

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the Wednesday 21st April 2021

Present Cllr G Underhill (took the chair), Cllr C Steer Cllr R Huxtable Cllr D Rogers Cllr R Pearce Cllr S Berry Cllr B Millward and Mrs A Snell clerk

In attendance Cllr A Saywell – County Councillor, Cllr R Lock - District Councillor

Apologies Cllr M Clarke

Declaration of Interests – Councillors are invited to declare any discloseable pecuniary interest, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting, including protocol for audio/visual recordings a meeting. They are also reminded to consider whether in the light of recent activities any items within their Register of Interests should be updated.

Public Participation.

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th March were agreed and signed.

2. Clerks Report, i. Web site, www.beafordvillage.org please visit, there are links to the Autumn Show, Church and Village Hall, more organisations will be asked to publicise when the lock down is eased.

ii. Running of forthcoming meetings face to face, a risk assessment has to be undertaken by the hall and Parish council, an internet connection is required for the meeting to be hybrid so anyone can log in on line, also covid restrictions have to be observed in the hall.

iii. Report on virtual chat with Mr. Michael Newcombe DCC highways, a reply email was received but no response as yet. A further email is to be sent, the suggestion of a pavement along the road from Green Lane was noted this is to be investigated with Mr Newcombe.

3. Chairman's Report Play equipment, Cllr Underhill has been in contact with TK Play who has some reconditioned equipment for sale, in a really good condition, after discussion it was proposed by Cllr Steer seconded by Cllr Huxtable to go for the exercise bike for £2220, the rowing machine for £1550 and the spinner for £792 so totalling £4512, all in favour, exercise equipment will have to be segregated from play equipment on the Green. The suggestion was also put forward for a skate park, this is to be investigated regarding cost. A siting design is to be looked into of not just a skate park but the exercise equipment.

Benches, these have been ordered. These will be situated, two on the Village Green and one on the piece of grass opposite the railings entrance to the Village Green but this is on DCC land so a request form has to be completed and returned, and after discussion the other suggestion was one near the end of Mount Pleasant Lane, on the opposite side of the road but this was also felt to be DCC land, this has to be investigated.

The youth shelter was also discussed, quotes and photographs have been circulated to councillors, prices vary from £10,000 to £12,000, Cllr Rodgers made the suggestion of asking a carpenter to quote for the work, this will be done and discussed at the next meeting. The shelter could be used for any community group.

4. Highway Issues. i. Regarding the Halsdon footpath, 7 responses have been received these will be forwarded to the correct department. ii. It has been reported that there has been vandalism of footpath signs around the village this will be reported. This is an offense.

The lay-by at the end of Coombe Lane has been used to unload lime, but the lay-by was left is such a mess following the removal of the lime, the person who's lime it was is to be contacted and asked to tidy up the lay-kby.

The DCC website is devon.cc/report-it

5. County and District Councillors items, Cllr Saywell reported that the statistics, –**Coronavirus** Stats As of 21st April the DCC area of Devon now up to 20,118 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic.

Since the 16th April that is a weekly increase of 73 infections, with most new infections coming from the South of Devon.

By way of comparison... in Torridge there were just two new infections in the last 6 days, North Devon was zero in the last 5 days, West Devon 5 cases in the last 7 days. **At 9.1 per 100,000, Devon has the second lowest shire county infection rate in England, just behind East Sussex.** Infection cases in Devon are averaging around 10 a day, over Easter the decline in cases accelerated but now appears to have stabilised again. This is to be expected given the recent 'un-locking' of England. **Nevertheless, we are continuing to do well in keeping our infection rates down.** While we hope the vaccine rollout will lead us back to normality, for the time being it is vital that we keep up our efforts to follow the guidance of staying at home and if and when we are out and about to follow the 'hands, face, space' guidance.

COVID Vaccinations The rollout of the vaccine in Devon and in Torrington Rural continues to go well.

I sent a briefing note from the NHS to the Parish Councils earlier this month but the main points for vaccine rollout: **652,345 people in Devon received their first vaccine dose** between 8th December – 4th April, **while more than 100,000 second doses have been given. Latest estimate is more than 90% of anyone over 50 in Devon has received their first dose. In total 65.3% of the adult population in Devon, those aged 16 +, have received a first dose.**

The NHS in Devon are focusing on people aged 50 and over, second doses, and those who are clinically vulnerable. **Anyone eligible for a vaccine (50+ or clinically vulnerable) who hasn't yet had one is encouraged to come forward and book their appointment.** Despite the supply issues that may happen in the coming weeks, **if you already have an appointment for a first or second dose these appointments remain in place and its really important that you attend it as planned.** Even when you have been vaccinated, you must still continue to follow the COVID-19 safety rules – stay at home as much as possible and remember hands, face, space. This remains a huge logistical exercise, very much dependent upon the speed and rate of vaccine supplies. Please wait for the NHS to contact you when it is your turn. The roll out is getting more localised, those who cannot travel far should be able to get their jab administered locally.

