

BEAULIEU PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST MARCH 2024

PRESENT

Cllr. N. Hubbard, Cllr. P. Fairweather, Cllr. S. Steele, Cllr. C. Knight, Cllr. M. Dolbear,

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr. K. Mans, Mrs. N. Deering (Clerk)

Minute Ref			Action
2265	APOLOGIES	Cllr. S. Reece, Cllr. K. Lewis, Cllr. D. Poole	
2266	CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS	<p>The Chair reported that Cllr. Grindrod had resigned with immediate effect and had unfortunately had to accept his resignation. He was a very respected member of the council. He has been selfless in supporting the council, most recently in chairing the Asset Management Committee, which he has done extremely well leading to the improvement in the ROSPA reports. His contribution to council meetings he will be missed. Propose that I write on behalf of the council thanking him. All Cllrs. agreed. Cllr. Fairweather said he has contacted Mark to arrange a meeting with him to discuss. Chair said we will go through his responsibilities. Asset Management – resigned as Chair. Suggest we do not fill that position till we get to the AGM.</p> <p>On Mark's responsibilities, it was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed that we shall fill the Asset Management chair at the AGM • Website – Cllr. Hubbard will handle for the time being • Speed Watch: Cllr. Knight agreed to take this on. Clerk liaise with Mark Norman so that Cllr. Knight has the dates dates. 	<p>Cllr. Fairweather</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaulieu Estate planning decisions: Cllr. Hubbard had spoken with Mrs. Pearson and no planning applications coming through in the next couple of months, so no immediate action required. <p>On other matters the Clerk conformed that the Casual Vacancy Notice been posted on website and notice board and been sent to NFDC. If 10 people ask for an election in the next 14 days we will need to hold one. If not, we shall advertise the position.</p> <p>Vice Chair position – Cllr. Dolbear confirmed that he will be putting his name forward at the AGM. He also confirmed that he is happy to chair the Finance & General Purposes Committee following the upcoming retirement of Cllr. Fairweather. Cllr. Hubbard thanked Cllr. Dolbear.</p>	
2267	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	None.	
2268	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING	Approval of February Minutes Proposed: Cllr. Fairweather Seconded: Cllr. Dolbear Motion carried unanimously.	
2269	REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS	HCC Cllr. Mans said you will have received your council tax bills. Said the police precept is larger than one to DC, it has crept up over the years. Said school transport some years ago was below £32m and we got it down to £29m, now £65m. In his view should be means tested for families. Cllr. Steele asked what was the % for social care before covid and has it increased? Replied do not have the figures, will check. Said there is no rise in children not going to school in Hants, it is below national average, we kept more schools open during covid. Rise in mental health issues, need to focus on serious ones. Very worrying. Talked about problems with flooding in Furzey Lane and Ropeway Corner. Said flooding is a big issue at the moment. Said his councillor grant budget is now spent and reopens at end of May, so let me know if you have any ideas for projects. Cllr.	

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		<p>Hubbard said thank you for link to the HCC consultation, put on Beaulieu WharsApp and encouraged people to complete as there are some quite serious issues. Cllr Hubbard asked where HCC / NFDC are with the proposed changes in refuse collection, incl the introduction of wheelie bins. Cllr. Mans said it is a two tier authority, NFDC are responsible for collection and HCC for disposal. A key problem has been Central Government changing policy re recycling. The level is low in Hants because we went down the incineration route so level of landfill is low. Is incineration necessary at all? Should we just recycle more? We have some way to go before we get recycling right. If you go to German supermarkets, recycling is done at the checkouts, they have bins for all packaging. In Lincolnshire they have four or more bins, different colours, think that's probably the way its going to go. Obviously in our area, being in the countryside it's not practical to have wheelie bins in all cases. Cllr. Hubbard asked if we need a new recycling plant? Replied that a lot is done near Havant, where it all gets separated, but it's not large enough, we need another. Government cannot decide how recycling should be separated. Cllr, Mans asked when the AGM is. Cllr. Hubbard confirmed 16th May. Clerk to send confirmation email.</p> <p>NFDC Cllr. Poole not present.</p> <p>Police 'Alert' report circulated.</p>	Clerk
2270	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	None.	
2271	MATTERS ARISING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Street sweep – all done. • Waste Bins – Council agreed to remove certain bins. Cllr. Hubbard reported that Mrs Pearson has confirmed that the Estate will remove and store and also review liners. • High Street Parking – Letters went to traders and residents. • Community Field Arrangements – Cllr. Lewis to talk to school. • Playground – Write to Mrs. Pearson and ask if county wire and large field gate into playing has been looked at as hinges dropped. • Bus Shelters Review – Cllr. Hubbard to liaise with Mrs. Pearson. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Grant – sent invoice and hope to receive this month. • 	
2272	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	None	
2273	CLLR. RESPONSIBILITIES, NEW STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS	<p>Cllr Hubbard confirmed he had received no further comments. Confirmed he has updated them only to change Chairman to Chair and put into format consistent with other policies</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr. Dolbear Seconded: Cllr. Steele Carried unanimously</p>	
2274	BPC COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS	<p>CDA/NFALC/Forest Update – Nothing to report</p> <p>Planning Update: 24/00119 – River House, Dock Lane, Beaulieu. SO42 7YJ Replacement dwelling (demolition of existing); staff accommodation (demolition of existing); Outbuildings; gates and fencing; garden wall with attached glass house. BPC recommend refusal for the following reasons;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BPC has not been able to gain from the NPA clarification on the habitable space calculations used for the replacement dwelling and has not had the benefit of the Building and Conservation Officer's report which is not yet available despite consultation on this application ending on March 29th 2024. As a result BPC cannot support the application at this stage and recommends refusal. 2. The proposal for the main dwelling does not conform with planning policy DP35 for replacement buildings. The existing main dwelling has already been extended by 30% and therefore to conform with planning policy DP35 the replacement dwelling should be no larger than the existing one on the site at 397.5 sq. metres. However, habitable space in the proposed new dwelling has been increased to 472.5 sq. metres by incorporating 75 sq. 	

