

# BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Louisa Thomson  
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## Minutes of the Meeting Monday 14th April 2025

PARTICIPANTS : Councillor Kim Eakers – Chairman  
Councillor Tony Ransley  
Councillor Ruth Duffin  
Councillor Nikki Pickard  
Councillor Alana Coombes  
Councillor Ingrid McCormack

Louisa Thomson - Clerk  
Members of the Public and Working Groups

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

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025, copies previously circulated.

**Proposed as a true record by Ingrid McCormack, Seconded by Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED and signed by Chairman Kim Eakers.**

### 25.039 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ruth Duffin declared a possible interest in item 8. Road Safety and Footpaths Working Group.

### 25.040 BEECH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

#### a) Housing Site Consultation

**Chairman Eakers suspended Standing Orders to allow Graham Webb from the Working Group to update council.**

Graham updated –

- 100 responses had been received on paper and online. The consultation closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.
- The results have been analysed and are attached Appendix A.
- The next Neighbourhood Plan will need to allocate some sites to give protection.
- Large sites will be allocated by the District Council, small sites in the Neighbourhood Plan will need to meet the housing requirements in the EHDC new local plan.
- Hopefully housing numbers will be known by the end of the year and the Working Group can then work with EHDC.

**Chairman Eakers thanked Graham for his work and reinstated Standing Orders.**

Alana Coombes confirmed the Working Group need to arrange a meeting with EHDC to discuss the results and has asked the Clerk to arrange this.

Tony Ransley updated that Strategic Environmental Assessments need to be carried out on every possible site, this could be up to 14 sites. It will be necessary to write to the landowners to ask permission to carry out the assessment.

**Proposed Ingrid McCormack, Seconded Alana Coombes, RESOLVED (Ruth Duffin abstained):** the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group apply for a grant to fund the Strategic Environmental Assessments.

### 25.041 BEECH ROAD SAFETY AND FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP

The Working Group have held two meetings to progress what they want to achieve, the meeting minutes will be shared when available.

**Chairman Eakers suspended Standing Orders to allow Graham Webb from the Working Group to report.**

- Members of the Working Group have carried out a footpath summary walk with Hampshire Countryside Services new warden and the head of Alton Ramblers.
- Any branches and vegetation will be cut back by the Alton Ramblers.
- Two areas where the bridleway surfaces have broken down which may be a project for Countryside Services to carry out the repairs.
  1. Bridleway from the top of Wellhouse Road to Thedden, the first 100 metres.
  2. Bridleway on the north side of Ackender Wood.
- There are large branches obstructing one footpath, Countryside Services will contact the landowner to get them cleared.
- It has been suggested to ask for volunteers to clear the bus stop area.
- Forestry England are considering what to do with the S106 money allocated to Ackender Wood.
- Kim Eakers will write to landowner thanking them for their footpath maintenance.

Footpath report attached Appendix B.

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## Chairman Eakers reinstated Standing Orders.

### 25.042 AUTO SPEEDWATCH

- March report attached Appendix C and is available on the Parish Council website.
- Average speed is still reduced.
- Still waiting for the Police to adopt the data.

### 25.043 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT

- Tony Ransley updated council that the main expenditure was the cost of the Road Traffic Order.
- A RTO doesn't have to be limited to one area or town.
- Alton Town Council may apply for a RTO to extend the 20MPH zone, Tony has asked if they would submit a joint application therefore reducing costs.
- South Warnborough and Lasham may also be considering RTO which could be included in the application and would reduce the costs further.

### 25.044 SOUTH EAST WATER

- The letter has been sent from SE Water to effected residents.
- Resident reported they had used the service and had received a very good response.

### 25.045 COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

Council reviewed its objectives for 2024-2025, Appendix D.

### 25.046 ACCOUNTS

- I) Summary of Receipts & Payments for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 were presented to Council detailing bank reconciliation as follows:

Current Account Balance	£ 1,242.44
Deposit Account Balance	£12,758.75
High Interest Deposit Bond –0296	£ 8,759.10
High Interest Deposit Bond - 3231	<u>£18,288.63</u>
	£41,048.92

- II) **Proposed Alana, Seconded Ingrid, RESOLVED (Tony Ransley abstained)** that the following payment are approved, payments will be authorised by Tony Ransley

a) Clerk's Salary - April 2025	£888.95
b) Clerk's Expenses – April 2025	£30.55
c) Hampshire Pension Fund - Clerk's Pension April 2025	£248.78
e) DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd – Monthly/Year End Payroll Processing	£72.72
f) Beech Village Hall and Recreation Ground	£50.25

### 25.047 MEETING DATES

The next scheduled Council meeting will be Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7pm public question time (non-agenda items) at 6.45pm.

CLOSURE OF MEETING – Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.05pm

signed: .....  
Chairman Beech Parish Council  
date: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025