

BEECH ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING ON GRANT APPLICATIONS AND FUNDING
FOR THE PROPOSED OFF-ROAD FOOTWAYS
Meeting 23.03, 3rd May 2023, 10:00-12:00

1. Attendees:

Charles Cockburn (CC)
Graham Webb (GW)
Ian Dumelow (ID)
Malcolm Ward-Close (MWC)

2. Apologies for absence:

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting: Minutes of meeting 23.02, 2nd March 2023 were approved.

4. Declaration of interest: (in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils Model Code of Conduct adopted July 2018) Councillors and Working Group members 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. No interests were declarable.

5. Ian Gibson: at the start of the meeting Charles said a few words about our friend and colleague Ian Gibson, who sadly passed away recently. Ian had been a member of the group since its inception and he worked tirelessly to help preserve and enhance the village that we are privileged to call home. We will miss him, especially his cheerful wit and his lifetime of professional knowledge.

6. Fundraising and Grant Applications (GW)

The following leads and funding opportunities are being investigated and where possible pursued:

- a) Upcoming EHDC fund raising event in March.
- b) The National Lottery – Contact established, a £10k grant might be possible but initial response is not encouraging.
- c) HCC have promised £30,000 from their own resources.
- d) Response from EHDC on CIL funding, “Design work is not eligible for CIL funding”.
- e) Response from EHDC on Supporting Communities Fund: “Your project qualifies – grants may be up to £25k. GW has applied and we will know the outcome by end of May.
- f) Information from Josh White: Design work may not qualify for CIL funding.
- g) Can we claim VAT back on the for the design and construction costs of the off-road footpaths? Advice is “No, we cannot claim VAT back if we do not own the asset after the work is completed”. It may be necessary to seek advice from tax experts.

7. Other Business (brief items)

- a) On road pathways: HCC have refused to allow painted “walking man” logos on footway – is there any way that the project could be designated a Special Development Scheme with temporary leave to use non-designated features? Answer: No.
- b) Speed camera: EHDC have announced that they will be buying 20 AutoSpeedwatch cameras for trial schemes in villages. We await with interest.
- c) Bridleways: Meeting with HCC Countryside Services scheduled for tomorrow.
- d) An enquiry has been received from a Beech resident about the very dirty condition of the Beech Village Gateways. ACTION MWC to investigate cleaning.

8. Next meeting: TBD

Malcolm Ward-Close 4 May 2023