the CSW team gave an indication that we should also talk to the Road Policing Unit. A quote from the CSW officer during our chat '... for what you are trying to achieve in my experience, letters won't work, don't quote me but consistent speedster just ignore them.... but I am not giving up on the educational benefit of the AutoSpeedwatch solution.'*

*Carol Burns 16053 FAIRSO, Traffic Management Officer, Roads Policing Unit is the contact in the Road Policing Unit, initially she directed me back to the CSW unit, but the Gloucester Policy may change that. I will be contacted her again. It may be an idea to get the local constabulary more involved as well, as the AutoSpeedWatch tool could be of great help to them for reasons other than just highlighting speeding hotspots both in terms of time and location.*

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*Out of the blue I had a call from Ann Lewin on Friday. She is Damain Hind's Office Manager/Senior Parliamentary Assistant. Damian will be meeting with our PCC Donna Jones again in the next few weeks and will be raising the issues, she did warn me that also on the agenda will be the public demand for 20 mph speed limit proposals and the Motor Bike noise detection systems. "*

ii) 20 is plenty

**Proposed tony Ransley, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to support the formal proposal at the Hampshire Association of Local Councils AGM as detailed below:

Dear Parish Councillors

## **Campaign for lower speed limits in built up areas**

*I am writing to you ahead of the HALC AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> November, to ask for your support for a proposal to seek a reduction of the 30mph speed limit throughout Hampshire to 20mph in all built up areas. This will be put forward by Julian Jones Chairman of Dummer Parish Council and seconded by Waine Lawton Chairman of Twyford Parish Council.*

*In all of our parishes, traffic speed impacts the safety and quality of life of our residents. Current Hampshire County Council policy makes it very difficult to even seek speed limit reduction on a case-by-case basis. Wide area speed reduction offers far more utility and ease of implementation.*

*Reduction to 20mph has been shown to be:*

- **Important for wellbeing** - casualties fall 20% [http://www.20splenty.org/20mph\\_casualty\\_reduction](http://www.20splenty.org/20mph_casualty_reduction) emissions and noise pollution are also reduced, mental and physical health are improved as well as opportunities for road use by vulnerable users and community cohesion is boosted;

- **Cost effective**- it works out at approximately £3-5 per capita. Wide area 20mph limits are seven times more cost effective per mph reduction than isolated zones with physical calming; [http://www.20splenty.org/20mph\\_limits\\_vs\\_isolated\\_20mph\\_zones](http://www.20splenty.org/20mph_limits_vs_isolated_20mph_zones)

- **Popular** across all demographics (70% popularity with 10% unsure) <http://20splenty.org/why20mph> Phil Jones, cabinet member for transport in Camden said "20mph is the most popular decision I ever made".

*Achieving all of the above would show councils that support the proposal better serve the public. They can deliver significant improvements whilst making huge financial savings- savings which accrue year on year. For example implementation costs are typically under 1% of yearly casualty and physical inactivity costs. [http://www.20splenty.org/casualty\\_and\\_physical\\_inactivity\\_costs](http://www.20splenty.org/casualty_and_physical_inactivity_costs)*

*Thank you for reading this letter, but please also take the time to watch a 7-minute video at your next Parish Council meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efYkYXWPiX8>*

*My parish council watched it at its last meeting and felt compelled to act!*

*Please therefore consider joining forces across Hampshire to deliver road speeds that our communities need.*

*Yours sincerely*

- d) A339 Junction with Medstead Road – Hampshire County Council Highways Engineer will look at the junction signage and visibility when he visits Beech to look at all the road signs in the village.

## 21.112 EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

Graham Webb updated Council:

- At the Full Council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September the preferred large site status for Chawton Park Farm was removed.
- EHDC are to examine a number of sites, 6 or 7 large sites are being considered and examined.
- Council will be asked to comment on the Draft Local Plan next spring.
- There may be an option rather than to have one large site to have 4 or 5 smaller sites, this may include land in the coalescence gap between Alton and Beech.
- Ruth Duffin and Graham Webb to attend a meeting on the medieval deer park at Chawton Park Farm, hosted by Alton Town Council.

## 21.113 NORTH HAMPSHIRE DOWNS

Initiative to seek to have the North Hampshire Downs gain the status of 'An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' (AONB)

**Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, CARRIED** (Ruth Duffin and Kim Eakers abstained), to engage with the process so as to ensure that we optimise the chances of Beech becoming part of the AONB.

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## 21.114 HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – FOOTPATH CUTTING LIST

**Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Kim Eakers, CARRIED** (Ruth Duffin declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision). Following an update from Alton Ramblers the following footpaths should be put forward to Hampshire County Council to include on the cutting list:

- 702 Kings Hill to Wivelrod
- 704 Wellhouse Road to Thedden
- 709 Bentworth to A339 via Thedden
- 710 Brick Kiln Lane through Great Wood
- 712 Ackender Wood – Whitedown – Medstead Road

## 21.115 CLIMATE ACTION - Update from Kim Eakers.

- a) Climate Action article has been published in the Village Newsletter asking for volunteers to join the Working Group, one response has been received so far but four or five people are needed.
- b) COP26 – East Hampshire Event
  - There is a company which will carry out an initial aerial heat survey and then regular aerial heat surveys over an 8 year period to track the effect of home insulation.
  - Portsmouth University can carry out a free aerial survey which spots opportunities for installing solar panels.
  - Alton Climate Action network are very keen to help Beech and would like to be involved in any workshops that might be organised.

