

BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Louisa Thomson
Telephone: 01420 562130 E-Mail: clerk@beechpc.com

Minutes of the Meeting Monday 21st February 2022

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

22.012 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Ruth Duffin and Daniel Gordon.

22.013 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - **RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th January 2022, copies previously circulated,
Proposed as a true record by Alana Coombes, Seconded by Tony Ransley and RESOLVED

22.014 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Kim Eakers declared an interest in planning item 55498/004, 63 Wellhouse Road.

22.015 AUTOSPEEDWATCH CAMERA TRIAL

- a) Tony Ransley updated that the cameras are back from repair and will be put up later this week. There had been a minor GDPR breach with the Autospeedwatch report which hadn't been blacked out sufficiently, this has been corrected.
- b) **Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to invoice East Hampshire District Council S106 funds for the costs of the trial less the County and District Councillor grant payments.

22.016 BEECH ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

- a) **Beech Road Safety Working Group - Report to Parish Council 21 February 2022**

Shortly after the January parish council meeting, the Working Group met with Ian Janes of Hampshire Highways and Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee. It was agreed that:

- In respect of the proposed on-road footways, Ian Janes would discuss the candidate materials and construction techniques with his highways engineering colleagues, to ascertain what would be an acceptable solution for Hampshire Highways – particularly in terms of future maintenance requirements. Ian Janes intends to keep these footways under his supervision as a project under HCC's Community Funded Infrastructure initiative; and
- In respect of the off-road footways, Ian Janes would brief, and put us in contact with, the Strategic Transport Team, who would take them forward as a conventional project under HCC's Community Funded Highways Infrastructure initiative.

Meanwhile we investigated another possible source of funding for the project – HCC's Parish & Town Council Investment Fund. Sadly it transpires that the fund (nor any similar fund at HCC) can put forward money to fund assets that will be owned by Hampshire Highways, which these footways will be. This means that, other than EHDC CIL funding, we have not identified any other bodies that will fund parish councils to construct assets that will be owned by the local highways authority.

Late last week, Ian Janes reported back that his highways engineer colleagues are not keen on the use of kerbstones or extensive coloured surface materials as part of the on-road footway design, for reasons of the cost of future maintenance. At first sight this leaves us with an on-road footway principally consisting of white lines, i.e. a wider version of the white lines currently alongside Bushy Leaze Wood, but perhaps also with white pedestrian logos on the surface.

The Working Group doesn't believe that this solution will, on its own, be visually arresting enough to prompt traffic to slow down, especially in the village centre. So we are planning to meet again with Ian Janes and Councillor Kemp-Gee, together with the highways engineers, to understand their views better and to work with them to achieve a better outcome for the village, whilst keeping the road easy to maintain for Hampshire Highways. A better outcome might include augmenting a 'white line' footway with some future physical traffic calming measures or, in the village centre, commitment to a future 20mph zone.

Over the last week we have also been liaising with the Strategic Transport team about new off-road footways. They have a standard process for approving CFHI projects that involves first conducting a feasibility study, which will not be completed for 2-3 months.

It has therefore become clear that we will not have firm designs, acceptable to Hampshire Highways, with cost estimates produced by them, in time for the 18 March deadline for submitting our Community Infrastructure Levy funding application to EHDC. However, EHDC has confirmed to me that it is acceptable for us to submit a provisional funding application by 18 March, for initial evaluation as to whether the project qualifies for CIL funding, and then later firm up the application (especially the funding numbers) when firm designs and cost estimates have been obtained. The CIL funds are awarded in June, and so we would be looking to firm up the application by early May latest.

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That gives us a couple of months to firm up the optimal on-road footway design and costs with Ian Janes and his colleagues. The Strategic Transport team confirmed that a feasibility study should be completed by early May, and so I have asked them to submit their proposal to me ASAP. If it proves impossible to get all the information we need by early May, then we can always withdraw our CIL funding application until next year's application window.

The Working Group recommends that the parish council puts in a provisional CIL funding application now, firstly because there is a reasonable chance that we can firm up the application, to the satisfaction of EHDC, over the next 2-3 months; and secondly because it will be useful to have EHDC's confirmation ASAP that this project does indeed fall within the CIL funding criteria.

A final draft CIL application form is appended to this report. You will note the following.

Scope

We are including in the scope the majority of the entire footways project:

1. New on-road footways in the village centre and Kings Hill. A variation on a 'white line' solution means that these will be relatively inexpensive, so we are proposing to have it done in both locations simultaneously.
2. New rural-style off-road footways along the Bushy Leaze Wood frontage, all the way from the village centre to the privately-owned woodland.

If the firm cost estimates prove to be significantly higher than the provisional estimates put forward below, then we may need to trim this project scope for this CIL funding application.

