

BEAULIEU PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT

Cllr. N. Hubbard, Cllr. P. Fairweather, Cllr. S. Steele, Cllr. C. Knight, Cllr. S. Reece, Cllr. M. Grindrod, Cllr. M. Dolbear, Cllr. K. Redpath

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr. K. Mans, Mrs. R. Pearson, Mr. C. Cooke-Hurle, Mrs. N. Deering (Clerk)

Minute Ref			Action
2253	APOLOGIES	Cllr. D. Poole.	
2254	CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS	None.	
2255	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	Cllr. Knight – Hilltop House planning application.	
2256	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING	Approval of December Minutes Cllr. Reece said she had been unable to read them due to eye injury. Cllr. Fairweather said it was Cllr. Dolbear who said he would talk to Richard at New Forest Activities about emptying the waste bin, not himself. Proposed: Cllr. Fairweather Seconded: Cllr. Dolbear Motion carried unanimously.	
2257	REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS	HCC Cllr. Mans said there will be a meeting next week to set the council tax, where we set the budget for the following year. Had success with a fairly intensive campaign to explain the situation in the	

Minute Ref			Action
		<p>county and virtually every other county in the country about funding. Result local authorities got an additional £600m, equates around £10m for Hampshire, we get approx. 2% of total for social care. We have set our social care budget which we are carrying out a consultation as to which of those services people would prefer us to keep and need. Consultation ends 31st March. Mentioned the possible shutting of the recycling centre at Marchwood. Cllr. Hubbard said that it is an excellent facility. Cllr. Mans encouraged pariushioners to provide feedback on the consultation. Cllr. Mans said they have a new app ‘Our Hants’ which covers this. Cllr. Mans said his devolved budget has been used up, new one starts end May/beginning June.</p> <p>Cllr. Hubbard said he attended a local parish councils meeting in November and Cllr. Nick Adams-King gave an update on roads and speeding and he said there was going to be a proposal put to HCC on some of the requirements for speed reduction and giving more flexibility to parish councils to address speeding, not HCC funded, but with support from local community, and if funding could be found, a relaxation of some of the restrictions on parish councils. Cllr. Mans said he is in favour and said it will give parish councils more discretion. Said in Lincolnshire there a quite a lot of 20mph signs in villages that look very much like real ones but just changed the colours. Hope those are going to happen here. Said we should put money in the budget this year for that.</p> <p>Asked if we had sorted out the waste bin issue. Cllr. Hubbard said yes, we have reduced the number of bins we have responsibility for be collected to 5, pay approx. £5,000 a year + maintenance. We came to an agreement.</p> <p>New Forest District Council Not present, but circulated report.</p> <p>Police ‘Alert’ report received and circulated.</p>	
2258	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	<p>Mr. Cooke-Hurle said had two concerns re High Street. 1) Street sweeping, said they turn up at random times, they used to come on the same day every month and residents knew this and moved their cars. Now it is a complete waste of time and money, as we are not notified. 2) Drains – problem at the moment that the drain outside Whitehall in frequently blocked. Council do come and put pipe down to unblock the drain, but they are not actually clearing the flow, so when it rains hard the water is coming up onto the pavement and it is getting worse. The wetter it gets the more problems are caused. The whole drain needs rodding. Cllr. Mans said this is HCC Highways.</p>	

