

# BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Minutes of the Meeting Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

PARTICIPANTS : Councillor Graham Webb (Chairman) Louisa Thomson - Clerk  
Councillor Tony Ransley  
Councillor Ruth Duffin  
Councillor Kim Eakers  
Councillor Ingrid McCormack

### 23.041 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Alana Coombes and District Councillor Tony Costigan.

### 23.042 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - **RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023, copies previously circulated,

**Proposed as a true record by Tony Ransley Seconded by Kim Eakers, RESOLVED: signed Chairman Graham Webb**

### 23.043 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Ruth Duffin and Tony Ransley declared an interest in planning application 25012/007 – 33 Medstead Road, Beech.

### 23.044 PLANNING

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

**Ruth Duffin and Tony Ransley took no part in the discussion or decision for the following item.**

- i) 25012/007 Acreholt, 33 Medstead Road, Beech **NO OBJECTION**  
Extension to the side to form a self-contained annex, accessed from the main house via the current ground floor bedroom. Moving existing Dog Kennel and adding a front carport.  
**Proposed Ingrid McCormack, Seconded Kim Eakers, RESOLVED:** Beech Parish Council has no objection to this application.
- ii) 58458/001 Lansdales, 106 Medstead Road, Beech  
**Works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order**  
T1. Oak, reduce crown height by 3m leaving final height of 10m, and blending remaining canopy shown by red line in photo.  
**Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Ruth Duffin, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** Beech Parish Council defers to the EHDC Arboricultural Officers decision.

### 23.045 ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

#### i) **Beech Road Safety Group Report – 17 April 2023**

Report on Meet the Funders event, 30 March

Charles Cockburn and I met a number of funding organisations at the event, to discuss our off-road footways project.

- **EHDC CIL Team** assured us that if they have any queries or concerns about our application for CIL funds (submitted on 23 March) then they will contact us. Our application would not be discarded without discussion.
- **HCC** confirmed to us that they have no appropriate funding streams other than the S106 funding that we have already accessed.
- **The National Lottery Community Fund** representatives were unable to state definitively whether we would be able to access funding from them for HCC-owned footways. They recommended making an application for up to £10,000 to their Awards for All programme in the event that our CIL application is successful, as those small funding requests are determined quickly (within 12 weeks).
- **EHDC Supporting Communities Fund** is open for applications (up to £25,000 for capital projects) from 1 April to 14 May. Officers thought that our project fell within the funding criteria, and they are well used to making grants from this Fund alongside CIL funding. Subsequent research shows that this Fund has made substantial capital grants in recent years for sports facilities, building repairs etc. So we recommend that we make an application to this Fund. If successful, it should mean that we can divert some of the parish council's own funds to other projects, such as bridleway resurfacing (which we will talk about later).

Meanwhile we are talking with HCC about structuring the financial arrangements of the off-road footway project so that the parish council does not end up paying any VAT which it will be unable to reclaim from HMRC.

- ii) **Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, RESOLVED:** to apply to EHDC Supporting Communities Fund for grant of £25,000 towards the Off-Road Footways project.  
**Tony Ransley voted against and Ruth Duffin abstained.**

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## 23.046 SPEED CAMERAS & SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

i) Tony Ransley updated Council.

There has been a breakthrough with the police who are willing to use the data, if only in a limited way. It may be possible to join with Medstead Community Speedwatch to meet the criteria to have the ASW camera data accepted. Hopefully this will progress to the worst offenders being written to with a visit from the police to the worst repeat offenders.

Hampshire County Council have taken over parking enforcement and they may potentially be able to send letters to average speed offenders with a possible fine of £70, this needs clarification with the Home Office.

ii) **Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Ruth Duffin, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to approve expenditure for Tony Ransley for up to £1,100 to purchase the ASW camera batteries as detailed below.

• 2 additional batteries (£298.33 plus VAT)	£ 298.33
• Aluminium Housings (£600 plus VAT)	£ 600.00
• Trunking (£24.30 plus VAT)	£ 24.30
• Clamps to attach to the poles (£29.20 plus VAT)	£ 29.20
• 2 padlocks (£66.50 plus VAT)	£ 66.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,018.33</b>

iii) **Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Ruth Duffin, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to claim all AutoSpeedWatch and Speed Indicator Device expenditure, including ii) above from EHDC S106 funding.

## 23.047 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

i) Proposed project to resurface Bridleway 713, Medstead Road to Recreation Ground  
Graham Webb is meeting with the Ramblers and Hampshire Countryside Services to try to establish who owns the bridleway, what would need to be done and who's responsibility it is.

ii) The DMMO application to register footpaths in the private woodland has been rejected.

