

BEAFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

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

In attendance - Cllr R Lock Cllr Saywell County Councillor and 3 members of the public.

Apologies, Cllr J Palmer Cllr C Steer Cllr Clarke District Councillors 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 raised from the floor the closure of the footpath below Harepath, it is recognised as not being a public footpath but it has been used as a footpath for in excess of 50 years, prior to the sad death of Shirley Watts a letter was received by residents saying she had no objections to residents walking the path, notices were put up when forestry work was being undertaken these closure notices are still in place. Letters have been sent to DCC; correspondence has now been sent to Martin Caddy the Public Rights of Way Officer who did respond but seemed to have confused this footpath with the lower footpath near the river. A meeting is to be asked to be arranged with Mr Caddy and Cllr Huxtable to discuss the correct site and the possibility of reopening.

It was also raised regarding the planning opposite The Old Parsonage, the Parish Council has no objections.

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January were agreed and signed

2. Clerks Report, i. Councillors are encouraged to apply for grants.

3. Chairman's Report i. The Village Green, play equipment is in good order.

ii. The flashing speed sign, has been received, Cllr Huxtable has looked carefully at the instructions at how to instal and set up the sign. A Risk Assessment was put before the councillors to cover all elements, this has to completed each time the sign is moved. It was proposed by Cllr Pearce seconded by Cllr Millward to accept the risk assessment all in favour and to thank Cllr Huxtable for all his hard work on this project.

4. Highway Issues. i. Footpath, the footpath under Harepath has been covered in public participation, Cllr Underhill is to meet with Mr Mark James next Wednesday to confirm the sites for the 4 proposed grit/salt bins in the village, the application for £200 towards the cost of one from Cllr Clarke has been submitted.

The footpath at Cookworthy Lane, the owner is cutting back the trees in his field so a start has been made but unfortunately there are 18 trees to be dealt with.

A collapsed manhole cover by the water station has been reported, there are a further two that have collapsed one at the bottom of George Street and the other at Church path, these will be reported.

The sign that has to be adjacent to the recently painted single yellow line on the main road, is to be placed on the metal lamp post, thank you to Cllr Saywell for his help in sorting this out.

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

5. County and District Councillors items Cllr Saywell reported on the number of pot holes that are being reported DCC are slowly getting through them but highways are behind with patching work ie

cutting out the road and repairing properly. The single yellow line sign placement was resolved with Cllr Saywell's help, thank you.

Cllr Saywell updated the council on the budget situation, the budget for the forthcoming year has been passed. Out of the £66m this is a 10% uplift in spending, an increase of 8.8% to adults social Care, 18% to children's social care, with an increase of 3.5% for climate change and highways, there is to be a further £2m for drainage maintenance this will help in the long term. Drainage work has improved with the assignment of getters on a more frequent basis. This years over spend is down to £3 and a half million, some planned projects are now not to be carried out, different ways of working are being introduced hopefully by the year end this figure will be down further, but a mitigating factor last year when the budget was set the inflation figure was considerably lower, but this has been built in for next year. The new chief Executive has made a confident good start, bringing a new broom to the situation wanting to reshape and deliver services in a different way in the anticipation of freeing up money for highways, this is a big challenge but Cllr Saywell feels optimistic about the direction of travel.

Cllr Lock reported on the proposed Towell Meadow application regarding the S106 and additional parking the email she received was: *The Section 106 is still being negotiated and includes on site public open space and an offsite contribution to the community hall. The planning allocation policy requires rear access for some of the dwellings on the main street through the development site - we can look to secure a specified level of parking to be secured via the future reserved matters application to alleviate the need for these dwellings to park on the main road.*

It is hoped to have the S106 completed and signed in the next 2 weeks, regarding the request from the Parish Council for additional parking this request can be submitted when the full planning application is submitted. Cllr Lock reported that Council Tax will go up by £5 per household, with regard to halls losing all their business rate relief they wont lose the 75% but the hall will have to pay £153.60 pa for rates.

