

# BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Louisa Thomson  
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## Minutes of the Meeting Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

PARTICIPANTS : Councillor Graham Webb (Chairman) Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner Luke Stubbs  
Councillor Tony Ransley Hampshire County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee  
Councillor Kim Eakers East Hampshire District Councillor Tony Costigan  
Councillor Alana Coombes  
Councillor Ingrid McCormack Members Beech Road Safety Working Group  
Councillor Daniel Gordon Members of the Public  
Louisa Thomson – Clerk to the Council

### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire & the Isle of Wight Luke Stubbs address the meeting and responded to questions from Councillors and members of the public as follows:

- On-line fraud is dealt with through the National Crime Agency, the Government collates the data which is available on-line for viewing. There is currently an on-line safety bill going through Parliament.
- The biggest issue for the Constabulary at the moment is domestic burglary with formal action being taken nationally on only about 5% of the cases.
- Police numbers are rising by about 20% from 3,000 to 3,600, extra people should create the capacity to do more.
- The current draft budget has £1m for extra commission services such as supporting victims and £100k for anti-social behaviour task force.
- Over recent years he recognised that the Police performance was not what it should be.
- The Government sets priorities that the Constabulary have to deal with which limits resources for other things. Hampshire Constabulary are trying to set up ways to deal with other things.
- A member of the public asked about Neighbourhood Watch which had been set up in co-ordination with the Police but now there is no local Police presence Neighbourhood Watch have very little value. Luke acknowledged that the link between Neighbourhood Watch and the Police needs to be re-established.
- A member of the public raised concerns regarding the system for reporting incidents and felt this is inadequate and there is no contact or follow up after reporting an incident and feels that the money spent on the system could have been used to pay for a local Police Officer. Luke responded that the system for reporting incidents is a national system and not within Hampshire's control. 999 response times are good, 111 response times are not so good as a higher volume of calls especially since COVID, more staff are being taken on to try to deal with the increased number of calls.
- The Police can't afford to make officers redundant so the officers are moved into civilian roles but the Police role they held isn't being filled. Police officers retire quite early so it doesn't make sense to have Police officers in senior roles.
- They are currently looking to combine with partners to gain a better high street presence and possibly presence in fire stations, East Hampshire District Council are interested in helping with this.
- Rural crime is very important in this area, the least satisfied are land owners in rural areas. They are currently looking at options for instance quadbikes, NFU insurance access to their data base to offer insurance reduction if trackers are installed.

Chairman Graham Webb thanked Luke and opened the meeting.

#### 22.000 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Ruth Duffin.

#### 22.001 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - **RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021, copies previously circulated,  
**Proposed as a true record by Alana Coombes, Seconded by Tony Ransley and RESOLVED**

#### 22.002 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Hampshire County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee reported that Hampshire County Council are slowly changing their view on a 20mph speed limit policy. Average speed cameras are moving forward with the Police and Crime Commissioner. Mark expressed admiration for what the Police and Crime Commissioner is doing.

#### 22.003 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

East Hampshire District Councillor Tony Costigan reported that progress is being made to get the Police to recognise the data from the Average Speed Cameras. He will ask the Police to provide feedback on the data they are being given. The technology is now reasonably priced and he hopes to get the Average Speed Cameras more widely used.

#### 22.004 AUTOSPEEDWATCH CAMERA TRIAL

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## Report from Graham Webb –

With the aid and support of councillors Kemp-Gee and Costigan, we obtained permission from HCC and the CSW Operational Board to deploy ASW cameras for a trial in December, with the local police being kept fully informed. The trial was led by Councillor Ransley, assisted by me. A draft report on the trial was circulated last week to the councillors here today, and to Mr Stubbs.

