

BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting Monday 18th November 2024

PARTICIPANTS : Councillor Kim Eakers - Chairman
Councillor Tony Ransley
Councillor Ruth Duffin
Councillor Nikki Pickard
Councillor Alana Coombes
Louisa Thomson – Clerk to the Council

24.105 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Ingrid McCormack.

24.106 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st October 2024, copies previously circulated,
Proposed as a true record by Alana Coombes, Seconded by Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED and signed by Chairman Kim Eakers.

24.107 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Kim Eakers declared an interest in the Grant Application from Beech Village Hall.

24.108 PLANNING

- a) **Proposed Nikki Pickard, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** for the Clerk to defer all planning council meeting.
- b) Council considered one planning application, their comments to be forwarded to East Hampshire District Council.
21720/012 36 Wellhouse Road, Beech
T32 Ash - Tip reduction to horizontal radial canopy spread of 8 metres. T34 Oak - Tip reduction to a horizontal radial canopy spread of 8 metres. T106 Oak - Tip reduction to a horizontal radial canopy of 9 metres. TA Oak - Height 23 metres. Crown reduction to a final height of 15 metres with a horizontal radial canopy spread of 6 metres and re-shape to a natural form. TC Lawson Cypress – Height 17 metres. Reduce to 12 metres. TD Field Maple - Remove deadwood. TE Beech - 29 metres height. Crown reduction to a final height of 23 metres with a horizontal radial canopy spread of 9 metres and reshape to a natural form. TF Oak - 19 metres height. Crown reduction to a final height of 15 metres with a horizontal radial canopy spread of 6 metres and reshape to a natural form.
Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Ruth Duffin, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to defer the application to the EHDC Arboricultural Officer.

24.109 BEECH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

- a) Alana Coombes updated
 - The Neighbourhood Plan Review Working Group has seven members, including Councillors Alana Coombes and Tony Ransley.
 - The Working Group have had two informal meetings to introduce the members.
 - They will comprehensively review the current Neighbourhood Plan, the majority of which won't need a lot of work or updating.
 - The Working Group would like to engage John Slater, the same consultant who worked on the original plan.
 - A meeting needs to be arranged with EHDC.
 - All correspondence will go via the Clerk.
- b) **Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Alana Coombes, RESOLVED (Ruth Duffin Abstained):** to approve the Working Group applying for grant funding this will include a requirement to carry out a Housing Needs Assessment, this will be funded by the grant.
Should any costs arise the Working Group will come to the Council for approval.
- c) **Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley, RESOLVED (Ruth Duffin Abstained):** to engage consultant John Slater with an initial expenditure of up to £1,000.

24.110 OLD GRANGE ROAD

Update from Tony Ransley

- Hampshire Highways estimate the works will cost between £25,000-£30,000, but there are no resources available in the next two years.
- Hampshire Highways recommended two companies that could be approached to carry out the work; one company wasn't interested, the other provided a quotation of approximately £21,000.
- Confirm with Hampshire County Council they give permission for work to be carried out.

Proposed Nikki Pickard, Seconded Alana Coombes, RESOLVED (Ruth Duffin Abstained; Tony Ransley Against): that more evidence of a prioritised need is required before making a decision.

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24.111 ALTON RAMBLERS

Kim Eakers will contact the Alton Ramblers Footpath Secretary and report to Council.

Kim Eakers declared an interest in the next item and took no part in the discussion or decision.

Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Nikki Pickard, RESOLVED (Tony Ransley abstained): that Alana Coombes Chair the next item.

Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Nikki Pickard, RESOLVED (Tony Ransley abstained) to suspend Standing Orders so members of the Village Hall Committee can address the Council.