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		<p>metres from the separate staff accommodation building. The NPA planning rules clearly state that habitable space in detached outbuildings cannot be incorporated into the main dwelling. BPC considers this to be an important planning policy which should be upheld in order to control the size of replacement buildings in the NP. We also note that the very sizable basement contains areas, such as the home cinema, that would normally be considered habitable space making the proposed replacement dwelling considerably larger than that allowed under planning policy DP35.</p> <p>3. The River House is situated in the Beaulieu River Conservation Area and is in a particularly sensitive stretch of the Beaulieu River in terms of nature conservation. Whilst the BPC does not have an issue with the architectural style of the replacement dwelling, we have concerns over the increased mass of the building due to the introduction of a second storey which will result in its central section being approximately 4.1 metres higher than the existing bungalow. There is minimal mature tree cover screening the property with the result we are concerned that viewed from the river the proposed new dwelling will look too prominent.</p> <p>4. We acknowledge that the area of the proposed fenestration is less than that of the existing property. However, there is a higher concentration in the massing of the proposed windows facing the river. The ground floor windows are also more prominent set 1.0m higher than the existing windows. The BPC has concerns that this, which is exacerbated by the proposed windows on the elevated second storey, will produce an unacceptable level of light spill that will impact on the tranquillity and dark skies of the Beaulieu River and the NP. The use of modern glass technology across all of the river-facing windows may enable the light spillage to be reduced somewhat but the prominence of the two-storey building from the river is still of concern.</p> <p>In view of the sensitivity of this riverside site we would very much welcome the Building and Conservation Officer's assessment of this proposal.</p> <p>24/00233 Southern Water Services Ltd, Beaulieu Sewage Works, Fire Station Lane, Beaulieu. SO42 7YF</p>	

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	<p>Application for screening opinion under Regulation 6 of the Town and Country planning regulation 2017 in respect of upgrade to a waste water treatment works.</p> <p>BPC recommend permission 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. BPC have no objections to the work being undertaken under permitted development rights. <p>Asset management</p> <p>Playground Inspection – Cllr. Hubbard said Cllr. Lewis has been briefed by Cllr. Grindrod to take that over. Cllr. Steele stepped in and did this month’s check. Cllr. Steele thought it a good idea if we met in the playground and agree the ongoing process and timing of the playground inspection and how it is to be recorded. Chairman confirmed that a private space is to be created to store Council documents including the monthly inspection reports</p> <p>Chair said we will be ordering more bark. Cllr. Dolbear said it was £85 per bag, now £87.50. Said he has two bags in store. Said cheaper if we order a lorry load, as transport costs are more expensive with small orders. He will store till needed. Cllr. Steele said she needed 1 or 2 bags now. Chair said if you agree a day, I will help spread the bark. Cllr. Steele said Paul maybe able to help. Cllr. Steele said we need to book a ROSPA inspection.</p> <p>Waste Bins - Cllr. Hubbard said he would liaise with Mrs. Pearson and Chris, re removal of waste bins, needs to be done by end of March. Cllr. Dolbear said New Forest Activities was not keen in getting involved with the bin at Baileys Hard. Suggested taking it away, encourage people to take their rubbish with them. All agreed to remove that bin and monitor it.</p> <p>Defib – Cllr. Steele said she will continue to inspect this and is aware not organised any training. One of the reasons is because the school now have their own defib, and Katherine said they did not need any training, but will organise a training session for anyone in the village.</p> <p>CCTV – Cllr. Fairweather said he is happy to continue to help in whatever way he can after May. Cllr. Hubbard said then we can ask a Councillor to take this on. Cllr. Hubbard thanked Cllr. Fairweather.</p>	Clerk

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		<p>Twining Garden – Cllrs. Knight and Reece to continue their work. Cllr. Knight said they were waiting for better weather and dryer ground. Cllr. Steele said she is on duty next week with Lindy Shanks and said Cllr. Reece is looking at shrubs to plant.</p> <p>Bus Shelters – Cllr. Hubbard will talk to Mrs. Pearson and Chris.</p> <p>Noticeboard – keep under review for weather damage</p>	
2275	FINANCE	<p>Cllr. Fairweather said monthly finance report on back of agenda. Said figures continue to look relative to our original forecast, saving costs in particular training, contingency, election costs. VAT to be claimed. Result in a modest surplus if things continue. Bank balance £19,350.57</p> <p>Bank Payments for approval: Paul Deakin - £87.50 Clerk – £275.00 BVHT - £135.00 NFDC - £6,050.21 Proposed: Cllr. Fairweather Seconded: Cllr. Steele All in agreement.</p>	
2276	CORRESPONDENCE	Countryside Voice	
2277	ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS	Cllr. Steele mentioned the gates at the end of Dock Lane. The large gate will not shut and dropped, little side gate is broken, rotten and fallen to the ground. Both sides of cattlegrid needs attention. Agreed to raise with Mrs Pearson	Clerk

Meeting closed at 7.50p.m.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 18th April, 6.30p.m.