Let me summarise what was done:

- ASW cameras have been specifically designed with CSW-style enforcement in mind. Currently, it operates in daylight only.
- The ASW camera has rear-facing radar, which measures the speed of the vehicle approaching from behind. If the speed exceeds a specified figure (we set at 35mph – the police discretionary figure in a 30mph limit) then the camera takes a photo of the rear numberplate as the vehicle goes past.
- All the data and photographs are stored in the Cloud, and is accessible by village volunteers via their PCs.
- We deployed three cameras on the main road through Beech, which is a 1.75 mile long hill with ribbon housing development practically all the way along. One camera just inside the 30mph zone at the bottom (the east) of the village, one in the middle of the zone, and one just inside the top end of the zone. The outer two cameras were about 2.7km apart.
- For most of the trial, the cameras were set up to monitor traffic going uphill, westbound. After a bit of time moving the cameras around to achieve optimal visibility of the road, all three cameras operated successfully, in line with specification.
- We then shifted the cameras to the other side of the road, to monitor downhill traffic, and the cameras have been operating equally successfully.
- So we have a store of data identifying those vehicles speeding at each camera position over several weeks, including the frequency of each vehicle speeding. Sample data has been shared with the local police.
- The system's numberplate data includes whether the DVLA database shows the vehicle is untaxed, without MOT, or has a SORN. Information that we believe should be of interest to the local police. The system doesn't have access to vehicle owner information.
- An issue with the ASW camera is that Hampshire police are at present unable to calibrate it (that is, check that the radar speed measurement is accurate), which is something that they **can** do with the speed recording devices used by conventional CSW teams. This means that, at present, the local police feel unable to use the ASW radar speed data as the basis even for SpeedWatch warning letter type enforcement.
- However, we have three cameras at known distances apart. And we have timestamped photographs. This means that we can calculate accurate **average speeds** for any vehicle that is photographed at two or three of our cameras as it moves through the village, without depending on the accuracy of the camera radar at all.
- We know that the photo time stamps are accurate to +/-0.5seconds. And we know the maximum error in our distance measurements. Using basic maths we have determined that our calculated average speeds (at up to 45mph) are accurate to +/- 1.5mph or less, with our camera configuration. This means that we can be sure that, if we calculate an average speed exceeding 36.5mph, the actual speed exceeds the 35mph police discretionary figure. No further calibration needed.
- And, in fact, we prefer the average speed approach as it is a much more effective deterrent to speeding drivers. As drivers ourselves, we all know this.
- During our trial, HCC also carried out a radar traffic speed and volume survey. Comparing its results to our own pre-trial data from our Speed Limit Reminder device, we saw a noticeable and significant average traffic speed reduction of up to 3mph, with reductions of up to 50% to the proportion of vehicles exceeding 30mph. And anecdotally, residents have commented about reduced speeds.
- As our SLR data statistics for speeding have been consistent for many years, this was a very significant improvement during the trial. We attribute it to the display, for the first time ever in Beech, of "Average Speed Check" traffic signs to accompany the ASW cameras. These signs are clearly an effective deterrent, at least as long as it remains clear that speeding enforcement action may occur.
- Apparently, on Facebook, Alton residents were wondering why they can't have average speed checks, like Beech! There is certainly keen interest in our trial from the wider local area. [We have a representative of Alton CSW here this evening.]
- Overall, Cllr Ransley and I view the trial as a clear success, which should be built upon. The average speed check system works under volunteer management and can be used to feed the police with an agreed number, per week or month, of persistent or excessive offending vehicles – for follow-up with CSW-style educational & warning letters.

We note that, in her Plan, the PCC expresses her support for CSW. What we would like to happen next is this:

1. Permission from HCC to keep the ASW cameras and "Average Speed Check" signage in place, for our monitoring and data review purposes.
2. Steps to be taken at a policy level for Hampshire Constabulary to accept the ASW system, and in particular its use for average speed checks, as a valid and approved method of generating data for CSW-style enforcement. It's a cost-effective and powerful tool, and the only CSW option for villages like Beech where conventional SpeedWatch operations can never resume because of the lack of safety for volunteers having to stand actually in the road. We would be happy to meet and discuss our trial with **anybody necessary** for that approval to be granted.

In an ideal world we would like that basic ASW approval to be extended to:

- Evaluation of using the average speed check approach for bringing full police prosecutions; and
- Use of the ASW to enforce a 20mph limit in our village centre, should that come to pass. (Hampshire police currently does not attempt to enforce the speed limit in 20mph zones using speed guns etc).

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Both of which would be significant advances in tackling speeding in villages.