Costs & Funding

- The provisional estimated cost for the whole scope is £70,000.
- The funds currently available to the parish council are (i) c.£8,500 of S106 transport project money (i.e the total amount left to us after payments to date for the AutoSpeedWatch camera trials); and (ii) the £20,000 cash reserves earmarked in our budget for road safety projects.
- This means that we would be provisionally seeking £41,500 in CIL funding from EHDC, 60% of the total project cost (which is a reasonable % and not a large sum in terms of the overall CIL fund).
- Note that it is likely, but not certain, that in the coming months the parish council will receive Neighbourhood CIL money from the development of a couple of new houses in the village. (Neighbourhood CIL money is 25% of the total CIL money collected by EHDC on qualifying developments). Any Neighbourhood CIL money received will be spent on this project in preference to spending the parish council's cash reserves.

The Working Group recommends that the parish council submits a provisional CIL funding application with this provisional scope and cost & funding plan, all of which are subject to being amended and firmed up between now and June this year. We also propose that the parish council is given the opportunity to approve the final project scope and funding plan prior to it being submitted to EHDC, with the parish council also having the option to withdraw the CIL funding application at any time before June this year. We also recommend that the attached draft is sent to Councillor Costigan for review and comment, as he suggested, prior to its submission.

Finally, the Working Group recommends that the parish council accepts Hampshire Highways' quote for a feasibility study on the proposed new off-road footways. An allowance for the cost of the study has been made in the draft CIL application. In reality, we have no alternative but to undertake this study if we wish to pursue the off-road footways, as it is an inherent part of the standard Hampshire Highways CFHI process.

- b) **Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to submit the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) application with provisional figures to East Hampshire District Council by 18th March 2022.
- c) Hampshire County Council are forming a working group to carry out a review of Hampshire's 20mph speed limits.

Graham Webb updated that the Working Group have finished surveying the road.

Kim Eakers proposed a vote of thanks to the Working Group for all their work.

22.017 CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP

The Thermal Survey is provisionally booked for Friday 25th and Monday 28th March with the Workshop taking place on 27th March 2022. The Workshop is open to all not just those who have taken part in the Thermal Survey, Kim Eakers will put a post on Nextdoor advertising the Workshop.

22.018 FARNBOROUGH AIRPORT POST IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW

Council have no further comment.

22.019 GRANT APPLICATION

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to agree the grant application for £300 from Citizens Advice East Hampshire.

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22.020 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GRANT

There is no further expenditure required so the balance of the grant of £638.34 will be repaid.

22.021 PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

This item is deferred to the March agenda.

22.022 PLANNING

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

Kim Eakers left the meeting.

- a) 55498/004 Planning Appeal - Planning Inspectorate Reference: APP/M1710/W/21/3281216
Well House, 63 Wellhouse Road, Beech
Removal of condition 8 of 37851/013 to allow the permitted development rights to be reinstated –
Amended condition no.
Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded, Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED Council
have no further comment.

Kim Eakers rejoined the meeting.

- b) 54828/001 Beech Copse, 36B Wellhouse Road, Beech **NO OBJECTION**
Work to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order
G9-Ash-Fell. Oak and Lime-Remove epicormic growth. T3-Ash-Fell.
G8-Beech-Crown thin by up to 30%.
G11-Oak-Remove broken branches.Ash-Fell.
Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED Council have no
objection to this application and would defer to the EHDC Arboricultural Officer.
- c) 36819/009 The Limes, 2 Cramptons, Beech **NO OBJECTION**
Work to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order
17xLime-Pollard to original pollarding.
Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED Council
have no objection to this application and would defer to the EHDC Arboricultural Officer.

22.023 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tea and coffee will be served from 6.45pm.

22.024 ACCOUNTS 2021/2022

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Alana Coombes, RESOLVED (Tony Ransley abstained) to approve payments:

- | | | |
|----|--|----------|
| a) | Clerk's Salary (February 2022) | £ 734.20 |
| b) | Clerk's Expenses (February 2022) | £ 12.12 |
| c) | Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's Pension – February 2022) | £ 195.59 |
| d) | DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Payroll processing | £ 30.35 |
| e) | Mr A Ransley – Autospeedwatch cameras and equipment | £ 307.65 |
| f) | Hampshire County Council – Traffic Survey | £ 600.00 |
| h) | Beech Village Hall – Hall hire January meeting | £ 29.32 |
| j) | Index eBusiness Ltd – HOST100 Domain Renewal – beechpc.com | £ 16.74 |
| k) | Cato Computers – clerk's laptop | £ 639.86 |

22.025 MEETING DATES

Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 21st March 2022 following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm.

CLOSURE OF MEETING – Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

signed:
Chairman Beech Parish Council
date: 21st March 2022