

BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting Monday 21st March 2022

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

22.026 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

22.027 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - **RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st February 2022, copies previously circulated,
Proposed as a true record by Alana Coombes, Seconded by Kim Eakers and RESOLVED

22.028 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Kim Eakers declared an interest in planning item 55498/005, 63 Wellhouse Road.

22.029 AUTOSPEEDWATCH CAMERA TRIAL

Tony Ransley updated that the camera on Kings Hill is working.
Hampshire County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee will try to help with getting AutoSpeedWatch adopted by the Police.

- a) **Proposed Daniel Gordon, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** expenditure of up to £400 to move the Mid Village and the Kings Hill AutoSpeedWatch camera positions.
- b) **Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to upgrade the Speed Limit Reminder sign costing £1,264, payable providing the upgrade is successful.

22.030 BEECH ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

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

Here is the progress on the footways project since the last parish council meeting on 21 February 2022.

The parish council has submitted a preliminary application to EHDC for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for new footways, from the strategic funds pot. This document has been circulated to councillors. We have provisionally sought £50,000 in strategic CIL funding to contribute to estimated project costs of £85,000. Provisionally the parish council will be contributing:

- £22,800 in Neighbourhood Portion CIL money that will be paid to the parish council in April. This money would be available to pay for the HCC feasibility study mentioned earlier;
- A minimum of £7,200 remaining S106 funds available to Beech for transport spending; and
- A maximum of £5,000 from the council's reserves.

We will firm all of these figures up when we have better cost estimate figures from HCC. EHDC has confirmed that the application numbers can be adjusted up to 18 May, but the earlier the better. We may need to convene the parish council sometime between the planned meetings on 25 April and 23 May in order to approve the final amended application.

In respect of the proposed on-road footways, Ian Janes of Hampshire Highways is gathering his thoughts on how single white line footways might be improved upon, given the refusal of his colleagues to permit a coloured road surface or the insertion of any kerbstones in the road. There is due to be a meeting on site with him to discuss, which we are trying to expedite.

In respect of the proposed new off-road footways I had been hoping that by today we would have received HCC's proposal for a feasibility study (which is necessary under HCC's Community Funded Highways Infrastructure Scheme).

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The proposal hasn't arrived yet (it is imminent), but previous communications from HCC have advised that the cost of the feasibility study will be:

- £7,000 if the project value is up to £70,000; or
- £10,500 if the project value is between £70,000 and £130,000.

And those levels of expenditure were factored into the parish council's application to EHDC for Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

I would ask the council to approve commissioning a feasibility study costing up to £10,500 in respect of, as a minimum, a new off-road footway alongside the woods, from the village centre up to the Bushy Leaze entrance, some 510 metres in length. (The improvement of the path down to the A339 is not a priority, and west of the Bushy Leaze entrance we should for now be able to forge a new informal path close to the road on Forestry England land.) If HCC proposes a study costing more than £10,500, just for that stretch of path, the Working Group will reappraise the situation.

A couple of weeks ago I contacted the residents in 194 Medstead Road to follow up on their complaint, in their consultation comments at the end of last year, that the newly-cleared elevated footpath in the private woodland (alongside Medstead Road) was badly affecting their privacy. They claimed that the new footpath acts as a viewing platform into their house and garden, on which recreational walkers stop and stare, and from which they have received verbal abuse.

There has since been a site inspection by some Working Group members and parish councillors. Our consensus was that, despite little living vegetation being cut down when the footpath was cleared, and despite the vegetation on the roadside bank being left in place for screening purposes, the screening of the elevated path from the houses opposite (nos. 188-194 Medstead Road) is not as effective as had been hoped, particularly in the period November to April when there is little leaf cover.

We have been investigating planting additional bushes and trees along the affected stretch of path to produce an all year round permanent screen. And also possibly some temporary fence screen to be in place while the plants grow. We believe that there is a strong case for the parish council to foot the bill for the screening work required. The woodland footpath is an integral link in the council's planned pedestrian route through the village. This section is the only part of the route where pedestrians are being elevated from road level to a new path some 12ft in the air. All other new footways are expected to be a maximum of 3ft higher than the road. So the residents in Nos. 188-194 Medstead Road are being adversely affected by the council's footways project to a much greater extent than others in the village. And the issue has not been caused by those residents, nor by any negligence on the part of the woodland owner when clearing the only suitable route for the footpath. It has unfortunately just turned out that this footpath, which is much preferable to pedestrians walking on the road at this location, would always have needed some extra screening to make it an acceptable solution.

