

BEAFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the
Wednesday 28th July 2021

314

Present Cllr G Underhill (took the chair), Cllr C Steer Cllr R Huxtable Cllr R Pearce 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 plus 2 members of the public

Apologies Cllr D Rogers

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.

Mr Spilstead representing the Beaford Short Mat bowling club came to report to the Parish council that the club are in need of funds, if the Parish council are supportive of the club obtaining grants will be a lot easier. The rack that supports the mats in beyond repair and a new mat is needed, the cost of these are £961 plus vat, £200 has been obtained from a grant, the club has £200 in savings so the short fall is in the region of £500. The request for a grant will be considered under finance.

Discussion took place regarding the amended development of the proposed 18 house at Towell Lane ,an email has been received from another resident regarding the application this was circulated to councillors.

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 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.

2. Clerks Report, i. Web site, www.beafordvillage.org All the minutes have now been uploaded to the new site along with other required documents, pages have been expanded for other organisations, Cllr Millward was thanked for all his hard work.

3. Chairman's Report Play equipment, Cllr Underhill reported that nothing has changed the Parish council are just waiting on the S106, Cllr Millward and Cllr Berry are to measure the car park in relation to S106 money being used for resurfacing. The suggestion for spraying the play equipment was for it to be done once a month, Cllr Pearce suggested the area be closed for a couple of hours when spraying is being undertaken.

The Village Green is the property of the Parish Council the bank was put up to stop children's balls etc coming off the grass area. The right to park on the Village Green has been raised by householders, Councillors have looked back historically to see who has a right to park, it seems Tricks Terrace 1-6 have a historic right to park one vehicle and the residents of Green Cottage also one vehicle, legal advice is to be sought as the suggestion was for a permit scheme for these 7 properties, which is the capacity of the parking area.

The Rye Park site for the bench has yet to be authorised, this will be chased up, it was suggested that the Biddemoor Lane bench needs some concrete to secure it to the ground. The materials to repair the other bench has been ordered. The grant for the new bench to be sited on the Village Green has been applied for.

Two quotes have been received for the youth shelter a third is to be obtained.

4. Highway Issues. i. The Halsdon footpath, no further information has been received. St Georges Lane no report. ii. Two sheds in Towell Meadow seem to have asbestos roofs which were lifting in the hot weather, these are to be reported to TDC Environmental department for them to assess. iii. The path behind Tricks Terrace is for access only and not a public footpath.

The traffic congestion both volume of traffic and the speed vehicles travel was raised with Cllr Saywell the request to him was for a site meeting with highways representatives so they are aware of the traffic problems in the village, the request was for in term time so school traffic can be included in the assessment, Cllr Saywell is to organise a meeting. It was felt a flashing speed sign would be advantageous.

The DCC website is [devon.cc/report-it](https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/reconnect-rebuild-recover-fund)

5. County and District Councillors items, Cllr Saywell reported:

New DCC Grant A new grant by Devon County Council has been launched intended to help communities reconnect, rebuild and recover after the pandemic. The Reconnect Rebuild Recover Community Fund will provide grant funding of up to £1,000 for smaller projects and between £1,000 and £3,000 for larger projects that help local people to reconnect, rebuild and recover their community-led facilities and/or social activities.

The Grants will support community-led initiatives that: encourage a range of people to participate in activities that improve their physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing, provide safe community-led transportation links and services which encourage and help people to re-connect and re-socialise safely within their communities, encourage people to develop skills and learning through volunteering their time, knowledge and expertise to help and support the facilities and/or social activity and the people using them

More information, including how to apply, can be found on the link below. Please share this to any organisations in the Parish and beyond who may be interested/eligible to apply.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/reconnect-rebuild-recover-fund>

Coronavirus Infections have been rising across Devon and in Torridge, but there has been a clear vaccine effect with new infections coming predominantly from younger people, and those older people who have tested positive developing mild or no symptoms at all. Hospitalisations and deaths remain thankfully low. **Latest figures I've had showed just 3 people were in the North Devon District Hospital with Covid-19.**

Nationally, Covid cases have started to fall which is great news, though it is still probably too early to say if it is a sustained trend. Equally we need to see what the impact will be from the latest relaxations in restrictions.

Devon is normally 1-2 weeks behind the national trends, though according to the Government dashboard the 7 day average of cases in Devon have started to fall, but again it is early days and we don't yet know if this is the start of a sustained fall in infections. Nevertheless, it looks encouraging... Stats – As of 27th July the DCC area of Devon now up to 31,381 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic.

Since the 22nd July that is a weekly increase of 2894 infections (a slight fall of 1.1% on the previous week).

By way of comparison... in Torridge there were 205 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon was 476 in the last 7 days, West Devon 140 cases in the last 7 days.

The bulk of the Devon wide increase comes from Exeter, Teignbridge, East Devon and North Devon. I appreciate these large case numbers are unsettling, but as I mentioned above, hospitalisations remain thankfully low. My advice to people would be to continue to remain cautious, but also not to panic. I will continue to follow Covid precautions as and when it is appropriate, and will continue to take lateral flow tests.

