

BEAFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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

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

Apologies Cllr R Pearce

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 5<sup>th</sup> May were agreed and signed.

This meeting was a hybrid meeting, in the Parish Hall with a zoom connection, covid rules were observed and a risk assessment in place. Cllr Huxtable and Cllr Millward were thanked for setting up the hybrid meeting.

2. Clerks Report, i. Web site, [www.beafordvillage.org](http://www.beafordvillage.org)

3. Chairman's Report Play equipment, Cllr Underhill reported that nothing has changed the Parish council are just waiting on the S106. New benches for the Village Green were discussed, after consideration of others it was agreed to go with Marmax made from recycled materials which are rainbow coloured, this is a table with two benches attached with zero maintenance, so it was proposed by Cllr Huxtable seconded by Cllr Steer, to purchase one at a cost of £389 plus VAT, all in favour. Regarding the youth shelter, 3 quotes are to be sought one from Mr Buswell, one from Mr Wonnacott, and a further one to be ready for consideration at the next meeting.

The authority has been granted to place a bench at the end of Biddewell Lane the owner of the property opposite is to be informed, thank you to Cllr Rogers and Cllr Huxtable for sorting out the benches and putting them in the correct positions and maintenance on the one near Coombe Lane. It was reported the Village Green is looking in good order, no news from Beaford Arts as yet on a site for the skate park, they will be contacted again. Cllr Millward and Cllr Berry are to measure the car park in relation to S106 money being used for resurfacing

4. Highway Issues. i. Regarding the Halsdon footpath, the letters have been forwarded to the correct department, when the reply is received this will be passed to the people who wrote the letters to reply and carry the issue forward, this could be a long process. The process will be on line via the .gov.uk website, footpaths section. If there are good substantial reasons the process will be funded by the footpaths department.

ii. The lay-by at the end of Coombe Lane has been cleaned up and is now in good order.

The Michael Newcombe email was discussed regarding feedback, the extension of the pavement is a no go, other traffic calming were discussed. An email has been received and circulated from Russell Hookway regarding a complaint about volume of traffic and the touching of a property be an agricultural vehicle. St Georges Lane no report was given.

**The DCC website is [devon.cc/report-it](http://devon.cc/report-it)**

5. County and District Councillors items, Cllr Saywell reported that the statistics, –Coronavirus

**Thank You!** As this is the first meeting since the election I would like to thank the people of Beaford and Torrington Rural for re-electing me as your County Councillor, it is an amazing privilege to represent this area and communities like Beaford at County Hall. I will continue to work as hard as I can for Torrington Rural and will represent all residents, however they voted. **Cabinet Position and Priorities for the New Term** The work of the new Council has now begun following the Elections. The Leader of the Council, Cllr John Hart, has asked me to join the County Council Cabinet – a big step up in responsibility for me. My portfolio on the Cabinet will be ‘Organisational Development, Workforce and Digital Transformation’ and covers a wide remit from staffing, ICT, communications, websites and so on.

Despite these new responsibilities, my constituency work remains a priority – I will continue to follow up local matters and if I can, use my new position to advance the priorities of Torrington Rural. The priority for the new Administration is Recovery and Regeneration as we come out of the pandemic and will be the theme of the Council for the next four years.

**Coronavirus** Stats – As of 23<sup>rd</sup> June the DCC area of Devon now up to 21,440 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic. Since the 17<sup>th</sup> June that is a weekly increase of 421 infections, more than double the previous week.

By way of comparison... in Torridge there were 51 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon was 35 in the last 7 days, West Devon 9 cases in the last 7 days. The bulk of the Devon wide increase comes from Exeter where there were 149 new infections. Unfortunately we have seen outbreaks at both Great Torrington School and Chumleigh School which have driven our local numbers up. DCC and other agencies are supporting the schools as they manage the outbreak, and the schools are dealing with a difficult situation extremely well given the circumstances.

