

BEAFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the
Wednesday 22nd September 2021

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

In attendance, Cllr R Lock Cllr M Clarke - District Councillor plus 2 members of the public

Apologies Cllr D Rogers Cllr R Huxtable Cllr A Saywell – County Councillor

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 collected a cheque for £961 which had been granted from the Reconnect Rebuild Recover Community grant.

Mr Horner highlighted the need for a new lighter skittle alley in the parish hall, for the reforming of the club on a Monday night, this was discussed, the new alley is to encourage the game in both the league and friendly competitions, the total cost is in the region of £1400, it was agreed by all to grant £500 and the suggestion to attend the Hall AGM and try and get further grants in conjunction with the hall.

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 28th July were agreed and signed.

Web site, www.beafordvillage.org

2. Clerks Report, i.

3. Chairman's Report Play equipment, no further movement can be made on the play equipment until the S106 money is received, £12873. Cllr Lock has spoken to planning and the requirement is for 2 affordable houses to be occupied and 2 open market houses, this at present is not met.

The parking on the Village Green no intervention is to be taken. Benches, Mr R Heard has been asked to install them, he has agreed at £25 per bench to undertake the job, it was agreed by all to instruct him to go ahead.

The Rye Park site for the bench has yet to be authorised, this will be chased up again. The grant for the new bench to be sited on the Village Green has been received and the new bench ordered.

Three quotes have been received for the youth shelter; this was discussed, a like for like comparison is to be circulated to Councillors for agreement at the next meeting.

4. Highway Issues. i. Public footpaths no report. ii. The two sheds in Towell Meadow have been 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 Parish council have been asked to intervene, but it was agreed to send " it is felt that the Parish Council should not get involved in issues on private land or neighbourhood disputes, these are not Council business."

iv. Meeting with highways, Cllr Saywell kindly organised two dates but councillors were unable to make them, Cllr Saywell is to be asked again to see if it would be possible to re convene a date as the Parish councillors would very much like to ask the advice of an expert as to what if any solutions there are to the problem.

The DCC website is devon.cc/report-it

5. County and District Councillors items. Cllr Saywell reported **Highways – traffic issues in Beaford village**. Following complaints by the Parish Council about traffic ‘gridlock’ I took your feedback back to DCC Highways Officers and got agreement from officers to meet with the Parish Council over Zoom to discuss these issues and come up with proposals to solve them. I am disappointed we have been unable to agree to have this meeting with Highways before tonight, but the offer of a meeting is still on... find some time in your diaries and give me your availability and we will get the meeting organised.

Covid Covid cases in Devon have fallen since the summer and are now below the England average (216 per 100,000 in Devon, 258 in England). Latest weekly data to 17th September there were 1751 new infections, a fall of 532 (23%) on the previous week. School age children are accounting for a large proportion of positive cases and are driving the case numbers across Devon although we are still seeing some outbreaks in care homes and some workplaces. I sent the Parish Clerk the latest vaccination briefing on Friday but as of 17th September 93% of people aged 16+ in Devon have had one dose, 85.6% have had both doses. Exact details of the booster vaccine rollout and for children aged 12-15 are TBC but I am hoping to find out more at a meeting of the ‘Team Devon’ outbreak board. As and when I have details I will let the Parish Council know. Covid hospitalisations remain, thankfully, stable, but there is pressure on the NHS, in part due to the pent up demand in the system post lockdown.

Children’s Services In September the Cabinet approved proposals to improve recruitment and retentions of Children’s Services Social Workers, with an additional £3.4m being invested into the service. The new measures include better pay for key roles, retention payments, more administrative support to free up social workers to focus on doing direct work with children and families, and expanding training schemes and workforce development. There is a national shortage of social workers so this is a challenging ‘market’ in which to recruit and retain new staff, however these measures are intended to improve the situation in Devon and also reduce our use of agency staff. We are now turning attention to Adult Social Workers and what additional support can be given there too.

Devolution Bid DCC has on behalf of ‘Team Devon’ (the County Council and Devon District Councils) submitted a devolution bid to Government. Key priorities of the bid are: Increase the supply of social housing and affordable homes for key workers Create a single pot of national and local funding to improve skills and training to increase business productivity and tackle poverty. Promote a clean growth agenda that would see Devon achieve net zero carbon emissions with key priorities for transport, housing, energy and land use. Support local regeneration and investment in coastal and market towns. Maximise pupil premium to raise the aspirations of Devon’s young people and promote social mobility The Government appears to be receptive to these proposals, but as ever it will take time to see them come to fruition even if approval is granted. ‘Watch this space’ would be my thoughts on this at the moment!

We will hopefully hear back from the Government soon as to whether Devon’s bid is likely to attract support...

Afghan Refugees DCC is involved with the Home Office programme to resettle refugees from Afghanistan and is working closely with the District Councils to facilitate this. up to 15 families are expected to move into ‘bridging accommodation’ at Exmouth but this is only temporary until they are found permanent accommodation in the rest of the country. The numbers re-settled in both Devon and locally in Torridge are likely to be very low.

Cllr Lock reported on the planning application at Towell Lane the situation has not changed, Historic England still want a full planning application, both sides are in negotiation.

Cllr Clarke is still very much involved with the rural housing crisis, homelessness especially with winter coming, and the Afghan refugees.

6. Tennis Court, promotion is to be done via the Bugle, a new Chairman needs to be elected.

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

505	Beaford Short Mat Bowling Club	£961.00
504	Marmax picnic bench	£526.50
506	SW Fixings (D Buswell)	£20.54
507	Mr S Jennings maintenance work	£120.00

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,	Being considered
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	Being considered
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	Permitted

i. It was reported that caravans are being sited in a field on the right-hand side on the road towards Beaford Mill, this is to be reported for assessment.

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

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

11. Caretakers Report & Hall report. The question was raised again regarding the insurance implications of asking someone to clear weeds etc so this is to be investigated.

The play equipment was sprayed when the children returned to school.

The Hall AGM is on Wednesday the 6th October.

12. Correspondence

i. The DALC newsletters have been circulated.

ii. The weekly crime reports have been circulated.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 27th October 2021** Parish Council meeting **7.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 24th November in the Parish Hall to be agreed.