## 23.048 CLIMATE ACTION

Kim Eakers updated council.

The Thermal Survey and Self Assessment were carried out in January 2022 and the Self Assessment was repeated in January 2023, the results have been published on the Parish Council website there was also a workshop to discuss what people can do to help reduce their emissions. It is possible to potentially reduce emissions by 20%/30% by implementing cheap options with better results if investing in more expensive options such as heat pumps.

During the year case studies will be publicised detailing what measure villagers have taken and what effect that has had.

## 23.049 INTERNET BANKING

**Proposed Ingrid McCormack, Seconded Ruth Duffin, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to look into other banks which may have more suitable internet banking facilities.

## 23.050 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

Beech Parish Council election was uncontested with Alana Coombes, Kim Eakers, Ingrid McCormack, Nikki Pickard, Tony Ransley and Graham Webb being elected Councillors leaving one vacancy which may be filled by co-option.

## 23.051 PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

i) Update from Graham Webb

### **Beech parish council objectives for the financial year 2022-23 - Outcomes**

1. To carry out in full, and in line with Government rules and regulations, all of the statutory duties and functions of the parish council. **Achieved – Retain.**
2. To meet as a parish council in at least 10 calendar months of the year, and to hold council meetings more frequently than monthly where council business so demands. **Achieved – 13 meetings held, retain.**
3. To provide a forum for public questions prior to each parish council meeting, and to hold an Annual Parish Meeting in March each year. **Achieved – Retain.**
4. To review every planning application and planning appeal for which the parish council is a statutory consultee, subject to adequate lead times being given. **Achieved – One application not formally reviewed (repair of a listed building) for which the council has no specialist knowledge. Retain.**

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5. To uphold and implement the policies of the Beech Neighbourhood Development Plan. **Achieved – Retain.**
6. To consider responding to public consultations when invited to do so by EHDC, HCC and other public bodies. **Achieved – The council responded whenever it was felt appropriate, particularly in relation to the new Local Plan. Some other consultations were better answered by councillors as individuals, and some others were of a technical nature in which the council did not have the necessary expertise to respond. Retain.**
7. To broadly maintain the previous financial year's items of regular expenditure, allowing for inflation, other than to increase the maintenance spend on keeping clear the path from village to the A339. **Achieved – Suggest removing the reference to path maintenance for next year.**
8. To levy a council tax precept that covers the budgeted regular expenditure, plus a modest contingency amount, so as to avoid depleting the council's reserves if possible. **Achieved – Retain.**
9. To put in place in the village an AutoSpeedWatch camera system that is approved by Hampshire Constabulary for speeding enforcement in the manner of Community SpeedWatch. **Partially achieved – The system is installed but isn't yet approved for Community SpeedWatch use. Suggest retaining the objective for next year, amended accordingly.**
10. To complete the full design of new footways the full length of Medstead Road and Kings Hill, and to have completed, as a minimum, new footway construction in the village centre. **Not achieved – Detailed design of on-road footways is still underway, and a funding decision is awaited on off-road footways.**
11. To fund expenditure on new footways and/or speed camera initiatives from (i) CIL & S106 monies received from EHDC; and (ii) grant monies from other external sources, augmented where necessary by funds from the parish council's reserves earmarked for road safety measures. **Achieved – Have only expended S106 money on speed cameras to date. Retain, adding in footpaths & bridleways.**
12. To pursue the parish council's climate change initiative, principally through education and public participation, with any expenditure on the initiative principally by participating Beech residents. **Achieved – Retain.**

ii) Councillors to suggest objectives for 2023/2024 to be discussed/approved at the next meeting.

## 23.052 ACCOUNTS 2022/2023

- I) Summary of Receipts & Payments for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 presented to Council detailing bank reconciliation as follows:

Current Account Balance	£1,289.60	
Less: Cheques drawn but not debited as at 31.12.22	- £377.65	
Deposit Account Balance	£25689.98	
Money Market Balance	<u>£25,033.35</u>	
		£51,635.28

- II) **Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the following payments:**

a) Clerk's Salary (April 2023)	£799.99
b) Clerk's Expenses (April 2023)	£58.34
c) Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's pension April 2023)	£223.46
d) DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Monthly and Year End Payroll processing	£72.72
e) Beech Village Hall – Parish Council meeting	£23.29
f) Mr A Ransley – ASW camera postage	£21.60
g) Hampshire County Council – Footways study	£15,000.00

## 23.053 MEETING DATES

Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7pm, public question time 6.45pm.

CLOSURE OF MEETING – Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

signed: .....

Chairman Beech Parish Council  
date: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023