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**Minutes of Council Meeting**  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 6.30p.m. Beaulieu Village Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllr. N. Hubbard (Chair), Cllr. M. Dolbear (Vice Chair), Cllr. S. Steele, Cllr. C. Knight, Cllr. S. Reece, Cllr. J. Rowland.

**In attendance:**

Cllr. K. Mans, Cllr. D. Poole joined meeting at 6.50p.m. Mr. N. Barwood, Mrs. Pearson joined the meeting at 7.20pm. Mrs. N. Deering (Clerk)

**2595 Apologies and confirmation of agenda:**

Apologies from: Cllr. Cowie.

The draft agenda previously circulated was confirmed. Cllr. Hubbard said he changed it to include the approval of 3 year plan and 2026/27 Precept.

**2596 Chair's opening remarks**

Cllr. Hubbard noted a busy year, with much addressed across various committees. Expressed gratitude for everyone's contributions and support from Cllr. Mans, Cllr. Poole, Mrs. Pearson, and Mr. Barwood. Wished all a happy Christmas.

**2597 Declarations of interest in current agenda**

Cllr. Dolbear – Planning.

**2598 Minutes of last meeting**

Cllr. Hubbard said apologies that Minutes came out late. No comments.

Proposed: Cllr. Steele    Seconded: Cllr. Dolbear    Unanimously agreed.

**2599 Local Government Reorganisation**

Cllr. Hubbard suggested writing to Sir Julian Lewis, the local MP, about the consultation, noting that it can be completed online either individually or as a parish council. Cllr. Steele agreed this was worthwhile, and Hubbard offered to draft a letter

on behalf of the council, proposing it would be stronger with support from other parish councils. The group discussed including names of all relevant parishes and sending the letter for their endorsement, aiming to prevent the New Forest from being grouped with Southampton. Cllr. Mans advocated for a united message across parishes and supported options that provide value for taxpayers without splitting core services. The consultation ends January 11<sup>th</sup>. Sir Julian supports the District option. The government decision is expected at the end of March. Concerns were raised about potential disruptions from subdividing services and uncertainty regarding upcoming elections.

## **2600 Representatives reports**

**HCC** – Cllr. Mans mentioned M27, Junction 10 being closed, please spread this info.

**NFDC** - Cllr. Poole asked if any action was needed. Cllr. Hubbard mentioned applying for a grant for an electronic speed sign (£2,500) and Cllr. Poole will check with SILL for eligibility. The purchase of the sign is included in the next budget. Cllr. Steele noted that Cllr. Cowie is seeking help regarding the road markings by the bridge. Cllr. Poole requested details to determine who can assist.

**Police** – Cllr. Hubbard said he put on WhatsApp about the break-in of two garages at the top of High Street. Nothing stolen. Alert circulated.

## **2601 Local Government Reorganisation**

Already discussed.

## **2602 Approval of Three Year Plan**

Council reviewed the three-year plan, noting a proposed precept of £22,322 for next year, with a 7.5% Band D property rate if no external funding is received. Cllr. Steele suggested allocating funds for Twinning Garden maintenance since volunteers are scarce and major work is needed. A £1,500 allocation was proposed, raising the precept to £23,822. The proposal by Cllr. Dolbear, seconded by Cllr. Steele, was unanimously approved.

## **2603 Council Updates**

- **Playground & Recreational Field:** Cllr. Steele said she imagines Cllr. Cowie has carried out the usual checks. Paul Deakin had reported no identified problems. Cllr. Dolbear said we have 3 bags of bark left. Cllr. Steele said that when we get dryer weather in January/February, we will top up the bark. Said to do 2 bags at a time. The swing seems to be fine.
- **Councillor Training Update:** Clerk said she has booked Cllrs. Knight and Reece on the Knowledge & Core Skills course on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 10am – 2.30pm. Hockley Golf Club.
- **Electronic banking:** Cllr. Hubbard said the Clerk will start after Christmas; Cllrs. Dolbear, Steele, and I are approved and it's working well. Cllr. Poole added that Totton

will have a new banking hub by autumn, ensuring cash access and in-person service before Lloyds closes.