We need to have some further discussions with the woodland owner, a tree & hedging specialist, a fencing contractor and the affected residents. I want to have the parish council's approval to have those discussions, and to bring back to council a costed proposal for temporary and permanent screening of up to 130 metres the elevated footpath, opposite the affected houses..

- b) **Proposed Daniel Gordon, Seconded Kim Eaker, RESOLVED BY MAJORITY, Tony Ransley voted against,** to commission Hampshire County Council to carry out a feasibility study on off-road footways on Medstead Road costing up to £10,500.
- c) 130m of temporary fence screen between footpath and road in private woodland. Graham Webb to discuss with landowner and report to council with proposals and costs.

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- d) **Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** for Beech to be put forward to Hampshire County Council as a pilot site for 20 mph limit zone.
- e) **Proposed Daniel Gordon, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to support Medstead Parish Council in lobbying for a 7.5 tonne vehicle weight limit in the Medstead area (including Beech).

22.031 CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP

- a) Report Appendix A attached.
- b) **Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**
 - i) Where a villager complains they will be offered a full refund on the basis they must destroy all information and don't use it. iRed have agreed to this as they were contracted to carry out 60 survey's and have carried out over 70, up to twelve refunds will be funded by iRed.
 - OR
 - ii) iRed in addition will offer a second survey, if enough residents sign up, for £30.50 for a second elevation survey.
- c) Workshop being held on Sunday 27th March 2022, iRed will be there to answer any questions.

22.032 PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

Postponed until a future agenda.

22.033 PLANNING

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

Kim Eakers left the meeting.

- a) 55498/005 Planning Appeal **NO FURTHER COMMENT**
Well House, 63 Wellhouse Road, Beech
Removal of condition 1 (sill height) and Condition 2 (removal of Cario element and par fixing shut)
relating to application 55498/003.

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded, Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED Council have no further comment, previous comments will be forwarded automatically from East Hampshire District Council.

Kim Eakers rejoined the meeting.

Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Daniel Gordon, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders so members of the public can speak on the next item.

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

- b) 58619 Burnt Grounds, 46 Wellhouse Road **OBJECT**
Outline Planning Application for change of use of an existing Coach House (Sui generis) into a dwelling C3.

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Daniel Gordon, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

Beech Parish Council objects to this planning application.

Although the details of application the application describe the conversion of the Coach House into an outbuilding with living accommodation, the application itself is for conversion of the Coach House into a "dwelling", well distanced from the existing house at 46 Wellhouse Road. This would contravene Policy BPC06(d) of the Beech Neighbourhood Development Plan, which specifically discourages new dwellings in the front gardens of existing dwellings in Wellhouse Road, on the basis that this would adversely affect the character of the area. In addition, the plot is in the Beech Special Housing Area, and it appears highly likely that the proposed new dwelling would result in the subdivision of the existing plot into one or more plots of less than 0.2 hectares, not conserving the character of the area and so also in contravention of Policy BPC06(d).

In the event that permission is granted for this application we would wish the following conditions are applied:

1. The converted Coach House must always remain ancillary to the existing main dwelling at 46 Wellhouse Road, and must never become a separate dwelling;
2. The building must not in the future be enlarged beyond the submitted plans, in footprint or in height, either through subsequent planning application or permitted development rights;
3. The hedge facing Wellhouse Road must be restored in compliance with Policy BPC07(c); and
4. Any external lighting of the building should comply with Policy BPC07(d) in order to minimise light pollution.

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22.034 CLERK'S PAY

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Daniel Gordon, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the Clerk's pay increase in line with The National Joint Council for Local Government Services new pay scales back dated to 1st April 2021, and increase of 24p per hour.

22.035 ACCOUNTS 2021/2022

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Daniel Gordon, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve payments:

a)	Clerk's Salary (March 2022, including back dated pay increase)	£ 869.79
b)	Clerk's Expenses (March 2022)	£ 64.94
c)	Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's Pension – March 2022)	£ 236.49
d)	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Payroll processing	£ 30.35
e)	Beech Village Hall – Hall hire February & March meetings	£ 41.40
f)	Groundwork UK – Neighbourhood Plan Grant	£ 638.34
g)	Citizens Advice East Hampshire – Grant approved February	£ 300.00

22.036 MEETING DATES

Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 25th April 2022 at 7pm, public question time non-agenda items at 6.45pm.

CLOSURE OF MEETING – Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

signed:
Chairman Beech Parish Council
date: 25th April 2022