Across Devon, the increase in infections have come from unvaccinated young adults or young people still in education. But we have not seen an increase in hospitalisations or deaths. There is also a clear ‘vaccine affect’ in infections. The infection rate in Torridge for 0-59s is 116.1 per 100,000. For over 60s it is **zero**. Some over 60s or double vaccinated people will likely test positive – but the chances of them developing serious illness will be greatly diminished by having the vaccine. So I do not believe these increase in infections should be a cause for panic. We should remain vigilant - continue to follow the guidance of hands, face, space and fresh air – and for those of us working away from home, travelling and/or socialising regularly, take up lateral flow testing. Above all the key message remains, **get your job when you are called up!** **Rapid Lateral Flow Testing** As mentioned above, with Covid-19 cases increasing I think it is more important than ever that those of us who are working away from home (and don’t take tests for work already), are travelling or coming into regular social contact with other households, should take up rapid lateral flow testing.

To practice what I preach, I took a test before coming to this meeting (the result was negative!) and have taken tests throughout the week. I ordered a home testing kit off the Government website and have also started to use the DCC Mobile Community Testing Service which is in Torrington on Tuesdays (1.30pm to 5pm) and Fridays (9am to 12.30pm), Sydney House Car Park. The staff at the mobile testing unit are efficient and helpful, can help answer questions about how to carry out a test, and can also be used to collect home testing kits. Remember, lateral flow tests are only for people who DON’T have symptoms and are designed to pick up cases which are asymptomatic. If you have any symptoms book a PCR Test through the Government website.

More information can be found online at **[devon.cc/testing](https://devon.cc/testing)**

**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 week but the main points for vaccine rollout: **All adults aged 18 and over** on 1<sup>st</sup> July are eligible to book their vaccination. **802,450 people in Devon received their first vaccine dose** up to 13<sup>th</sup> June, **while 625,312 second doses have been given. Latest estimate is 90% of people aged over 55 in Devon has received both doses. 80% of the adult population in Devon have received a first dose.** Anyone aged 40 or above should bring forward their second dose appointment from 12 weeks to 8 weeks to ensure priority groups have the highest possible protection from the Delta variant. **If you have an**

appointment for a second dose these appointments remain in place and its really important that you attend it as planned. There has been a number of people in Devon not attending their second appointment. **Please do so, two doses of the vaccine offer you the best protection against the Delta variant!**

Even when you have been vaccinated, you must still continue to follow the COVID-19 safety rules – remember hands, face, space, and fresh air! **Local Highways Matters** I have highlighted the poor condition of various roads in this Parish to the Neighbourhood Highways Officer following the elections and will continue to liaise with him to get some improvement works done. Regarding potholes, **it is really important that residents continue to report potholes and other highways defects.** I cannot stress enough this is a numbers game – the more potholes reported the more likely it is we can have permanent repair works like resurfacing take place. Please visit **devon.cc/report-it** to report potholes and other highways defects online.

#### **DCC Bids for Community Renewal Funding**

A programme of bids totalling more than £12.2 million has been submitted by Devon County Council to a new Government funding scheme which aims to support communities and businesses to recover after the Coronavirus pandemic. Devon's bid is made up 16 projects from across the county which have the potential to generate around 620 jobs, support the creation of 400 new businesses, and help 3,000 people to retrain. Torridge activity accounts for £3million of the £12million bid, including bids for the biosphere, agriculture, and upskilling young people and self employed workers. **Support for Children during Half Term** Thousands of meal boxes have again been delivered to families with young children over the half term holiday week, in an initiative to help those who are struggling during the coronavirus pandemic. DCC first ran 'The Goodie Box' initiative during the Easter holidays, with good success. The boxes included ingredients and simple recipe ideas, and they were delivered to families' front doors. Feedback from families was that they loved them. DCC rolled this out again this holiday, and the boxes have included fresh and store cupboard ingredients for dhal curry and flatbreads; hearty veg-packed pie; veggie bolognese; creamy summer pasta; tomato and courgette risotto; Mexican bean burrito; pitta pizzas; and fruity pancakes.