Local Highways Matters The new Neighbourhood Highways Officer for our area is Russell Hookway who is taking over from Darryl Jagger. Russell previously worked for the North Devon area Highways Team and Cllrs there spoke very highly of him. Please give him some time to familiarise himself with the area though I am sure he will get to grips with Torrington Rural and the issues we face here very soon.

Elections and thank you! As you know, this is my last Parish Council meeting before the May Elections to Devon County. I will be standing again but should I not be returned I would like to place on record my thanks to the Parish Council for their kind support over the years and to thank you for all the work you have done for the Parish during the time I have been on the County Council. It has been a real honour and privilege to represent Beaford and I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the residents of the Parish for their kindness and support over the last four years. Campaigning in the local elections had resumed again following the sad death of Prince Philip. If anyone is unsure or uncertain about voting in the election they can apply for a Proxy Vote. Emergency Proxies will also be available for anyone who is told to self-isolate. I remain at your service until May and as ever, if there are any issues you'd like me to look into please get in touch.

Cllr Lock reported on the proposed development at Towell Meadow, the planning officer is awaiting amendments to the application regarding the layout and housing mix, when received the Parish Council will be consulted again.

6. Tennis Court, the bank account has been opened, membership renewals have been sent out. People have been asking when they can play on the court. An advert is to be put in the Bugle an

exclusive email address has been set up. Cllr Millward suggested a web page is available if required. Cllr Pearce has kindly offered to cut the grass to keep the area tidy.

7. Finance, i Approve and sign the following cheque: -

497	DALC affiliation fee	£106.17
498	Beaford PCC	£500.00

i. It was proposed by Cllr Steer seconded by Cllr Huxtable to grant the PCC £500 for grass cutting, all in favour. ii. The Bank account stands at £14,555.78

8.i. Planning

P C recommendations

TDC

1/0279/2020/OUT	Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of up to 14 dwellings (affecting a public right of way) Land at Towell Lane	
1/0118/2021/FUL	Proposed roof over existing yard. - Land At Upcott Farm Beaford	Passed
1/0181/2021/LBC	Part retrospective application for conversion of additional barn into ancillary accommodation, retention of patio, erection of wooden fence, alterations to front wall and roof lights, demolition of lean to agricultural building and implementation of new boundary wall. The Old Corn Barn, Beaford,	

9. Police Report, it was reported in the last 30 days there has been one crime of a burglary. And one phone call logged transport related.

10. Ways to improve the Village and Parish Environment, this will now be looked into.

ii. Cllr Berry attended a virtual meeting regarding road verges, he reported that permission can now be gained for planting wild flower areas on verges and near footpaths, the suggestion for the parish was near the end of Coombe Lane.

It was noted that the Village looked lovely in March with the daffodils which had been planted by volunteers, thank you to all those involved.

11. Caretakers Report & Hall report. The play area has not been sprayed for 3 weeks due to the Easter holidays and children using the area more frequently, but will resume again now. Thank you, Cllr Pearce.

Cllr Berry reported that the NHS are hiring the hall on a regular basis, the defibrillator has been upgraded. Indoor bowls is hoping to start in June, the Post Office have a regular slot on a Thursday from 1pm to 3pm. Coffee mornings are hoped to start again at the end of June to be covid safe and inclusive to all. The Hall Committee has done well.

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletters have been circulated.

ii. The Police newsletters have been circulated.

iii. A letter has been received regarding purchasing a Memorial Plate in the shape of an unknown Tommy, this is to be looked into regarding siting and size required.

Mr Peter Howells, tree surgeon has been and assessed the trees on the field and hedge, beech no 1 is surviving but needs reduction in the crown, the old oak needs reduction of 50% in the crown to protect it, ivy removal needs to be undertaken plus any other required work. It was suggested the Parish Council would be willing to contribute towards the cost.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 5th May 2021** Parish Council virtual meeting **7.30pm**
The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting

.....Chairman.....Date

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 23rd June in the Parish Hall