## 21.116 HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PASSENGER TRANSPORT FORUM

- The bus service improvement plan is to be focused on main bus routes.
- There will be a consultation on the new transport plan next year.

## 21.117 PLANNING

Council considered tree planning applications, their comments to be forwarded to East Hampshire District Council.

- a) 54482/012 Strathyre, 41 Medstead Road **OBJECT**  
Variation of Condition 13 of 54482/005 to allow the substitution of the Site Layout Plan and Indicative Site Section drawing 420.P01B to be replaced with Site Layout Plan and Indicative Site Section on drawing 420.P03B.

**Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, CARRIED** (Tony Ransley and Ruth Duffin declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision).

*Beech Parish Council objects to this application.*

*We understand from neighbours a privacy issue has been raised and on this basis we would object in order to ensure compliance with Policy BPC07(b) of the Beech Neighbourhood Plan (in terms of affording privacy to neighbours).*

*We see no reason why the house couldn't have been constructed in line with the approved plans.*

*We are concerned there maybe deep soil piled around existing trees on the property which could lead to rapid deterioration and would request the EHDC Arboricultural Officer visits site.*

- b) 55498/005 Wellhouse, 63 Wellhouse Road **OBJECT**  
Variation of conditions 1 & 2 relating to application 55498/003.

**Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, CARRIED** (Kim Eakers declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision).

*Beech Parish Council objects to this application.*

*We note that the EHDC correspondence on the subject of velux windows in advance of 55498/003 was clearly marked as "given without the benefit of a site visit" and therefore "given without prejudice". Conditions 1 and 2 were imposed, after an EHDC officer site visit and after the submission of revised application documents in compliance with the conditions, in order to ensure compliance with Policy BPC07(b) of the Beech Neighbourhood Plan (in terms of affording privacy to neighbours), and should be retained.*

- c) 58585/005 Brant Storage & Removals **OBJECT**  
Notification of Lawful Development Certificate existing application.  
Certificate of lawfulness (S191) for the use of the whole site for general storage (B8) of caravans, classic cars, boats, airplanes and trailers.

**Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

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*Beech Parish Council objects to the proposed Lawful Development Certificate.*

*From the information provided by the applicant we note that:*

- 1. The Certificate of Lawful Use for storage of caravans etc, granted in 2002, applied only to a small area of the site immediately to the south and west of the house 'Beechview', an area now to the rear of the Brant Storage buildings.*
- 2. Some (but not conclusive) evidence of recent usage has been supplied for the use of 'storage yards' which comprise only a small area to the east of the site, next to the A339.*
- 3. No evidence has been supplied that the fields themselves have ever been lawfully used for storage purposes. They have been used for car boot sales and classic car meets, and presumably for agricultural purposes before that.*

*Therefore we can see no evidence that, in respect of the open fields that make up about 60% of the overall site by land area, any lawful use for storage has ever been granted, or that any storage use has been made of them other than the very recent parking of caravans.*

*We are also concerned that conferring retrospective general storage (B8) status on the entire site would facilitate the erection of storage buildings on the northern part of the site, including the fields, in contravention of Beech Neighbourhood Plan Policies BPC09 (Site of the Departure Lounge & Village Businesses) and BPC02 (Development outside the Settlement Policy Boundary).*

## 21.118 MEDSTEAD ROAD FOOTPATH

**Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from PJ Grace for strimming and clearing the surface of the path at £420 plus VAT.

## 21.119 HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCIL – AGM

Graham Webb will attend.

## 21.120 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

**Proposed Ingrid McCormack, Seconded Ruth Duffin, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to adopt the changes to the Model Code of Conduct.

## 21.121 ACCOUNTS 2021/2022

I) Summary of Receipts & Payments for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 presented to Council detailing bank reconciliation as follows:

Current Account Balance	2,138.22
Less: Cheques drawn but not debited as at 30.09.21	-891.04
Deposit Account Balance	14,161.84
Money Market Balance	<u>24,680.28</u>
	40,089.30

II) **Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** the following payment are approved:

a) Clerk's Salary (October 2021)	£ 734.20
b) Clerk's Expenses (October 2021)	£ 26.72
c) Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's Pension – October 2021)	£ 195.59
d) DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Payroll processing	£ 30.35
e) Beech Village Hall and Recreation Ground – October PC meeting	£ 20.70
f) East Hampshire District Council – By-election	£2,524.95
g) Mr A Ransley – clearing SLR sight lines	£ 24.00

## 21.122 MEETING DATES

Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 at 7pm.

CLOSURE OF MEETING – Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

signed: .....  
Chairman Beech Parish Council  
date: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021