

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the Wednesday 30th October 2019

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

In attendance Cllr R Lock - District Councillors Cllr A Saywell – County Councillor and five members of the public

Apologies Cllr M Clarke Cllr C Steer and PCSO Brown.

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.

It was brought forward from the floor various issues with the resurfacing of the A3124 that has come to light since the work has been undertaken, white lines and new bollards are required outside Mr Gilberts, outside the Old Post Office the road is higher than the old level so this needs to be addressed likewise outside of Mr Coombs, some of the standard of work is not as expected. The question was asked were the gullies cleaned out, it was felt yes as workmen had been observed doing this job, the bus shelter is very successful but there is now a very large curb which lorries may have difficulty negotiating.

It was raised in other parishes planning developments have been on the edge of villages.

Also, on the proposed plans it was felt there were garages on the ground floor of some properties so making the properties higher, this will be investigated as no new design has been submitted.

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th October were agreed and signed.

2. Clerks Report, since ten or more people did not request an election a co-option will take place for a Parish Councillor. This is hoped to be undertaken in January.

ii. Wicksteed report on the play equipment, nothing requires attention.

3. Chairman's Report.

i. Play equipment, it was noted that the entrance opposite Rye Park needs to be completed. So, quotes are to be obtained from three professionals to undertake the work of installing the railings.

ii. The new dog bin has been received and installed. Rubbish bin, after discussion and looking at the Glasdon brochure it was agreed by all to purchase a Topsy Jubilee, £294 plus VAT.

iii. It was agreed the flag is in a poor state Cllr Pearce is to purchase one they are in the region of £50.00.

iv. A letter has been received from the Chair of Governors at Beaford School regarding: Following a recent risk assessment on the security of the premises, it was highlighted that the School is vulnerable as a result of unexpected or unannounced visits to the School grounds. The area of particular concern is the grassed area of land adjacent the main road that accommodates the flag pole. Whilst it is accepted without question that the Parish Council has the right to access this area of the school grounds, it would be extremely helpful if notice could be given when access is required. This would ensure that security risks are minimised and any appropriate safeguarding measures can be implemented accordingly. Cllr Pearce has spoken to the school and appropriate notice and action will be undertaken in future.

v. The S106 money for the Marshall Mead development was discussed as the requirement for the properties to be sold has almost been met, a claim is to be put to TDC for the money so it can be spent on Open Space and Recreation. The first spend is to be on an exercise bike for older members of the community and then a springer for young children.

vi. Cllr Underhill attended the Torrington Area Advisory group meeting on the 26th November, held in the Oak room of the newly renovated Torrington Town Hall, well worth a visit, disappointingly only 6 parishes were represented. Mr Simon Newton who is the District Councillor for Winkleigh area was elected as Chairman, election of a vice Chairman felt in abeyance. Several apologies for absence were received.

Leader of DCC Mr John Hart gave an update but said there is not much information at present on DCC finances because of the up and coming general election adding there is bound to be a squeeze on resources. Children's special educational needs budget is already overheating by a million pound a year. Money is ear marked from central government and cannot be spent elsewhere. There is possibly going to be a 1.99% increase in council tax, the breakdown of which is County 85%, district 12% and Parish 3%.

Mr Richard Haste gave positive update on waste and recycling. All is going well with the new recycling regime achieving 15% recycling but there are still 200 tonnes of food waste monthly in the TDC area. It is hoped to retain collections of fortnightly refuse and weekly food waste but this may have to be reviewed because such a large area generates huge transport costs.

Cllr Underhill asked if the commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 was a realistic one but was told it had to be an ambitious target, in the absence of a designated officer a written report was submitted on this topic, also a written report was submitted regarding dog/pigeon fouling problems. Mr Mike Harrison gave a resume of the aims of Councillor advocate scheme. Which is a proposal to improve communications between the police and parish councils. There was the suggestion of a parish councillor reporting on a regular basis to the police commissioner!

Concern and disappointment was expressed from the chair about the poor attendance to the meeting, Cllr Underhill raised the point that it was felt to be a lot to ask of unpaid parish councillors as at this meeting alone the members present has been asked for representatives for climate change and the police scheme as well as attending TAG meetings, the purpose and frequency of the meetings was discussed, at present quarterly was felt to be the right amount.