Each recipe had tips on how to swap or add ingredients and advice on healthy eating and how to prevent food waste. These meals helped to make sure young people throughout Devon had access to healthy and nutritional meals during the holiday period.

Thank you again for your support in the Elections and as ever, if there are any DCC matters you'd like to raise with me then please get in touch.

Great Torrington school is closed at present due to high infection rates of pupils but is stipen to vulnerable and key workers children. The infection is spreading in the community, lateral flow tests are recommended. Cllr Saywell said his Councillor Grant scheme was open, the suggestion was for equipment to aid hybrid meetings, like a microphone or speaker, this will be applied for, Cllr Saywell was thanked.

Cllr Clarke reported he is still involved with housing, disabled grants, licencing and the armed forces on TDC, his Councillor Community Grant is also now open, Cllr Clarke kindly agreed to grant £300 towards the new bench for which he was thanked.

Cllr Lock updated the meeting on the Towell lane development.

6. Tennis Court, a quote has been received from Michael Baker to keep the grass clear and tidy, first time £45 to include strimming after that £20 per cut, it was proposed by Cllr Huxtable seconded by Cllr Millward to accept the offer all in favour. The Trustees have yet to be finalised.

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

502	Mr. G Coombes Auditor	£50.00
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i . Agree and sign the Annual Governance Statement; it was proposed by Cllr Huxtable seconded by Cllr Berry all in favour.

ii. Agree and sign the Accounting Statement, it was proposed by Cllr Steer seconded by Cllr Rogers all in favour.

- iii. Agree and sign the Exemption form, it was proposed by Cllr Millward seconded by Cllr Huxtable all in favour
- iv. Fixed Asset Register this was circulated to councillors.

8.i. Planning

P C recommendations

TDC

1/0279/2020/OUT	Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of up to 18 dwellings (affecting a public right of way) Land at Towell Lane		
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,		
1/0624/2021/A GMB	Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. dwelling house and associated building operations under Class Q (affecting a public right of way) – Building At Mount Pleasant Beaford Devon	This application was felt to be lacking in detail and accuracy, this will be forwarded to TDC.	
1/0649/2021/A GMB	Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. dwelling house and associated building operations under Class Building Opposite. The Old Parsonage, Beaford		

1/0279/2020/OUT, this is a revised application with the proposed number of houses going to 18 with a different layout. Cllr Saywell agreed to speak to Michael Newcombe regarding the highways access from Towell Lane onto the B3214, in relation to the increased traffic and congestion at that junction this development will bring.

The main point of issue is the highways access secondly the drainage, as the drainage run off at Bond Street at the back of Reeds Farm is blocked, the main sewer is under the extension of a property in Bond Street, which also has open drainage, there is a holding pond with incorrect levels, there is also nowhere for surface water to run, so the Parish Council are concerned about drainage and run off effecting the proposed site. The Parish Council is also concerned at the carbon footprint of the proposed 18 houses in the Parish along with the other 41 houses that have been passed in the close proximity.

i. E/19/0092/UND - Land At Reeds Farm, the investigation into the above reveals the development was regularised the granting of planning permission 1/0433/2019/FUL. This permission was granted on appeal after initially being refused by the Local Planning Authority. This case has now been closed.

9. Police Report, it was reported in the last 30 days there has been two crimes related to domestic violence. And nine phone calls logged 7 related to the domestic violence, one transport related, and one further crime

10. Ways to improve the Village and Parish Environment. No report.

11. Caretakers Report & Hall report. The hall is now open, welcoming back all of the groups who use the hall, there is a wedding in July, it was highlighted for the committee to look at the layout of the field.

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletters have been circulated.

ii. The Police newsletters have been circulated.

The Parish Council paperwork is current in filing cabinets at Coombe, Cllr Underhill asked regarding long term storage, the cabinets are to be moved to the Chairman's for sorting and then discussion will take place as to where to store the paperwork.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021** Parish Council meeting **7.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September in the Parish Hall to be agreed.