

BEECH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting Monday 16th June 2025

PARTICIPANTS : Councillor Kim Eakers (Chair) Member of the BRSF Working Group
Councillor Tony Ransley
Councillor Alana Coombes
Councillor Nikki Pickard
Councillor Ruth Duffin
Louisa Thomson – Clerk to the Council

25.067 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Ingrid McCormack and District Councillor Tony Costigan.

25.068 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**
The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th May 2025, copies previously circulated,
Proposed as a true record by Alana Coombes, Seconded by Nikki Pickard, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED
and signed by Chairman Kim Eakers.

25.069 DECLARATION OF INTEREST - Councillor Ruth Duffin declared an interest in agenda item 7. Beech Neighbourhood Plan Review.

Councillor Ruth Duffin left the meeting for the next item.

25.070 BEECH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

a) Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Kim Eakers suspended Standing Orders so Graham Webb from the Working Group can update.

- The Working Group have a meeting with EHDC on the 17th June which will hopefully provide more information on how to proceed.
- The initial draft has been circulated to councillors.
- There is uncertainty around which sites, if any, EHDC will allocate housing to within Beech.

The main areas of change to the current Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

- 1. The Initial Draft (Draft 2 of 31 May) of the Modified Neighbourhood Plan**
This shows the extensive proposed amendments to the existing (the 'Original') Neighbourhood Plan. I intend to run through the significant changes at the PC meeting, but in summary they consist of the following major changes to policies and supporting text:
 - Adjusting policies to accommodate the likely future developments away from the existing village in the form of estates of new houses, of various sizes.
 - Changes to the Settlement Policy Boundary (SPB) in the light of new housing developments, and possibly to include the existing housing on Kings Hill (see below).
 - Likely reduction of the Beech-Alton non-coalescence area in light of new housing developments.
 - A new policy to prevent new ribbon development between Beech and Medstead (to replace the Beech-Medstead gap policy unfortunately dropped from the Original Plan).
 - Identifying locally important heritage assets for protection (potentially Thedden Grange, the Abbey, and the church).
 - Allocating one or more small new housing sites in the Neighbourhood Plan (and acknowledging the allocation of one or more large new housing sites in EHDC's new Local Plan).
 - Possible new policy around new commercial development at Alton Abbey.
 - A new policy dealing with water supply and wastewater infrastructure (to replace the drainage policy unfortunately dropped from the Original Plan, and to support new SE Water infrastructure).
- 2. Email correspondence (with attachments) from 2018 on incorporating Kings Hill into the SPB**
In 2018 the PC decided not to extend the SPB to incorporate the Kings Hill housing, despite the (then) NP Steering Group recommending it. The opinion of our consultant John Slater is in the email. What the NP Steering Group seeks **now** is approval **in principle** (or not) to pursue with EHDC the inclusion of existing Kings Hill housing in an enlarged SPB. The SPB is likely to change anyway because of new development, which may even join Kings Hill housing to the rest of the village. The precise boundaries of a changed SPB (including around Kings Hill housing) would be agreed by the PC at a later date.

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3. List of Neighbourhood Plan issues to be resolved

We would like the PC's approval to contact EHDC and others to start gathering information to resolve these issues.

Kim Eakers reinstated Standing Orders.

Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: the Parish Council are happy with work to date and for the Working Group to proceed including discussions with EHDC on Kings Hill Settlement Policy Boundary.

- b) Tony Ransley updated that government grants are no longer available for Neighbourhood Plans.

Clerk will check with EHDC whether it's possible to use Neighbourhood CIL to fund the review including the £1,000 already spent on the consultant.

Councillor Ruth Duffin rejoined the meeting

25.071 BEECH ROAD AND FOOTPATH SAFETY WORKING GROUP - Kim Eakers updated.

Kim Eakers suspended Standing Orders so Graham Webb from the Working Group can update.

Graham met with PJ Grace regarding clearing the bus stop footpath and a quotation has been received, no further quotations have been received to date.

Kim Eakers reinstated Standing Orders.

Proposed Alana Coombes, Seconded Nikki Pickard, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: the clerk will endeavour to get second quotation, the contractor with the lowest quotation will be asked to carry out the work.

Kim Eakers suspended Standing Orders for a further update from Graham Webb.

- The Working Group are waiting for Countryside Services to get back to them regarding the bridleway to Thedden.
- No quotations for clearing the grips and ditches have been received.

Kim Eakers reinstated Standing Orders

25.072 AUTOSPEEDWATCH CAMERA AND SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

- a) Tony Ransley updated
- Community Interest Company – achieving community objectives. They could possibly write to private individuals committing speeding offences, this would have to be done with the approval of the police.
 - Autospeedwatch May report attached Appendix A.
- b) **Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Alana Coombes, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** not to take out the extended warranty with Elan City Ltd for the two Speed Indicator Devices.
- c) **Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Nikki Pickard, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to approve purchase of an AutoSpeedWatch camera to replace the last version 1 camera in the village which will bring all the cameras in line and make the average speed measurements more reliable, costing approved up to £345.
- d) The Clerk will email the Police and Crime Commissioner inviting her to attend a Parish Council meeting. The Clerk will also contact the local Police Officer regarding attending a Parish Council meeting.

25.073 20MPH SPEED LIMIT – No update

25.074 INTERNAL AUDITOR

Proposed Tony Ransley, Seconded Ruth Duffin, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to confirm the appointment of Nigel Sillick as Internal Auditor for 2025/2026.

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25.075 ACCOUNTS 2025/26

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

a)	Clerk's Salary (June 2025)	£888.95
b)	Clerk's Expenses (June 2025)	£30.48
c)	Hampshire Pension Fund (Clerk's pension – June 2025)	£248.78
d)	HM Revenue & Customs – April, May & June	£228.51
e)	DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd – Monthly Payroll processing	£38.28
f)	Beech Village Hall and Recreation Ground	£24.76

25.076 MEETING DATE

Confirmed the date of the next scheduled Council meeting as Monday, 21st July 2025 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: 21st July 2025