

BEAFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting held on the Wednesday 30th May 2018 221

Present, Cllr C Steer, Cllr R Huxtable, Cllr J Brend Cllr Pearce, Cllr B Steer Cllr Underhill and Mrs A Snell (clerk)

In attendance Mr M Hurley (Chairman of the Village Hall Committee) Mr M Maynard, Cllr A Saywell-County Councillor

Apologies, Cllr Rintoul Cllr R Lock -District Councillor and PCSO Brown

1. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 31st May 2017 were agreed and signed.

Cllr Steer welcomed everyone to the meeting, in June 2017 the PC had a meeting with the children and parents of Beaford school to discuss the refurbishment of the Village Green Play Area, they requested a large tunnel, climbing frame, basketball hoop, birds nest and a big seesaw and slide, the children had been raising money selling cakes, this money will go towards the new equipment. Since then a plan has been drawn up and grant applications submitted, with a view to getting the project up and running this summer, over a 2 year term we estimate spending about £100,000 to fulfil the project. The helipad is now installed we are delighted to say operational, the mast appears to be pointing slightly to the left, but Toby Russell from DAAT comments were that when and if it needed to be adjusted this could be done at the appropriate time, which will mean getting permission to remove some of the fruit trees in the orchard. The thinking is that this is the best and safest site for the helicopter to land and for the visibility of the paramedics to transfer patients. Let us hope we don't need to use it, but Beaford Community have the best and quickest way to access help in times of need.

Cllr Huxtable and Rintoul have been discussing the bad drainage problems with Cllr Andrew Saywell and highways. The bus shelter is unusable whenever it is raining because of the ponding and blocked drains, apparently the drains from Bond Street up to the garage are in a state of collapse mainly due to the extra heavy traffic going through the village, this is an ongoing problem which hopefully Cllr Saywell will be able to pressure County highways to put money into sorting this problem sooner rather than later.

Cllr Rintoul managed to extract £5,000 from a highways grant to resurface part of Shephard's Meadow, hopefully the rest will be repaired later in the year. Cllr Saywell advised the PC that a further £210,000 had been put aside for pot hole repairs in the area, also the PC requested a flashing speed sign for each end of the village after a survey was taken the outcome showed that it was not necessary, as there was not a speeding problem, I think we all disagree with that comment.

Thanks go to Cllr Underhill, Huxtable and Pearce for filling in grant forms for the refurbishment of the Village Green, Cllr Rintoul and Huxtable for organising salt around the village this winter and reporting on maintenance problems. Cllr Brend for reporting on the footpaths and rivers and Cllr Steer for topping the Village Hall field and is going to cut the verges going into the village.

The PC also consulted on all planning applications and maintained the Village Green equipment.

PCSO Brown was approached to start Speed Watch again, she said that parishioners who volunteer would have to be DBS checked this could take a few months but approximately 6 volunteers would be needed to run it. The PC was asked by the Village Hall Committee to become the Custodians Trustees for the Village Hall the PC are in discussion with various organisations and TDC solicitors on the legal implications involved to this request.

A new notice board has been commissioned from Mr Horner and with the help of Cllr Huxtable it will be erected very soon near the school; the school have requested to use it to advertise their events as well.

Finally thanks must go to Cllr Lock and Saywell for donations to the PC for the DAAT Night landing light. The PC have also donated to numerous requests, the Village Hall dishwasher and decorations, the church bells appeal, survey on the churchyard tree's, cutting the churchyard grass, caterpillars equipment and plants for the village tubs. Thanks to all the Councillors for their time and commitment and our clerk Angela Snell.

3. Finance Report, this was available to the meeting, funds at the 31st March 2018 were £13,211.58 it was proposed by Cllr Brend and seconded by Cllr Pearce to accept these accounts.

4. Village Hall Report, this was given by Mr Mike Hurley the chairman of the committee, this year has seen a change of roles within the committee, Mike Maynard has stepped down from a successful run as Chair as is now treasurer, Julie Yeo is Vice Chair, Alan Jones remains as Secretary, Kim Hamilton is currently the Bugle compiler and Cathy Millward is the bookings clerk. There are currently 11 committee members down from 14 last year.

The Beaford Market is still a popular event bringing together many villagers and keeping the momentum of the Social evenings going which stopped when the Globe Inn reopened in 2017, the hall committee work closely with the new owners to ensure events do not clash. A Bingo night has been introduced once a month, the Bike Show is running again this year; this is in addition to the usual events of quizzes, barn dance, bonfire night, St Georges and St Patrick’s Day celebrations. The Beaford WI have disbanded after many years serving the community which is sad, also the Whist group have recently stopped meeting after a very long time. But there is now a new Card making club and a quilting club starting up which will hopefully be long running. The Hall finances have a closing balance of £7,368.42 Two fit meter reading submissions in this year have increased the income but the average approximate reading is £677 pa. A payment of £4,800 has been made to the solicitors to be held on account in lieu of Beaford Art’s anticipated legal costs. The hall committee are currently in the process of acquiring ownership of the field adjacent to the hall and are hoping to have everything complete by the end of June. It is planned to set up a subcommittee to look after the field and to have a village meeting to outline what is expected of the committee under the terms of Natural England and to ask the residents of Beaford what they would like to see happen in the field. The committee’s goal is to continually improve the hall year on year so that it remains a hub where people can meet to share common interests and have a cuppa and chat. Mr Hurley was thanked for his report.

6. Police Report, PCSO Brown reported in the last year, there have been 15 crimes, one crime of use of threatening/abusive/insulting words/behaviour to cause harassment/alarm/distress. Two crimes of assault on a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm, two crimes of criminal damage to property under £5000 – vehicle, two crimes of criminal damage to property under £5000 – other, two crimes of harassment without violence, one crime of send communication / article of indecent / offensive nature, one crime of send by public communication network an offensive / indecent / obscene / menacing message / matter, one crime of daytime trespass in pursuit of game – poaching, one crimes of theft – other – including theft by finding, one crime of causing death by dangerous driving and one crime of dog not under proper control – complaint only.

Cllr Andrew Saywell was welcomed to the meeting he gave a very comprehensive report reporting on the efforts he has been making in the last twelve months since his election to office, he reported on highways, child care, the regeneration of Torrington, Devon schools and the Acute Services Review, Cllr Saywell was thanked very much for his attendance at many meetings and his comprehensive knowledge along with his assistance with grant funding

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and as there was no further business the meeting was closed

.....Chairman

.....Date