Minute Ref			Action
		<p>Cllr. Hubbard asked who we contact, replied email him and he will pass it on. Cllr. Hubbard said Iain Park is responsible for sweeping, and he has said it will not be possible to notify residents every time the High Street is swept, but will always try and do this service safely. Will continue to press for notice.</p> <p>Mr. Cooke-Hurle also said he feels it is a complete waste of money to have the lights on in the car park all night, they are dimmed about 10pm. Suggestion would be to turn the lights off at 10pm and put movement sensors in. Turning lights off we would improve the environment and save 8 hours of lights being on. Cllr. Hubbard asked Cllrs. what they thought, Cllr. Knight agreed they should be turned off. Cllr. Steele said they are in the consultation document we spoke about. All agreed. Mrs. Pearson said movement sensors a good idea and consistent with the Estate's approach. Cllr. Fairweather asked whether NFDC are responsible for the car park and lighting. Agreed we will raise with NFDC in the first instance.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
2259	MATTERS ARISING	<p>Submission of Precept to NFDC - Sent and circulated.</p> <p>NFDC litter collection proposals actions – Circulated response from Iain Park. Broadly its fine. They seem to have lost track of some bin numbers, what is important is to get the 5 we are responsible for and make sure they are listed. Going to swap 2 of the dog waste bins for general bins. Price came out exactly as we worked out. Drafted a reply. Talked about potential signage, nothing been agreed, but feel a good idea to put some in certain places ie playground. Cllr. Fairweather said there will be no change in the frequency of emptying their bins. There was a large degree of flexibility about adjusting. Had talked about one empty per week in winter, then if problem we could increase it, but they came back and said only if we have bigger bins, bit vague. Said for H&S reasons if only emptied once a week they maybe too heavy. Cllr. Fairweather said if there are locations where it would be acceptable to have a bigger bin, we could half our emptying costs, as big bins cost the same as ones half the size. Worth bearing in mind when the times comes for replacing. Cllr. Hubbard feels stay with what we have and lets run with it for a year and see how it goes. Happy with the 5 bins we have, but may have issues as they think the liners may need replacing. Cllr. Fairweather said maybe some of the bins we are removing will have good liners and we can use them– Asset Management Committee to consider. Mrs. Pearson confirmed that the Estate are happy to remove bins.</p>	<p>Cllr. Grindrod</p>

Minute Ref			Action
		<p>High Street Parking Actions – Cllr. Hubbard said the PC will write to traders and school and Mrs. Pearson confirmed the Estate had written to residents.</p> <p>Asset Management Actions –Cllr. Grindrod said netting completed and have invoice. Have 2 bags of bark in stock, order 8 more. Cllr. Dolbear to confirm price. Cllr. Grindrod said the gate by school to community field has been locked. Cllr. Lewis to talk to school. Noted that the country wire needs replacing at side of playground. Mrs Pearson agreed Estate will replace. Cllr. Hubbard said we talked about the bus shelters being our responsibility. Cllr. Dolbear feels they need an annual/6 month inspection. Mrs. Pearson said looked at one by Abbey wall and the back wall needs painting and fencing along the front is not too good. Cllr. Hubbard asked Mrs. Pearson we if we could meet and look at them. Mrs. Pearson said she would ask Chris to go with members of Asset Management team.</p> <p>Circulate Speed Watch dates – Cllr. Grindrod said there has been none as too dark. Cllr. Dolbear said they have been active across the forest. Cllr. Hubbard said we did write to Donna Lewis, she has passed to local policeman. Said they are starting up project ‘Mountie’ again. Had not heard how successful it was on the B3054, one of the worse roads for animal deaths. Said our policeman would be happy to attend one of our meetings. Will arrange,</p> <p>Twinning Garden actions – Abby’s gate, Estate have written and asked her not to put her washing there. Cllr. Reece asked about extending gate upwards, Mrs. Pearson felt Lord Montagu may not like that idea. Mrs Pearson to consider further.</p> <p>Police Grant – Have given them all the details they requested, but grant not in our account. Clerk to chase. Complete verification form when received.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr. Lewis Mrs Pearson</p> <p>Cllr. Grindrod / Mrs Pearson</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Mrs Pearson</p> <p>Clerk</p>
2260	DRAFT STANDING ORDERS & FINANCIAL REGULATIONS	<p>Cllr. Hubbard said he has circulated these. Will talk through them and would like these and outstanding policies complete by AGM. Three documents –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility of Council, Chair, Vice Chair, Committee Chairs and Parish Councillors. This with one exception are mostly standard HALC guidance being that Vice Chair meets with all Councillors to understand what is going well or areas we need to improve. 	

