

BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting Monday 20th June 2022

PARTICIPANTS : Councillor Graham Webb (Chairman)
Councillor Ruth Duffin
Councillor Kim Eakers
Councillor Daniel Gordon
Louisa Thomson – Clerk to the Council

Part I

22.053 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Ingrid McCormack, Tony Ransley and Alana Coombes.

22.054 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd May 2022, copies previously circulated,
**Proposed as a true record by Kim Eakers, Seconded by Graham Webb, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED
and signed by Chairman Graham Webb.**

22.055 ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

Beech Road Safety Working Group - Report to Parish Council 20 June 2022

On-road Footways - Application for EHDC Strategic CIL Funding

This is for £14,000 to put towards on-road footways in the village centre and on Kings Hill. EHDC has recently advised that a decision on the award of these funds will not be made or confirmed until 28 July. Meanwhile we await the detailed design of these footways, which is being done by HCC this summer.

New Off-Road Footways – Alongside Forestry England Land

Councillors will recall we received a proposal from HCC for a feasibility study costing £20,000 for off-road footways, which we found unacceptable. Last week we received a response to our comments from HCC reducing the cost of the feasibility study to £12,500, with possible further reductions if the work proves easier than expected. The Working Group will be discussing this response tomorrow (Tuesday 21 June), and we will probably be asking HCC for more information.

Clearly, if we wish to accept a revised HCC proposal, we would need to obtain it formally in writing from HCC. A reason for spending money on a feasibility study might be that it is the only way to get HCC on board with our off-road footways, which in turn will be the only way to unlock Strategic CIL funds for that project. So, before making a decision, we may wish to wait until after we find out (by 28 July) whether our Strategic CIL funds application to EHDC for on-road footways has been successful. There is no particular rush, as we won't be able to apply for further Strategic CIL funds until spring 2023.

Footpath in private woodland

Following the decision taken at the last Council meeting I have advised the contractor that the temporary path screening can be erected at any time from now. He will advise when it can be programmed in.

Charles Cockburn and I have been liaising with the woodland owner, and the neighbours, about how and where the footpath exits the private woodland into the Forestry England woodland to the east. We believe we have identified a suitable route that avoids the steep vehicle ramp down to the road, and which will join up with an existing pathway in the open-access Forestry England woods. The aim is for volunteers to clear this link in the early autumn.

22.056 AUTOSPEEDWATCH

Beech Parish Council AutoSpeedWatch Monthly report from Tony Ransley

We have continued to send Belinda Kingsley and Sergeant Jones details of the 2 worst offenders each week.

We are now concluding to send details of the highest recorded average speedster and the speedster who commits the most offenses in any week.

I have spoken with Belinda, and she quite understands that it is frustrating not to have a positive dialogue with the community police board. She is however forwarding our reports to the board and will keep pressing for the Parish Council to be allowed to present their case to the board.

In the month of May 1100+ vehicles broke the average speed limit. Our worst offenders have now reached the half century mark of offenses. The figure of 24 offenders accounting for 24% of offenses hasn't changed.

I would again remind the Council that we can take a private prosecution out against the worst offenders, the cost of fees being £5,000. It would be good if the PCC could ask the Public Prosecutor to investigate the viability of a private prosecution and its potential success rate, giving the indisputable scientific evidence we have against offending vehicles.

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Meanwhile the Gloucester PCC has ordered a number of devices, and these are being delivered to various villages. Several other police authorities are showing an active interest to do the same. Among them are Dorset, Wiltshire, south Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Durham. Regrettably not Thames Valley...

22.057 POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

New plans stop householders paying for DIY waste to reduce fly-tipping.

Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Daniel Gordon, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED the Clerk should submit the completed survey agreeing with the proposals.

22.058 CAPITAL SPENDING

- a) i) Neighbourhood CIL monies received from East Hampshire District Council £22,807.54
- ii) S106 monies available held by East Hampshire District Council £8,813.10

- b) Report from Graham Webb

To clear up any confusion about the funds available to the parish council, and what capital spending they are being (or might be) used for, here's the current overview. NB All future spending decisions on footways, speed cameras, village hall grants etc will be subject to parish council scrutiny and approval at the appropriate time; no irrevocable commitment to footway expenditure has yet been made.