3. Our admission to the local CSW liaison group, now, in advance of the ASW approval just mentioned. Because we don't currently have an active CSW operation we have actually been **forbidden** from attending East Hampshire CSW liaison meetings.

**District Councillor Tony Costigan** – Autospeedwatch Cameras have no cost to the Police and are relatively easy to achieve with volunteers and local funding, all Parishes would like to see this system in place.

**Deputy Police & Crime Commission Luke Stubbs** – He hadn't heard of the system before and thinks it's a real advance but they don't have the power to micro manage the police. He thinks Beech have made a strong case and he will raise it with the Police and Crime Commissioner and hopefully at the minimum the Police will meet with Beech to discuss.

**Councillor Alana Coombes** – **Vote of thanks to Tony Ransley and Graham Webb for all their work on Autospeedwatch.**

**Proposed Daniel Gordon, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve and accept the Traffic Speed/Volume Report for November and December, attached **Appendix A.**

## 22.005 BEECH ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

- a) '20' is Plenty Campaign

**Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders.**

District Councillor Tony Costigan – Driving hard to implement '20' is plenty across Hampshire, other Town and Parish Councils are supporting the motion.

County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee – He has been a County Councillor for 16 years and has seen the implementation of 20mph speed limits in Selborne and Medstead. The Police objected to both speed limits saying they can't enforce a 20mph limit. Hampshire County Council haven't wanted to go against the Police however the head of Hampshire County Council is now supporting the campaign and a Working Party is being set up to look at 20mph limit.

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

**Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** the Parish Council

- 1) Supports the *20's Plenty for Hampshire* campaign;
  - 2) Calls on Hampshire County Council to implement 20mph in Beech, Beech is willing to be a pilot with monitoring and Autospeedwatch; and
  - 3) Will write to Hampshire County Council to request that the county:
    - i) makes 20mph the default speed limit on streets throughout Hampshire in places where people live, work, shop, play or learn, leaving 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit; and
    - ii) allocates a ring-fenced amount from public health, sustainability and transport budgets to enable 20mph to be implemented county-wide within 5 years.
- b) Footways Project  
Report Graham Webb –

Let me give you an update on what has happened on the Footways Project since our December meeting.

1. As a first step in refining the proposed footways design, members of the Road Safety Working Group, led by Ian Gibson, have been surveying Medstead Road from bottom to top, recording road lengths and widths and the positions of roadside features. This is raw data for drawing out the next design iteration.
2. Just before Christmas, EHDC issued a call for applications for funds from its Community Infrastructure Levy pot, which contained about £1.9m at the end of March 2021. The deadline for applications is 18 March.
  - New or improved pedestrian footways are suitable infrastructure projects provided that they are linked to current or new development.
  - Pedestrian routes into Beech from current and proposed new housing developments on the western edge of Alton would seem to fit the bill. That would be pedestrian routes from the Hop Field Place and Ackender Hill developments currently being built, and from the "Land at Basingstoke Rd & Brick Kiln Lane" development identified by EHDC for certain inclusion in the new Local Plan, to Beech village, Beech village hall (which will be the nearest community building for some) and on to Bushy Leaze Wood & country lanes for leisure and recreation purposes.
  - It also helps that the footways project within Beech is name-checked in the EHDC Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan; and that road safety and footpath improvements are listed in the Infrastructure Development Plan within the Beech Neighbourhood Plan.

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The proposal is therefore to make an application for funds to deliver the first part of our footways project, that is:

- The new on-road footway through the village centre; and
- The new off-road footway from the village centre to the main Bushy Leaze Wood entrance; together with (if funds permit)
- An upgrading of the existing path from the village centre to the A339 (that is, widening it and improving the surface),

All to provide a high quality footway from the Basingstoke Road up to the open-access Bushy Leaze Wood, for persons walking from current and new developments on the western edge of Alton. And equally providing good pedestrian access for Beech residents into Alton, in line with the LCWIP.

To access these funds we must work with a partner, and the obvious partner is HCC, which will own these footways after they have been constructed. So, supported by Cllr Kemp-Gee, I immediately contacted Ian Janes at HCC to start discussions on a number of matters that the parish council would need to agree with HCC in order for this application to go ahead. These being:

- Roles and responsibilities in a project partnership between Beech PC and HCC;
- Design, materials and construction standards for the footways – for cost estimation purposes;
- Expected project delivery timetable; and
- HCC funds (including grants) and central Government funds available for this project.

