

BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting Monday 23rd October 2023

PARTICIPANTS : Councillor Graham Webb (Chairman and Acting Clerk)
Councillor Kim Eakers
Councillor Nikki Pickard
Councillor Tony Ransley
Councillor Alana Coombes
Councillor Ingrid McCormack

23.118 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Ruth Duffin and from the Parish Clerk, Louisa Thomson.

23.119 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 25th September 2023, copies previously circulated,

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

23.120 PLANNING

Council considered one planning appeal, their comments (if any) to be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate.

NOTIFICATION OF RECEIPT OF ENFORCEMENT APPEALS

Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Appeals by: Mr Paul O'Brien Site at: Keepers Lodge, Basingstoke Road, Alton, GU34 4AB

On 27 July 2023 the District Council issued 3x Enforcement Notices relating to the above land, alleging a breach of planning control had occurred within a specified period of time. Mr Paul O'Brien has appealed against all three Enforcement Notices to the Planning Inspectorate. It has been decided that the appeal shall be determined by an Inspector appointed by the First Secretary of State and the appeal shall be determined by Hearing.

Proposed Nikki Pickard, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: Beech Parish Council strenuously supports EHDC's enforcement decisions in these cases.

23.121 AUTOSPEEDWATCH CAMERAS

Update from Councillor Tony Ransley:

- A meeting is being arranged with the police, EHDC, the Police & Crime Commissioner's representative and our MP's office to establish the procedures the police will use to handle data from AutoSpeedWatch systems, and the potential use of the police's mailing facilities.
- Bentworth SpeedWatch Group has agreed to affiliation with our AutoSpeedWatch team. This means that there will be joint Bentworth & Beech participation in the Hampshire Community SpeedWatch forum.
- The replacement camera on Kings Hill has been installed. The £385 grant for this has been received from district councillor Tony Costigan.
- The Parish Clerk has the full list of AutoSpeedWatch working group volunteers and they are in the process of signing up to the Parish Council's AutoSpeedWatch Policy.
- HCC's new policy on 20mph zones has still not been published.
- Councillor Ransley presented a note summarising speeding numbers in 2022 and 2023 and listing the top 20 offending vehicles since 1st September.

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Kim Eakers, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: To adapt Cllr Ransley's note into a one page A4 leaflet and print (at a cost of c.£30) and distribute it around the village at the earliest opportunity.

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: To approve the renewal of the AutoSpeedWatch annual connectivity license, £148 per camera, £444 total.

23.122 SOUTH EAST WATER

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to suspend Standing Orders so that Nick Ward (Chair, Water Pressure Working Group) can address the Council.

Nick Ward presented a draft questionnaire, for distribution to each household, seeking information about water leaks etc., together with a proposed timetable for the consultation process. It was agreed that an initial deadline for responses would be set, but that there may be a need to extend it while chasing more responses. The degree of complexity of the responses and subsequent analysis is difficult to predict, but a draft consultation report in time for the 15th January Parish Council meeting should be the provisional target. Councillors thanked Nick Ward for his hard work in setting up this project.

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to reinstate Standing Orders.

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the presented leaflet, subject to minor changes agreed at the meeting.

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Proposed Ingrid McCormack, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the printing of the leaflet at a cost of up to £40.

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the timetable's key dates, i.e. leaflet distribution by 17th November and the initial response deadline of 1st December.

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to reinstate Standing Orders.

23.123 FOOTWAYS PROJECT

Update from Councillor Graham Webb.

- We await a progress report on the on-road footway from HCC Highways, particularly its negotiation of the final safety audit.
- Regarding an alternative off-road footway alongside Bushy Leaze Wood, HCC Highways has been asked if it will permit a less engineered solution built to HCC Countryside footpath standards, with Beech Parish Council taking responsibility for future maintenance. A response is awaited.
- HCC Highways has confirmed that it will not replace the black & white plastic bollards at the Kings Hill bend with natural wood posts, as the latter will in time degrade and need replacement.

23.124 HCC STANDARD LETTERS FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Councillors noted the receipt from HCC of standard letters for use with landowners who need to (i) clear ditches and watercourses, and (ii) clear overhanging vegetation. It is envisaged that the letters will need to be tailored for each case, and that each case of sending such a letter will need to be approved by Councillors.

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: for the Chairman to use the standard letter text to send a letter to HCC requesting clearance/upgrade of the grips & ditches on their land adjoining Medstead Rd and Kings Hill, whose entrances are blocked by vegetation & debris, and which therefore do not divert surface water off the road.

23.125 PARISH COUNCIL SHARED FILES SYSTEM

Update from Councillor Kim Eakers.

- Cllr Eakers presented a draft Information Security Policy and explained the design of the shared file system and how access permissions will be granted.
- The next steps will be for Cllr Eakers to set up the system with the Parish Clerk, after which Councillors will need to set up gmail accounts in order to access the system, with training instruction where needed.

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the draft Information Security Policy subject to adding reference to the Council's AutoSpeedWatch Policy and minor typographical amendments.

23.126 CLIMATE & ECOLOGY BILL

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Ingrid McCormack, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: that the Council should not add its name to Zero Hour's petition to support the Climate & Ecology Bill.

23.127 ACCOUNTS 2023/2024

Proposed Kim Eakers, Seconded Nikki Pickard and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: payments are approved:

a)	Clerk's Salary (October 2023)	£ 799.99
b)	Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's pension October 2023)	£ 223.46
c)	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Monthly Payroll Processing	£ 36.36
d)	Beech Village Hall – Parish Council meeting	£23.29
e)	AutoSpeedWatch – Kings Hill replacement camera	£385.00
f)	AutoSpeedWatch – connectivity licenses	£444.00
g)	A Ransley – camera postage expense	£12.15

23.128 MEETING DATES

Confirmed the date of the next Parish Council meeting as Monday, 20th Nov 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 8.30pm.

signed:

Chairman Beech Parish Council
date: 20th November 2023