EHDC S106 funds: c.£8,813 remains available as at 31 March 2022 (TBC by Clerk)

- Designated by EHDC for traffic/transport project spending
- Money remains with EHDC until claimed when qualifying expenditure has been incurred
- We have been using this to pay for ASW camera - related expenditure (and will continue to do so), and it will also pay for the new SLR (installed today!)
- Any funds left over can be used for footways spend, being traffic-related

EHDC Strategic CIL funds: £14,000 applied for in 2022

- Assuming application is successful, must be used to part pay for c.£22,580 HCC cost of installing on-road footways
- Money remains with EHDC until claimed (on receipt of final invoice from HCC)
- Current plan is to apply for a further sum (c.£60,000?) in 2023 to part pay for off-road footway construction, subject to parish council approval at the time
- Strategic CIL funds may also be applied for in respect of any village hall extension, so long as it is only part payment and other funds are available from the village hall and/or the parish council

CIL Neighbourhood Portion funds: £22,807 to be received imminently from EHDC

- Available for paying for the construction of new (or the improvement of existing) infrastructure in the parish, within 5 years of receipt of funds
- C.£2,600 to be spent on improving the existing footpath in the private woodland (screening)
- C.£8,600 to be spent on the balance of the cost of the on-road footways
- C.£11,600 available to put towards the cost of future off-road footways (or other parish infrastructure)
- Additional CIL Neighbourhood Portion funds to be received within the next 18 months: £5,000 (Brant Storage, definitely), £20,350 (Land next to 122 Medstead Rd, potentially) – available to put towards other infrastructure projects (off-road footways, village hall) as part payment alongside further Strategic CIL funds

Parish council reserve funds: £31,755 cash held 31 March 2022 (of which £24,682 in investment accounts)

- Funds source of last resort, unrestricted in use
- Best case scenario is that these funds will not need to be touched to complete the proposed on-road and off-road footways (i.e. there will be sufficient CIL and S106 funds available to do so)

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- In which case a portion of these general reserves (£10,000 minimum?) will be available to put towards village hall infrastructure improvement. NB The village hall trustees have not yet formulated a project scope, design or cost

Principal risks to the above spending plan:

- EHDC declines to award the parish council the £14,000 of Strategic CIL applied for (and perhaps also indicates that Strategic CIL may not be used for off-road footways either)
- Building the new house at 'Land next to 123 Medstead Rd' is postponed, making the associated £20,350 CIL Neighbourhood Portion unavailable to the parish council

If either of the above were to happen then the council would need to re-work its capital spending plans.

22.059 GDPR (DATA PROTECTION) - This will be included on a future agenda.

22.060 ACCOUNTS 2022/2023

Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Daniel Gordon and RESOLVED (Kim Eakers abstained) that the following payments are approved:

a)	Clerk's Salary (June 2022)	£744.33
b)	Clerk's Expenses (June 2022)	£37.55
c)	Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's pension – June 2022)	£208.29
d)	HM Revenue & Customs – April, May & June	£14.38
e)	DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd – Monthly Payroll processing	£36.36
f)	Beech Village Hall and Recreation Ground – Hall hire	£41.40
g)	Elan City Ltd – Speed sign	£2,700.00
f)	Fresh Ayres Landscapes	£264.00

22.061 DELEGATION SCHEME

Proposed Daniel Gordon, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to confirm the decisions made under the delegation scheme.

a) **Zurich Insurance Renewal**

Council insurance renewal quotation from Zurich with revised assets list £359.79.

Five Councillors voted to accept the Zurich quotation, two Councillors didn't respond.

b) **Councillor Absence**

Councillor Ruth Duffin last attended a Council meeting on the 13th December 2021 and would therefore cease to be a Councillor on the 12th June 2022. Councillor Duffin was unable to attend the January, February and March 2022 meeting because she had a broken shoulder.

Six Councillors voted this was a valid reason for non-attendance.

c) **Autospeedwatch Camera**

One of the Autospeedwatch camera's isn't working due to overhanging branches restricting the light from reaching the solar panel.

Fresh Ayres Landscapes £220 plus VAT

JRS Tree Care £300

Four Councillors voted to accept the quotation from Fresh Ayres and request the work is carried out as soon as possible.

22.062 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS - No members of the public or press were present.

22.063 CLERK'S APPRAISAL - Report from Graham Webb following Clerk's appraisal. **Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the appraisal.**

22.064 MEETING DATES - Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 18th July 2022 at 7pm with public question time at 6.45pm.

CLOSURE OF MEETING - Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.15 pm.

signed:

Chairman Beech Parish Council

Date: 18th July 2022