

BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

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

20th September 2022

Dear Councillor

Please note that you are hereby summoned to attend the Annual meeting of Full Council to be held at Beech Village Hall on **Monday, 26th September 2022 at 7.00pm.**

Members to please note, Public Question Time starts at 6.45 pm. (Non-agenda items)



Louisa Thomson

AGENDA

1. **Apologies** for Absence
2. **Minutes** -To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 15th August 2022.
3. **Declaration of Interest** – (in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils Model Code of Conduct adopted January 2021) Councillors are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Localism Act 2011. You must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.
4. **Public Participation** -Opportunity for the public to speak on agenda items in accordance with Standing Orders.
5. Report of **County Councillor** – for information only.
6. Report of **District Councillor** – for information only
7. **Planning** - Council to consider two planning applications, their comments to be forwarded to East Hampshire District Council.
 - i) 58619/004 Burnt Grounds, 46 Wellhouse Road, Beech
Detached garden shed to front together with access to connect with existing access and remedial works to trees.
 - ii) 20795/008 Treetops, 47 Wellhouse Road, Beech
Application for consent for **Works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order**
T1-Birch- Fell. H1-Laurel- reduce height by 3m leaving height of 3m & reduce spread by 2m leaving spread of 3m.
8. **Grant Application**
Council to decide on grant application for £50 from Victim Support.
9. **Road Safety Working Group**
 - i) Update.
 - ii) Council to decide whether to accept Ian Dumelow as a member of the Road Safety Working Group.
 - iii) Council to decide whether to create a Road Incident Reporting System for the village.
10. **Speed Cameras & Speed Indicator Devices**
 - i) Report on meeting held with Hampshire Constabulary 26th August 2022.
 - ii) Update.
 - iv) Council to approve template letter to be sent to owners of speeding commercial vehicles.
11. **Bridle Paths**
Council to decide whether to pursue the proposal to alter certain bridle paths and decide any next steps.
12. **East Hampshire District Council Consultation – Housing Outside Settlement Boundaries Supplementary Planning Document.**
East Hampshire District Council is drawing up new planning guidance to advise on what sites may be developed outside the defined settlements.
The Housing Outside Settlement Boundaries Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been written to give further guidance on what housing proposals may be suitable for sites outside the district's towns and villages, given that the Local Plan will not be available for some time.
Anyone can read and offer comments on the SPD in a consultation to be run from today (Tuesday 9 August) to 5pm Tuesday 20 September. The consultation is running for six weeks, rather than the usual four, to take account of the holiday season.
[Consultation on the Draft Housing Outside Settlement Boundaries SPD](#)

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13. **East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) - survey that will shape the future Local Plan.**

Under the Climate Change Act, the UK is legally obliged to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 100% by 2050 across all sectors of the economy. One of the most important ways that the Council can influence GHG emissions is via the Local Plan. The Council is currently in the early stages of exploring policy options that will minimise the climate change impacts of future development in East Hampshire. We would like to hear your views on how we may be able to incorporate net zero requirements into the Local Plan, and more broadly, how you think the Local Plan can best contribute to reducing GHG emissions.

The survey will run for 6 weeks. To access the survey, click this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CPDVN5G>
Council to complete survey.

14. **North Hampshire Downs – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

Council to decide whether to write to County Councillors and MPs supporting the principle of an “Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty” for the North Hampshire Down.

15. **Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) – External Auditor Appointment**

Council to decide whether to opt-in or out.

Under the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, SAAA is responsible for appointing external auditors to all applicable opted-in smaller authorities, for setting the terms of appointment for limited assurance reviews and for managing the contracts with the appointed audit firms. Smaller authorities are those whose gross annual income or expenditure is **less than £6.5 million**.

The next 5-year appointing period runs from 2022-23 until 2026-27 and SAAA has undertaken a procurement exercise to appoint auditors to each County area from 1 April 2022. Now that the submission deadline for the 2021-22 Annual Governance and Accountability Returns has passed, this is to advise you of the option to opt-out of the next round of 5-year audit appointments.

