

# BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Louisa Thomson  
Telephone: 01420 562130 E-Mail: [clerk@beechpc.com](mailto:clerk@beechpc.com)

## Minutes of the Meeting Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022

PARTICIPANTS : Councillor Graham Webb (Chairman)  
Councillor Ingrid McCormack  
Councillor Kim Eakers  
Councillor Alana Coombes  
Louisa Thomson - Clerk

### 22.089 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Ruth Duffin and Tony Ransley.

### 22.090 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - **RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022, copies previously circulated,

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

22.091 DECLARATION OF INTEREST - Councillor Ingrid McCormack declared an interest in planning application 46 Wellhouse Road.

### 22.092 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ingrid McCormack moved to the public seating area and spoke as a member of the public regarding the planning application for 46 Wellhouse Road. She said work continues on the Coach House even though the planning application has been withdrawn. East Hampshire District Council planning enforcement need to check if the works are in breach of planning regulations.

Ingrid McCormack rejoined the Council.

### 22.093 PLANNING

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

Having declared an interest in 46 Wellhouse Road Councillor McCormack took no part in the discussion or decision for this item.

- i) 58619/004 Burnt Grounds, 46 Wellhouse Road, Beech **NO OBJECTION**  
Detached garden shed to front together with access to connect with existing access and remedial works to trees.  
**Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** Beech Parish Council have no objection to the application subject to the applicant adhering to the recommendations in the Arboricultural report.

Councillor McCormack rejoined the meeting.

- 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.  
**Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** Beech Parish Council defers to the East Hampshire District Council's Arboricultural Officer for the application.

### 22.094 GRANT APPLICATION

**Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** approve Victim Support grant £50.

### 22.095 ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

- i) **Beech Road Safety Working Group - Report to Parish Council September 2022**

**On-road Footways:** Ian Janes (HCC Safety Engineer) is still in the process of designing the on-road footways for the village centre and Kings Hill. This exercise includes a review of road signs in the village.

**New Off-Road Footways:** An HCC feasibility study, costing £12,500 plus VAT, has been commissioned, to cover three sections of Medstead Road:

Section 1: 510m alongside Forestry England land east of the Bushy Leaze Wood entrance;  
Section 2: 137m alongside Forestry England land west of the Bushy Leaze Wood entrance; and  
Section 3: 406m running west from 70/72 Kings Hill to Alton Abbey.

The study is just commencing, with conference calls and a site visit due with HCC over the next 2 weeks. The study is due to be completed before Christmas.

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**Screening the private woodland footpath:** The planting of permanent screening is pencilled in for the weekend of 4-7 November, and the plants have been purchased. Ground conditions are currently still too hard to permit the installation of the temporary screen fence, but it is hoped that this will happen over the next few weeks.

- ii) Council notes Ian Dunelow has joined the Beech Road Safety Working Group.
- iii) Road Incident Reporting System – **Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** Council agrees in principle for this to be sited on the Parish Council website but will need to approve the details.

## 22.096 SPEED CAMERAS & SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES

- i) Minutes of meeting held with Hampshire Constabulary 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022, attached Appendix A.
- ii) Template letter to be sent to owners of speeding commercial vehicles – to be approved at the October meeting.

22.097 BRIDLE PATHS - Item to be added to a future agenda if new information becomes available.

## 22.098 EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION – HOUSING OUTSIDE SETTLEMENT BOUNDARIES SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT.

Online consultation closed, EHDC will accept email comments.

**Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** 'Test 4 should also state that, for the avoidance of doubt, development that would contravene one or more policies of a made Neighbourhood Plan cannot pass Test 4. This is in recognition that a Neighbourhood Plan is the result of the highest standard of local consultation that is available.'

## 22.099 EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL – SURVEY THAT WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE LOCAL PLAN

Online survey closed.

## 22.100 NORTH HAMPSHIRE DOWNS – AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB)

**Proposed Ingrid McCormack, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to write to MP Damien Hinds, County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee and District Councillor Tony Costigan supporting the principle of an "Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty" for the North Hampshire Downs.

Dear

### **Proposed North Hampshire Downs AONB**

*A proposal is being worked up for the creation of a new Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – the North Hampshire Downs, encompassing the countryside area between Basingstoke, Odiham, Farnham, Alton and Alresford. It would include Beech and the other rural parishes in your constituency north of Alton and Four Marks/South Medstead. I attach a document that includes a map of the proposed AONB.*

*The catalyst has been a proposal to build 2,500 houses at Cliddesden, south of Basingstoke – see [www.stanhd.com](http://www.stanhd.com). The wider AONB area is supported by the CPRE. I believe that Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council is also in favour.*

*As you may know, any development in an AONB must protect the landscape, much the same way as in a national park, and the principal purpose of the campaign is to protect this area of unspoilt countryside from large scale housing development.*

*Beech Parish Council has agreed to support this campaign, as the downland countryside north of Alton is just as attractive and valued (by residents of the Alton area) as in the South Downs National Park (SDNP) immediately to the south, and deserves similar protection.*

*We believe that any 'non-small' new development along the A31 corridor will be most sustainable in, or on the immediate outskirts of, the existing larger settlements of Alton and Four Marks/South Medstead. Medium/large scale new development infilling elsewhere along the A31 (between Ropley and the Surrey border) will only serve to bring about the undesirable 'A31 conurbation' sprawl that the volume housebuilders dream of, to the detriment of everyone who lives in and enjoys this part of Hampshire, including residents of Alton and Four Marks/South Medstead.*

*The AONB designation should prove to be a stronger defence against the forces that might push East Hampshire towards medium/large scale development in the countryside around Alton; those forces being principally the skewing of housing development in the district caused by 57% of its area being in the 'protected' SDNP. We wish to end the possibility of unsuitable proposals like the building of 1,200 houses at Chawton Park Farm, totally detached from the existing settlements with facilities and services.*

*Of course, AONB designation does not preclude small scale development in the countryside, so long as it respects the landscape character and preserves its quality and value.*

*We at Beech Parish Council very much hope that you will lend your active support to the proposal to create a North Hampshire Downs AONB with boundaries corresponding to those on the attached map.  
Kind regards*

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- 22.101 LOCAL AUDIT (SMALLER AUTHORITIES) – EXTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT  
**Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to opt-in, continue to be part of the SAAA sector led auditor appointment regime.
- 22.102 HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS AGM SPECIAL MOTION  
No Councillors can attend the AGM and Annual Conference.
- 22.103 ACCOUNTS 2022/2023  
**Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:
- |    |  |          |
|----|--|----------|
| a) | Clerk's Salary (September 2022)                            | £ 744.53 |
| b) | Clerk's Expenses (September 2022)                          | £ 30.91  |
| c) | Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's Pension – September 2022)  | £ 208.29 |
| d) | HM Revenue & Customs                                       | £ 14.38  |
| e) | DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd – Monthly payroll processing  | £ 36.36  |
| f) | Information Commissioner – Data Protection Subscription    | £ 40.00  |
| g) | Mr G Webb – Farm and Garden Supplies (Laurel Hedge Plants) | £ 713.18 |
- 22.104 MEETING DATES  
Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 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 8.35pm.

signed: .....  
Chairman Beech Parish Council  
date: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022