

# BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Louisa Thomson  
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## Minutes of the Meeting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022

PARTICIPANTS : Councillor Graham Webb (Chairman and Acting Clerk)  
Councillor Tony Ransley  
Councillor Kim Eakers  
Councillor Alana Coombes  
Councillor Ingrid McCormack  
Councillor Ruth Duffin

### 22.065 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Louisa Thomson – Clerk to the Council.

### 22.066 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - **RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022, copies previously circulated,

**Proposed as a true record by Alana Coombes, Seconded by Tony Ransley, RESOLVED and signed by Chairman Graham Webb**

### 22.067 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Since the last meeting Daniel Gordon has resigned from the Parish Council. The councillor vacancy notice was posted on 21 June. There was no request to EHDC for a by-election by the 12 July deadline, and so the Parish Council is free to co-opt a replacement councillor.

**Proposed by Kim Eakers, Seconded by Tony Ransley and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to give a formal vote of thanks to Daniel Gordon for his work as a parish councillor and the enthusiasm he brought to the role.

### 22.068 PLANNING APPEAL

Land North of Abbey Road Planning Appeal held at East Hampshire District Council offices – report from Graham Webb.

The first day of the appeal hearing was held on 12 July. Due to problems with availability of the appellant's legal representatives, the second day has been postponed until 4 November. The appellant, EHDC and the Medstead Beech & Wivelrod Rural Group all presented their views. I made a statement of Beech Parish Council's position of objecting to the development, along the lines of our previous comments, and so did Medstead Parish Council. On the second day, in November, the individual gypsies/travellers will make their personal statements, and the hearing will conclude. The planning inspector has already visited the site more than once. At this stage it isn't possible to predict the outcome of the hearing.

### 22.069 ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

Report to Parish Council 18 July 2022

There has been little progress since the June council meeting:

- EHDC's decision on our application for Strategic CIL funds, to construct on-road footways, is due by the end of July.
- We still await clarifications from HCC on a feasibility study for off-road footways on their land, alongside Bushy Leaze Wood. We may wish to call a Parish Council meeting in August to consider committing to a revised feasibility study.
- We will be having a meeting with residents on 2 August about the possible routing of a new footpath in Forestry England land to the west of the Bushy Leaze Wood entrance.
- The temporary screening work at the private woodland footpath hasn't started yet – waiting for the ground to soften.

### 22.070 AUTOSPEEDWATCH

Report from Graham Webb:

At the HALC chairs' networking event on 29 June I met the chairman of Swanmore Parish Council, who advised that they are undertaking an Autospeedwatch trial at the behest of senior Hampshire Constabulary roads policing officers who happen to live in Swanmore. I am trying to get more information from him, with a view to having Beech Parish Council co-operate in the trial, if possible. He did warn that this would not be a good time to upset the police in any way, intentionally or not. He had read our trial report from Q4 2021. So there may be progress with Hampshire police going on behind the scenes. I have updated our County Councillor and District Councillor.

Update from Tony Ransley:

- Reminded the Parish Council that taking out a private prosecution against the worst speeding offender remains an option, although (given the work at Swanmore) it remains best to keep that option in reserve.
- Westcotec has repaired and returned the old SLR without being given an instruction to do so, having given the Parish Council prices for both repairing the SLR and supplying a new one. The Parish Council decided to purchase a new unit from a different supplier. Graham Webb has raised the problem with Westcotec and awaits a response from them.
- A request that the Parish Council identifies potential members of an Autospeedwatch Group to manage the system in the future, in readiness for future support by the police.
- Data from the new SID unit at 96 Medstead Road suggests that traffic entering the village centre downhill is now generally slower (compared with HCC data from November 2021). The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed has reduced from 34.6mph to 27.0mph. Sadly those vehicles that do speed at that location appear to be travelling faster than before. But overall a real improvement is noted by all the villagers we speak to on a regular basis, especially those who live near the SID position.
- Meanwhile the Gloucestershire PCC has now supplied the first system to Quenington Parish Council, which is waiting to order a further three units after Autospeedwatch announces its anti-theft option (hopefully end august).

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## 22.071 HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PASSENGER TRANSPORT CONSULTATION

Consultation closes on 24 July.

**Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Ingrid McCormack and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Parish Council should not respond to the consultation, as the vast majority of the consultation questions are designed to be answered by individuals who use the transport services financially supported by Hampshire County Council.

## 22.072 GDPR (DATA PROTECTION)

No progress since the last council meeting. This will be included on a future agenda.

## 22.073 HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – PARISH & TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRS NETWORKING EVENT

Report by Graham Webb on the event held on 29 June.

Aside from general networking discussions between chairs (see Autospeedwatch item above) there were two presentations given on the day.

### **Transition Southampton – Alternative Household Energy**

This was about low carbon heating technologies, principally for replacing gas boiler heating. Essentially the speaker wanted to encourage the setting up of local advice groups and initiatives. Luckily here in Beech we already have access to the long-established Energy Alton and ACAN (Alton Climate Action Network).

### **Planning Reform – Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill ('LURB')**

This presentation picked out the differences between the new bill coming to parliament (although who knows what happens now that there will be a new Prime Minister and Cabinet!) and the original Planning White Paper that we commented on last year. Apart from what is on the slides circulated to councillors (see Appendix to minutes) I picked up the following information:

- There will still be a two stage process for public comment on emerging Local Plans, i.e. both the Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 stages (the White Paper had advocated only one public consultation stage).
- The proposed new National Development Management Policies are intended to replace a lot of the boilerplate that should be common to all Local Plans in the country. These Policies would take legal precedence over Local Plans, making it more difficult than now for district councils to deviate from Local Plan policies (where it makes sense) than now. Seems to be the biggest bone of contention about LURB.
- Parishes should get the same proportion of new Infrastructure Levy as of the current CIL (i.e. 25% for us). The Infrastructure Levy will be calculated from the final value of the development (not on a 'per square metre of development' basis as now). There may no longer be an exemption from the Levy for 'self-build' new houses.
- Existing Neighbourhood Plans will still be valid and able to be updated over time. They won't need to be replaced by the new Neighbourhood Priorities Statements.
- An example of a new 'Supplementary Plan' would be a local design code for a particular neighbourhood.
- They are trying to remove abuse & obstruction of the planning enforcement system.

Caveat: the LURB bill may not survive in its present form, so everything in the presentation and in the above points is subject to possible major change.

## 22.074 ACCOUNTS 2022/2023

- I) Summary of Receipts & Payments for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 presented to Council detailing bank reconciliation as follows:

Current Account Balance	686.22
Less: Cheques drawn but not debited as at 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	-355.76
Deposit Account Balance	28,428.54
Money Market Account Balance	24,684.34
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	53,443.34

- II) **Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Ruth Duffin and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the following payments are approved

a) Clerk's Salary (July 2022)	£ 744.33
b) Clerk's Expenses (July 2022)	£ 13.26
c) Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's Pension – July 2022)	£ 208.29
d) DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd – Monthly payroll processing	£ 36.36
g) Hampshire County Council – Volume & velocity traffic survey equipment	

## 22.075 MEETING DATES

Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7pm with public question time at 6.45pm. A Council meeting may be called before that date if necessary to consider urgent business.

CLOSURE OF MEETING – Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

signed: .....

Chairman Beech Parish Council

date: 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022