- **Data protection** – Cllr. Hubbard said regarding email addresses, said it took 10 minutes to set the Clerk up and all Cllrs. need to do this. From 1st January we will not use any personal email addresses, so be grateful if everyone could do this by then. If there is a problem we can get someone to set your kit up. This is essential if we have an audit. It must be done.
- **BPC Identity** – Cllr. Hubbard said Cllr. Cowie has done 2 further logos, picked up keeping the oak leaf and ear of wheat and made the church look much more like Beaulieu Abbey Church. Cllr. Dolbear said it was very good with the horseshoe boat, think it encompasses all. Cllr. Hubbard said he has done a very good job. All agreed and note of thanks to Cllr. Cowie who made it our own. Proposed: Cllr. Rowland Seconded: Cllr. Steele. Unanimously agreed. Cllr. Hubbard said we will get it on the website and notice board.

## **2604 Public participation**

Mr. Barwood asked Cllr. Mans if car parking charges require planning consent; he replied that as these are not public highways or County Council property, permission is likely unnecessary. Cllr. Reece confirmed planning permission is not needed. Cllr. Poole mentioned Sir Julian Lewis's involvement in the matter. Cllr. Hubbard explained that risk assessments have been undertaken by FE on the impact of the car park charging. Covered in the last Quadrant meeting and FE was encouraged to share these with parish clerks. There is also confusion about the charging system. Nigel Stone (NPA) was supportive of FE sharing this information but no progress has occurred. Richard Burke (FE) leads the project but is not visible. Commoners will receive six passes each. Cllr. Reece expressed uncertainty over operations. Cllr. Poole recounted donkeys struggling to cross ditches near Matley, raising safety concerns, which Richard Burke had dismissed. Cllr. Hubbard questioned the principle of charging, noting revenue will apparently go to the FE southern region rather than the NF / improving car parks. The group agreed to write to Sir Julian Lewis and Cllr. Hubbard will draft a letter. Mrs. Pearson stressed consideration of the adverse impact on visitor car parks, supported by Mr. Fairweather.

## **2605 Committee & representative's reports**

CDA/NFALC/NFCC/Forest update – Nothing.

Planning Update – 25/01293 FULL – Beufre Barn, Beufre, Bucklers Hard Road, Beaulieu. SO42 7XA. BPC recommends permission for the following reasons, but would accept the decision reached by the NPA's officers under their delegated powers. 1) The proposed changes to roof and external wall finishes are felt to be more appropriate to the building than the original specification. 2) The changes will have no impact on the listed setting.

25/01248 FULL AND 25/01247 LBC – Beaulieu Fine Arts, Manor House, High Street, Beaulieu. SO42 7YA. BPC recommends permission for the following reasons but would accept the decision reached by the NPA's officers under their delegated powers. 1) The

proposal is felt to have a limited impact on the integrity of the listed building. 2) It has the advantage of regularising the commercial and residential areas of the building. 3) The proposals will have no impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area as are all internal. Also did update on two planning situations that are ongoing. 13<sup>th</sup> January is our next planning meeting.

Asset Management – Cllr. Hubbard confirmed receipt with thanks of £560 from Beaulieu Settled Estate for bus shelter repairs. Cllr. Steele stated Messrs. Smith and Braithwaite will begin work when weather allows. Mrs. Pearson confirmed temporarily storing the old roof in a bag in the car park. Updates regarding Cllr. Cowie’s report will be provided if needed.

Twinning Garden – Cllr. Steele said the Christmas tree is lovely and Cllr. Hubbard said not much will be happening with the garden until the Spring.

Speed Watch – Cllr. Hubbard reported that the chevron sign at Beaulieu hill was partially reinstalled but should be mounted higher; he will address this. Cllr. Steele emphasised its importance. Cllr. Hubbard had obtained a quote from ElanCity for a speed kit at £2,500 + VAT for budgeting purposes; two other higher quotes also obtained. Will require tendering nearer the time.

## **2606 Finance**

Monthly Finance Report circulated. Cllr. Hubbard said we are in line with the budget. £28,952 in bank. The current FYF shows a small surplus for the year.

Bank Payments to approve. Cllrs. Hubbard and Steele had agreed outstanding invoices of £270.00 due to BVHT which were paid yesterday. Paul Deakin £55.50, Clerk £292.65, Central Southern Security £204.0 (Clerk to check).

Proposed: Cllr. Dolbear                      Seconded: Cllr. Rowland                      Unanimously agreed.

## **2607 Correspondence**

Circulated.

## **2608 Items for future meetings**

Cllr. Hubbard said that Cllr. Rowland made a helpful point that the January BPC meeting will come around quickly after the Christmas / New Year close down. To be reviewed nearer the time.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.