We now have HCC's initial response, from Ian Janes. Let's leave aside the erroneous suggestion that we had previously been advocating a continual on-road footway all the way up Medstead Road & Kings Hill (which would cost significantly more than the £20,000 he suggests).

What Mr Janes is suggesting is:

- Using the Community Funded Initiative (CFI) to construct the on-road footway in the centre of the village, under his watch; and
- Using the Community Funded Highway Infrastructure initiative (CFHI), for more expensive projects, to construct the off-road footway next to Forestry England and upgrade the existing footpath to the A339, in partnership with the Strategic Transport Team.

Both of these initiatives entail us finding the money for design and construction, as there are no funds available in HCC's budgets.

Clearly, to take this forward the Road Safety Working Group will need to:

- Liaise with Ian Janes on the design and costing of the on-road footway;
- Have Ian Janes introduce us to the Strategic Transport Team for costing off-road footways; and
- Liaise with Councillor Kemp-Gee about HCC grants, such as a potential £30,000 grant from the Parish & Town Council Investment Fund.

Only when we are in possession of the full facts around costings would we be able to take a final decision on the project scope for the application to EHDC. For example, if we want a more expensive on-road footway solution for the village centre we may have to delete one of the off-road footways from the scope.

- c) East Hampshire District Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund  
**Proposed Daniel Gordon, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to approve in principle to make steps to apply for CIL funding, figures will be updated at the February meeting.

## 22.006 CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP

- a) Kim Eakers updated Council as per the report attached, **Appendix B**.  
**Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to put an article on Nextdoor.
- b) **Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**
- i. That the council have agreed to accept the funds from residents and pass on payment to the contractor, iRed, so that the auditor has a record of this agreement and confirms to the residents what the council will be doing with their funds.
  - ii. The payments will need to be clearly recorded within the council's cash book so that you have record of all income and expenditure for this project.

## 22.007 EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN – Draft Consultation Documents

**Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** Council have no comments to make.

## 22.008 PLANNING

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

20765/004 Highwood, 35 Snode Hill, Beech

### NO OBJECTION

Proposed detached garage and workshop with storage over following demolition of existing timber garage.

**Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** Beech Parish Council has no objection to this application provided a condition is placed (the same as the 2006 permission) that the proposed detached garage and workshop remain ancillary to the main house with no right to convert to a separate dwelling.

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## 22.009 DELEGATION SCHEME

### **Proposed Ingrid McCormack, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

Council agreed to the following within a delegations scheme, to be reviewed in May 2022.

- a) Placing orders for any items required.
- b) Responding to planning applications having first consulted with four councillors who make recommendations.
- c) Making payments, including salary and pension payments, for anything already agreed by the council by resolution and in line with the limits set by financial regulations.
- d) Arrange for the emergency repair of any council owned assets in consultation with four councillors.
- e) Any other items the council feels will be relevant.

## 22.010 ACCOUNTS 2021/2022

- I) Summary of Receipts & Payments for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 presented to Council detailing bank reconciliation as follows:

Current Account Balance	2,182.10
Less: Cheques drawn but not debited as at 31.12.21	-454.57
Deposit Account Balance	6,485.82
Money Market Balance	<u>24,680.68</u>
	32,894.03

- II) **Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve payments:**

a) Clerk's Salary (January 2022)	£ 734.20
b) Clerk's Expenses (January 2022)	£ 18.24
c) Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's Pension – January 2022)	£ 195.59
d) HM Revenue & Customs – October, November & December 2021	£ 9.96
e) DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Payroll processing	£ 30.35
f) Mr A Ransley – Autospeedwatch cameras and equipment	£ 67.06
g) Digitus Printing Limited – Climate Action flyer	£ 69.60
h) Index eBusiness Ltd – HOST100 (beechpc.com annual renewal)	£ 119.94
i) PJ Grace – Medstead Road footpath maintenance	£ 504.00

## 22.011 MEETING DATES

Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7pm.

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

signed: .....  
Chairman Beech Parish Council  
date: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022