6. Tennis Court, a solicitor needs to be appointed to transfer the land from Mr Hartford to the Parish Council, TDC are to be contacted to see if they can carry out this service. About 14 members are playing regularly at the 3 sessions a week.

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

554	Beaford Village Hall	£12.00
555	Elan City Speed sign	£2700.00

#### 8.i. Planning

#### P C recommendations

#### TDC

	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	
1/0794/2022/FUL	Part retrospective application for the erection of implement shed and agricultural storage building land at grid reference 254814 115022, Beaford	
1/0782/2022/LBC	Replacement window, Yatton Court, Beaford.	Passed
1/1071/2022/FUL	Proposed extension and internal alterations Latchford, Beaford	Passed
1/1215/2022/FUL	Part retrospective application for the siting of a lodge as a permanent dwelling. Land At Towell Farm, Towell Lane, Beaford	
1/0052/2023/FUL	Demolition of existing building and erection of 1 no dwelling with associated works in lieu of Class Q permission 1/0649/2021/AGM building opposite the Old Parsonage, Beaford	No objections

- i. The Enforcement Officer has visited a site along Down Farm Lane which is to be a very large slurry lagoon, the pipe work is in, a pillow system is to be installed. Concerns were raised regarding the massive construction, it was highlighted was this agricultural or commercial waste, Beaford Brook needs to be protected is the case of a spillage, a letter is to be written to Mr McGill the Environmental Officer highlighting concerns the site could impose from an environmental aspect, to include the smell and gases that could be omitted, the signs on the gate informs of poisonous gases, also the increase in traffic numbers and the danger to the water ways, proposed by Cllr Millward seconded by Cllr Pearce all in favour.
- ii. Also; the clearing of a boundary fence from Cow Flop Cross to Cuppiers Piece is to be highlighted to the Enforcement Officer as to whether this was a Devon Bank and or a boundary fence between parishes. This was proposed by Cllr Huxtable seconded by Cllr Millward all in favour. Cllr Lock is to speak to the Enforcement Officer.
- iii. A gate way has been put in from Towell Farm to Mr Curtis’s land an email is to be sent to Mr Curtis to ensure he is aware of the situation.

9. Police Report, there have been 2 crimes reported to the police, 1 Violence S47 & a less serious also notifiable crime. During the same period, there have been 8 calls, where incidents have been created, they are as follows:

2 concerns for welfare, 2 personal Anti-Social Behaviour, 1 road traffic collision, 1 highway disruption, tree down, 1 abandoned call and 1 violence less serious. Also received was an email reporting someone (no details given) was using a horn before 0700. Also, there is good news for the community speed watch in that they are about to get another site where they can carry out further speed checks.

10. Ways to improve the Village and Parish Environment. Cllr Millward along with Ms Ritson are to move things forward, they along with others are to come up with a package for individuals how they can improve the environment, they acknowledge most people want to do something but it is being realistic what can be achieved. The idea is to be small more direct and personnel as to what can be achieved, a school visit is being considered. The ND Climate Forum which is to do with the Biosphere want more personnel.

11. Caretakers Report & Hall report. The trees have been taken down in the Churchyard at a cost of £4000. The Hall Committee has changed with 4-5 new members, Rebecca Rodgers is now the new Chairman, the Jubilee Committee is now the Coronation committee, the Parish council were thanked for its contribution towards the forthcoming celebrations. The Parish Council Trustees document is being updated. There is a quiz on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> March in the hall, to not clash with any activity in the pub. Pot holes have been filled in the car park. As the hall is a polling station on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> May, no Coronation bunting or decorations can be put up before this day. A notice is to be put in the Bugle regarding the forthcoming election.

It was raised Cllr Millward is currently paying for the website domain, it was agreed by all the Parish Council will cover this cost, thank you to Cllr Millward for all his help in this department.

12. Correspondence

- i. The DALC newsletters have been circulated.
- ii. The weekly crime reports have been circulated.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023** in the Parish Hall **7.30pm**

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 Parish Council meeting.