Cllr Underhill was thanked for attending the meeting and giving such a comprehensive report.

4. Highway Issues, Cllr Underhill has emailed David Wines from DCC Highways regarding the concerns raised in public participation, so DCC are aware of the situation a response is awaited.

Highways have agreed to put up a speed assessment box to assess the speed of vehicles through the village

5. County and District Councillors items, Cllr Saywell reported on the A3124 Resurfacing Works, the resurfacing works within the village have now been completed. My sincere thanks to the people of Beaford for putting up with the disruption. Any feedback on the works – good or bad – is always welcomed.

Unfortunately: the works outside of the village on the A3124 have been delayed due to the inclement weather. They are now expected to be finished by 4th December. However, the closures remain at **night** only, hopefully keeping disruption to Beaford residents to a minimum.

Highways 'Doing What Matters Project'. Highways have now met every single Parish Council within Torrington Rural. Cllr Saywell will have, by the time you read this, have met with Highways to discuss with them which priorities have been identified by the Parishes. Cllr Saywell doesn't want to pre-judge the outcome or make any promises, but, unless what has been proposed by a local parish is too expensive or impractical, Cllr Saywell would expect that certainly the top priorities identified by Beaford and other Parishes will get put forward for improvement schemes in the next financial year. He will know more though come January so will update the Parish Council as and when he has more information.

Finally, as there is no meeting December, Cllr Saywell would like to wish all Councillors a very Happy Christmas and a successful 2020. It is a real privilege to represent Beaford and the surrounding villages on Devon County Council and he looks forward to working with the Parish in the coming year.

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

452	Beaford Village Hall	£12.00
453	WM Ironworks	£534.00
454	Mr M Baker	£915.00
455	Wicksteed	£54.00
456	Glasdon	£152.03
457	Mr C Snell (hedge cutting)	£60.00
458	Beaford PCC	£500.00

- i. Grass cutting tender for 2020, a quote has been received from Mr Baker £5 more than last year, it was proposed by Cllr Pearce seconded by Cllr Huxtable to accept the quote all in favour.
- ii. Grant for the Church, following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Huxtable seconded by Cllr Steer to grant the Church £500 for grass cutting, all in favour.
- iii. Set the precept, differed until the January meeting

7.i. Planning

P C recommendations

TDC

1/0407/2019/F ULM	Residential Development for 41 Dwellings including demolition of one dwelling for creation of new access (affecting public right of way) Location: Land Adjacent to Marshalls Mead, Beaford,	Further information is being sought regarding the affordable housing aspect and the planning officer is still in discussions with highways. Ms T Blackmore has gone on maternity leave so the case has been taken over by another officer.
1/0529/2019/C PE	Certificate of existing lawful use of holiday units 2 and 4, known as 'Beech' and 'Oak', at Beaford House, as two independent dwelling houses (including amenity and parking areas) - Holiday Units 2 And 4 'Beech And Oak' Beaford	Further information has been submitted
1/0737/2019/FUL	Change of use of redundant barn to dwelling land at Reeds Farm	News plans submitted
1/0636/2019/F UL	Change of use of annexe to full residential. Myrtle Cottage Barn, Beaford	Passed
1/0889/FUL	Erection of a general-purpose agricultural building. Land Adjacent Cuppers Piece.	Passed

8. Police Report, no report was given.

9. Caretakers Report & Hall report, Cllr Berry reported that there is a bulb planting on the field on Saturday morning volunteers are sought. Following Cllr Berry's successful application for trees, they may not all be able to be all planted on the field, so parishioners may be able to have what is remaining, they are fruit trees and autumn colour trees which will grow no more than 10 meters. They are due to be delivered in March. DAAT will have to be contacted to see if there are any stipulations regarding the night landing site.

The DAAT, night landing site agreement was agreed and signed by Cllr Underhill two copies were signed so now the Chair of the Village Hall Committee can sign and a copy retained for the record.

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletters. ii. Torridge District Crime Reports and newsletters.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15th January 2020 Parish Council meeting 7.30pm

.....Chairman.....Date Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 26th
February 2020 Parish Council meeting.