The removal of legal Covid restrictions will be good news for our local businesses, especially those in the hospitality sector. Others I know may feel more uneasy. The people of Torrington Rural have shown great fortitude and common sense throughout this pandemic, I believe they will continue to do

so in the coming months and that thanks to their behaviour and a high vaccine uptake, we will keep local Covid infections low.

Above all the key message remains, **get your jab when you are called up!**

Second Dose appointments have been brought forward from 12 weeks to 8 weeks. I have brought my second dose forward in July and would urge anyone else in similar circumstances to do the same.

Rapid Lateral Flow Testing Rapid Lateral Flow tests can be ordered off the Government website or collected from **DCC Mobile Community Testing Vans**. The Mobile Service is currently in Torrington **Tuesdays 1.30pm to 5pm, Thursdays 9am to 12.30pm, and Saturdays 1.30pm to 5pm.** Full times and availability of mobile testing sites can be found online here <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/rapid-testing-devon/rapid-lateral-flow-tests-site-locations-and-opening-times/>

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://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/rapid-testing-devon/rapid-lateral-flow-tests-site-locations-and-opening-times/)**

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 1st July are eligible to book their vaccination.

Second doses brought forward from 12 weeks to 8 weeks. Anyone under 40 is being urged to bring forward their second vaccine dose to 8 weeks after their first.

894,197 people in Devon received their first vaccine dose up to 23rd July, while 711,992 second doses have been given.

9/10 adults have received their first dose and 7/10 adults have received a second dose. Latest estimate is 90% of people aged over 50 in Devon have received both doses. 71.2% of 18-24 year olds in Devon have received a first dose, rising to 72.3% for 25-29 year olds. For 30-34 year olds it rises to 85.4%.

Return to the Office at DCC Despite the removal of legal Covid restrictions the majority of DCC's workforce will, for the time being, continue to work from home. The enforcement of isolating contacts of people who have tested positive makes office working problematic... e.g. you would not want a whole team of social workers forced into self-isolation if one of them tests positive in the workplace and their colleagues are 'pinged'. However, staff who need to use or work in an Office will continue to be allowed to do so, though Covid measures will for the time being remain in place.

In the long term the Council is looking at flexible or 'agile' working arrangements though work on this is ongoing and is unlikely to be finalised until later in the autumn.

Cllr Clarke was thanked for his sign he has supplied for the Village Hall 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. Towell Lane, I have had recent ongoing correspondence from Devon County Flood Risk and am looking at this with them. This has been in response to further objections from residents. The applicant has increased the number of units over a similar built footprint, essentially by changing the housing mix to ensure small uses and closer compliance with our own housing mix. As part of the development falls within the Beaford Conservation area, although most of the dwellings are outside, we have notified Historic England on the revised proposal as we are required to do. They have raised some concerns over the level of detail provided and direct us to request a full application. I am currently discussing this with Sarah Chappell and we will need to pick this up directly with Historic

England. It would be helpful for the parish to advise as to expected cost and nature of works to the parish hall car park to assist us in establishing whether we can secure a contribution"

6. Tennis Court, play has been taking place, but the door seems to be open so it was suggested a new code be implemented. The grass area has been cut.

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

503	Beaford Short Mat Bowling Club	£500.00
-----	--------------------------------	---------

i It was proposed by Cllr Huxtable seconded by Cllr Steer to grant the Beaford Short Mat bowling club £500, all in favour.

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	
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 Lock reported regarding the proposed development at Towell Lane, I have had recent ongoing correspondence from Devon County Flood Risk and am looking at this with them. This has been in response to further objections from residents. The applicant has increased the number of units over a similar built footprint, essentially by changing the housing mix to ensure small uses and closer compliance with our own housing mix. As part of the development falls within the Beaford Conservation area, although most of the dwellings are outside, we have notified Historic England on the revised proposal as we are required to do. They have raised some concerns over the level of detail provided and direct us to request a full application. I am currently discussing this with Sarah Chappell and we will need to pick this up directly with Historic England. It would be helpful for the parish to advise as to expected cost and nature of works to the parish hall car park to assist us in establishing whether we can secure a contribution"

9. Police Report, it was reported in the last 30 days there has been no crimes and three phone calls logged 2 public safety and one transport related.

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

11. Caretakers Report & Hall report. The hall is now open, the heaters have been taken off the walls for a full redecoration. The hall are looking at cutting the Door Step Green field, probably at the end of August to let the seeds set prior to cutting. Councillors have had calls regarding the weeds that are growing and the appearance of Sthe village including Shephard's Meadow, along the main road as well as other roads.

In the past the Parish Council has employed a caretaker, so the suggestion was to employ Mr Heard's brother-in-law to do the initial clean up at a cost of £12 per hour, in conjunction with the suggested village clean up in October, then it was suggested to ask Mr Jim Jury if he would be interested in a part time as and when required job of keeping the village in a clean and tidy state. The Parish Council insurance company will be contacted to make sure all the relevant insurances are in place. Cllr Lock is to be asked regarding the regulations of working on the main A road.

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 soon 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 21st September 2021 Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 27th October in the Parish Hall to be agreed.