

# BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Louisa Thomson  
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## Minutes of the Meeting Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

PARTICIPANTS : Councillor Graham Webb (Chairman and Acting Clerk)  
Councillor Kim Eakers  
Councillor Nikki Pickard  
Councillor Tony Ransley  
Councillor Ruth Duffin

### 23.087 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Alana Coombes and Ingrid McCormack, and from district councillor Tony Costigan.

### 23.088 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023, copies previously circulated,  
**Proposed as a true record by Kim Eakers, Seconded by Ruth Duffin RESOLVED and signed by Chairman Graham Webb**

### 23.089 PLANNING

Council considered one planning application, their comments to be forwarded to East Hampshire District Council.

30021/076

Land at Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital Site, Chawton Park Road, Alton

**NO COMMENT**

Notification of Variation of Condition application in a Neighbouring Parish.

Variation of conditions 1 (Materials), 4 (Additional windows or doors), 5 (Obscured glazing), 16 (Approved plans and Particulars) of 30021/072 to allow substitution of approved plans.

**Proposed Nikki Pickard, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** Beech Parish Council have no comment and will not respond to this application.

### 23.090 ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

Report from the Road Safety Working Group.

#### On-road Footway Project

Revised detailed design by HCC continues. Ian Janes was spotted on site last week, so some progress seems to be occurring.

#### Off-road Footway Project

Last week EHDC confirmed that it would not be providing Strategic CIL Funds for the off-road footway in this year's funding round. In their report, their recommendation is "further working up of this project, to provide a more detailed application for the amount of money sought". So it appears that EHDC is not against the project in principle. Other awards made this funding round were for large amounts of money similar to that which we were seeking, and so the likely amount of CIL funds that we need does not appear to be a problem.

As per our June report, it seems likely that EHDC felt there was too much uncertainty around the project, in terms of both (i) the total project cost (and therefore the amount of Strategic CIL needed), and (ii) how the funding would work, given EHDC's rules on what elements of the project CIL can fund.

We now propose to meet the EHDC CIL Team soon to discuss what we would need to do in order to take the project to the position where it might be funded. This might entail completing more design work so that the project cost can be re-estimated with certainty, before re-applying for Strategic CIL funds. In preparation we have asked HCC to provide a fee quote for getting the design to the necessary stage.

There would also need to be discussions with EHDC and HCC about how any further design work would be funded:

- The use of Neighbourhood CIL would have to be negotiated, as the current EHDC draft guidance is unhelpful regarding its use for design work;
- Meanwhile a different EHDC team has advised verbally that our application for £25,000 from the Supporting Communities Fund has reached the final stage for consideration. It is possible that this could be used, if awarded;
- HCC may be persuaded to use their promised £30,000 contribution (or even more) for up-front design work.

So there are several avenues to pursue before we can determine whether a revised application for Strategic CIL can be made next March.

#### Weight limit on vehicles through Beech

Councillors may recall that last autumn we wrote in support of Medstead Parish Council's proposal to HCC that large vehicles (greater than 7.5 tonnes weight) should be banned from the roads traversing Medstead, apart from for access to property in the area, including all of Medstead Rd, Wellhouse Rd and Kings Hill. The Medstead clerk advises that there has been no response yet from HCC, but at least he is now chasing them!

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## 23.091 AUTOSPEEDWATCH CAMERAS

Update from Tony Ransley:

East Hampshire District Council have finalised the application form for Parishes to use to apply for speed cameras. Once the responses are received EHDC together with the Police will decide which Parishes are allocated the cameras, the scheme will then move forward. Clerical support will hopefully be provided by Hampshire County Council.

## 23.092 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Update from Graham Webb.

- i) **Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to approve expenditure of £800 plus VAT for the purchase of timber for the handrail to be installed on bridleway 713, hopefully a grant will be received from Hampshire County Council for £400 towards this purchase.
- ii) Bridleway 713, Medstead Road to the Recreation Ground was cleared on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July by Alton Ramblers and volunteers.
- iii) Bridleway 704, Wellhouse Road to Thedden, will be cleared by Alton Ramblers at the end of July.

## 23.093 NORTH HAMPSHIRE DOWNS – AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Update from Graham Webb, the initiative is still alive but moving very slowly.

## 23.094 NEIGHBOURHOOD CIL REPORT

**Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** the Neighbourhood CIL report, appendix A, is sent to East Hampshire District Council and published on the Parish Council website.

## 23.095 SOUTH EAST WATER

South East Water have acknowledged receipt of Graham Webbs letter asking them to investigate solutions to the very high water main pressure at the lower end of Beech that is causing regular pipe and equipment failures, awaiting response.

## 23.096 CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR CLERK'S ABSENCE

**Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Nikki Pickard, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to adopt the proposed contingency plan and all password i.e. council laptop, bank, website etc should be kept by the Chairman in a sealed envelope to be opened in the clerk's absence if needed.

## 23.097 ACCOUNTS 2022/2023

**Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** Beech Parish Council has no conflict of interest with BDO LLP.

## 23.098 ACCOUNTS 2023/2024

- I) Summary of Receipts & Payments for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 presented to Council detailing bank reconciliation as follows:

|  |                   |            |
|--|-------------------|------------|
| Current Account Balance                            | £ 989.34          |            |
| Less: Cheques drawn but not debited as at 30.06.23 | - £ 23.29         |            |
| Deposit Account Balance                            | £15,477.74        |            |
| Money Market Balance                               | <u>£25,154.72</u> |            |
|  |                   | £41,598.51 |

- II) **Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Ruth Duffin and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** payments are approved:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| a) Clerk's Salary (July 2023)   | £ 799.99 |
| b) Clerk's Expenses (July 2023)   | £18.86   |
| c) Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's pension June 2023)   | £ 223.46 |
| d) DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Monthly Payroll Processing   | £ 36.36  |
| e) Beech Village Hall – Parish Council meeting  | £23.29   |
| f) Hampshire Association of Local Councils<br>(HALC Affiliation Fees & NALC Levy £293.88 + Councillor Training £117.60) | £411.48  |
| g) Mr G Webb – Timbco (handrail for bridleway 713)  | £960.00  |

## 23.099 MEETING DATES

Confirmed the date of the next Parish Council meeting as Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 at 7pm with public question time at 6.45pm.

CLOSURE OF MEETING – Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8pm.

signed: .....  
Chairman Beech Parish Council  
date: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023