Minute Ref			Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Conduct, Respect Pledge – all Councillors have signed. Cllr. Lewis said she found the documents very useful. Set out what members all do. • Standing Orders – these are standard and very similar to East Boldre PC and other PC’s. Finance and General Purposes Committee had discussions about contracting, section 18, it talks about public contracting in excess of £25,000, which we are unlikely to have. Financial Regulations we looked at them in more details. If we are doing something that lowers the threshold – ie with anything that costs more than £10,000 the Clerk to obtain 3 tenders. <p>Re Financial Regulations, we have more ability to make these fit what we need, bringing in controls etc. Internal Audit which we do every year. Budget controls, any item over £50 needs approval, if under £50 the Clerk can approve on behalf of the council. Said if between meetings there is an emergency, something urgent needs to be done, then the Clerk and Chairman can approve up to £250 ie cannot wait until next meeting. Clerk will email Cllrs asap and report at next meeting. Said we do not do electronic banking. Taken out quite a lot of matters like work orders that are not relevant to us. Re Assets, we need to sort out Asset Register, if cannot find then make a list of our assets and put on website. Risk Management - we do risk assessments and importantly about playground, defib etc. Need to formalise this asap. Cllr. Grindrod does monthly review of playground assets. Suggested reports are placed on a restricted area on our website. Cllr Grindrod to request.</p> <p>Cllr. Fairweather said Cllr. Hubbard has done a very thorough job on these and also thanked Cllr. Steele for spending a lot of time checking these. If Cllrs. have comments, please circulate by email to all Cllrs in next 2 weeks. Documents to be tabled for approval at next council meeting.</p>	<p>Cllr. Grindrod</p> <p>All cllrs.</p> <p>Clerk</p>

Minute Ref		Action
	<p>23/01671 – Owlswood, Dock Lane, Beaulieu. SO42 7YJ Single storey rear extension, alterations to existing conservatory, partial conversion of garage to habitable floorspace, porch, cladding, alterations to doors and windows, rooflight, roof alterations to garage and conservatory, solar panels. BPC recommend refuse for the following reasons but would accept the decision reached by the NPA’s officers under their delegated powers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposals do not conform with DP36 as proposed new habitable floorspace exceeds 30%. 2. The proposals are compliant with DP36 excluding the conversion of the garage. BPC would support the application if the conversion of the garage is excluded from the proposals. <p>Proposed: Cllr. Hubbard Seconded Cllr. Reece All in agreement.</p> <p>Forest End – Enforcement officer said no case to answer, re outbuilding, stable under permitted development. Cllr. Steele will circulate email from Enforcement office. Sowley House – Solar panels – application withdrawn. Cllr. Hubbard thanked Cllr. Steele.</p> <p>ASSET MANAGEMENT – None SPEEDWATCH – None TWINNING GARDEN - Cllr. Reece reported that it has been very wet and going as well as it can be this time of the year. Said Prue Rawlings now on rota. Cllr. Steele said some of the volunteers are not living in Beaulieu and would be good to get local support, maybe a resident would be able to help with watering. Cllr. Hubbard thanked Cllrs. Reece, Knight and Steele and Mrs. Shanks for their work.</p>	

Minute Ref			Action
2262	FINANCE	<p>Cllr. Fairweather said circulated summary. Accounts looking positive and savings are feeding through.</p> <p>Bank Payments Paul Deakin - £105.00 Clerk – Salary and stamps - £556.00 Cllr. Hubbard – Lymington Printing - £36.80 Infinity Playgrounds Ltd - £1,068.00 The Back Office - £275.00 Proposed: Cllr. Fairweather Seconded: Cllr. Dolbear All in agreement.</p>	
2263.	CORRESPONDENCE	None.	
2264.	ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS	Approval of new Standing Orders and Financial Regulations Ropeway Corner.	

Meeting closed at 8.30p.m.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 21st March, 6.30p.m.