- The Village Hall aim to support the community of Beech and by encouraging outside users it increases funds to provide for the residents.
- The Wellhouse will provide space for community groups and practioners.
- Market research has been carried out which shows 80% of the community would use the facility and 70% see a need for it.
- There are 27 practioners interested in using the space for various uses such as; counselling; therapy; coaching; community support groups.
- Endorsement has been received from the Wilsom Practise, part of the A31 Primary Care Network. This would take proactive care from the hospital to the community.
- It's a large job to turn the annex into a warm comfortable space: insulation, ventilation, heating system, multi functional space, storage space by knocking through to the garage, waiting area from the existing lobby.
- Projected expenditure of £78,000 including contingency.
- Applying for grants from EHDC, the National Lottery and Viola, if successful this might provide a possible £40,000. With additional small business grants and fundraising from residents.
- The Village Hall will also provide funding from its reserves.
- They are requesting a grant from the Parish Council for up to £11,669, this amount will reduce if other grant applications are successful.

Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Nikki Pickard, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

24.112 GRANT APPLICATION

Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Nikki Pickard, RESOLVED (Ruth Duffin abstained): to approve grant funding up to £11,669 towards the Beech Village Hall Wellhouse refurbishment, the amount will reduce if other funding is received.

Kim Eakers rejoined the meeting, Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: Kim Eakers takes Chair.

24.113 ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

- a) Kim Eakers updated
 - Further works on the on-road footway will be carried out on the 25th and 26th November.
 - The Alton Herald published an article, this wasn't provided by the BRSWG.
 - Further positive feedback has been received with no further negative feedback.
- b) **Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to approve the draft press release subject to review / approval by EHDC CIL funding team.

24.114 AUTOSPEEDWATCH CAMERA AND SPEED INDICATOR SIGN

- a) October ASW report attached Appendix A.
- b) **Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to adopt the Data Protection Impact Assessment.
- c) **Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Tony Ransley, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to approve expenditure for two secure boxes £338, replacement battery £65 and connectivity licence tamper alarm £19.

24.115 DEFIBRILLATOR

Clerk to check if the defibrillator is insured if the cabinet is left unlocked.

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24.116 HAMPSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

This item is on the agenda for the HALC meeting next week.

Police Crime Commissioner and Neighbourhood Watch surveys in Hampshire have highlighted key issues of speeding and road safety.

24.117 SOUTH EAST WATER – No update.

24.118 REMOVE MEETING ATTENDANCE AND PROXY VOTING

Councillors to complete survey individually.

24.119 EHDC REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

Council have no feedback.

24.120 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2025/2026

Proposed Ruth Duffin, Seconded Nikki Pickard, RESOLVED (Tony Ransley abstained): having reviewed the budget to set the precept for 2025/2026 at £20,262.

24.121 CIL ANNUAL RETURN

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Nikki Pickard, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the CIL Annual Return for 2023/2024 and this will be sent to EHDC.

24.122 ACCOUNTS 2024/2025

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Ruth Duffin UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following payments are approved, payments will be authorised by Kim Eakers.

a)	Clerk's Salary (November 2024 including backpay from 1st April 2024)	£1070.50
b)	Clerk's Expenses (November 2024)	£120.62
c)	Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's pension – November 2024 + contributions on backpay)	£319.90
d)	DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd – Monthly Payroll processing November 2024	£36.36
e)	Beech Village Hall and Recreation Ground – November 2024 meeting	£23.29
f)	PJ Grace – Medstead Road Footpath maintenance	£1,080.00
g)	Tony Ransley - AutoSpeedWatch Connectivity Licenses £19 + Start Traffic Ltd £154.70	£173.70
h)	DHF Products Ltd – Footway road signs	£1,129.50
i)	Elan City – Speed Indicator Device & batteries	£3,089.76
j)	NAL – ASW Camera battery housing (Paid on pro-forma)	£555.98
k)	AutoSpeedWatch Cameras (Paid on pro-forma)	£1,813.88
l)	SSP – Average Speed Check Camera Sign (Paid on pro-forma)	£148.38

24.123 CLERK'S SALARY – NOTED BY COUNCIL

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services has agreed rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2024. The Clerk's contract states pay scale of SCP 20, this has increased by 62p per hour, this increase will be backdated to 1st April 2024. N

24.124 MEETING DATES - Confirmed the date of the next Council meeting as Monday, 20th January 2025 at 7pm. (A meeting may be called in December if urgent matters arise.)

CLOSURE OF MEETING - Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

signed:

Chairman Beech Parish Council
date: 20th January 2025