All authorities require an appointed external auditor even if the authority meets the criteria to qualify for exemption, as a Certificate of Exemption is required to be submitted to the external auditor and the auditor must be in place in case of objections from local electors

During the previous 5-year period **all** smaller authorities were 'opted-in' to the central procurement regime managed by SAAA - no authority decided to 'opt-out' and follow the various complex procedures required under statute to appoint their own external auditor. **If you wish to continue as part of the SAAA sector led auditor appointment regime then no action is required, you will remain part of central scheme.**

However, all authorities must be given the option to opt-out of the central procurement and appointment scheme and appoint their own external auditor for the next 5-year period, although the process is onerous for smaller authorities.

This communication is to advise that whilst all smaller authorities are opted into the central procurement of external auditors by default, any authorities who do not wish to be part of the SAAA arrangements must formally notify SAAA that they wish to opt out within **8 weeks** of this communication but no later than **28 October 2022**; this decision must be communicated to SAAA via e mail to admin@saaa.co.uk.

If notification of your decision to opt out is not received within this 8-week period, then your authority will be regarded as opted-in for the next five-year period beginning on 1 April 2022 and ending on 31 March 2027.

Opting-out

Opting out is a significant decision which requires careful consideration; to assist authorities considering opting out further guidance has been developed to clarify what opting out means in practice. This detailed information can be found at www.saaa.co.uk

An authority that wishes to opt out must formally reach and record that decision in a way that meets the requirements of its own governance framework, by convening a full council meeting or an extraordinary council meeting.

Key implications are:

- an opted-out authority regardless of size (including exempt authorities) **MUST** appoint an appropriate external auditor;
- the appointed auditor **must** be a registered auditor as defined by the Companies Act and a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants (England and Wales).
- an opted-out authority **must** convene an appropriate independent auditor panel which meets the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (LAAA). Detailed guidance on auditor panels is available in Schedule 4 of the LAAA Act and from CIPFA;
- an opted-out authority will need to develop its own specification for its external audit contract, will need to negotiate the price for this work on an individual basis and will need to manage the contract, including any disputes, and any independence issues that may arise;
- an opted-out authority must ensure full compliance with the relevant requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act and supporting Regulations;
- any opted-out authority that does not successfully appoint an appropriate external auditor in the correct manner and notify SAAA who their external auditor is by **30 November 2022** will have an external auditor appointed for it by the Secretary of State through SAAA. **This will result in additional costs of £300 which will have to be met by the authority.**

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15. Hampshire Association of Local Councils AGM Special Motion

This year's Hampshire ALC AGM agenda will include a special motion to amend the company's articles of association. A number of proposed changes are being recommended to ensure the articles reflect the changing needs of the business and in line with current business legislation.

Hampshire ALC kindly request your council review these documents in order to be fully informed when partaking in the voting process. Each member council has one vote, and as per current articles, the meeting requires a quorum of one fifth of member councils in attendance for the meeting to take place, therefore we encourage as many member councils attend as possible.

This year's AGM, followed by the Annual Conference, will be held on Thursday 20th October 2022, at the Doubletree Hilton, Chilworth.

Council to decide whether they will be attending the AGM and if so how they will vote.

16. Accounts 2022 /2023

Council to approve the following payments:

a)	Clerk's Salary (September 2022)	TBC
b)	Clerk's Expenses (September 2022)	TBC
c)	Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's pension – September 2022)	TBC
d)	DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd – Monthly Payroll processing	£36.36
e)	Beech Village Hall – September meeting & Hampshire Constabulary meeting	TBC
f)	Information Commissioner – Data Protection subscription	£40.00
g)	Farm and Garden Supplies – Laurel Hedge Plants	£713.18

17. Meeting Dates

To confirm the date of the next Council meeting as Monday, 17th October 2022 at 7pm with public question time at 6.45pm.

18. Close of Meeting.