

BEAFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the
Wednesday 29th March 2023

361

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

In attendance - Cllr Clarke Cllr Saywell County Councillor and 1 member of the public.

Apologies Cllr C Steer Cllr R Lock 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, from the update the footpath can now be used, so an email is to be sent to Martin Caddy asking that the closure signs be taken down.

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February were agreed and signed

2. Clerks Report, i. Parish Council elections, the nominations papers were distributed, two signs one on the PC noticeboard and one on the Hall notice board have been in place advertising the forthcoming election giving dates for submission since the February meeting including ways to contact TDC for information on ways to puts one's name forward for nomination and information required. Interest has been shown so TDC were contacted by the clerk for extra nomination papers online. ii. Kings Coronation, the organising committee are in place with events planned on the Sunday and Monday, there are no official Beacon lighting at this celebration.

3. Chairman's Report i. The Village Green, the play equipment is in good order. The bench by the end of Rye Park needs to be cleaned off, Cllr Pearce kindly said he would undertake this.

ii. The flashing speed sign, has been received, it will be erected in due course, the insurance company will be informed. The Risk Assessment has been given the heads-up from Mark James. It was highlighted that a rubbish bin is required by the Youth Shelter, quotes are to be obtained proposed by Cllr Pearce seconded by Cllr Millward all in favour, also it was felt a sign "Take home your litter" would possibly discourage the amount that is left at the site. Cllr Underhill with help has sorted out the rubbish bin in Shephard's Meadow.

4. Highway Issues. i. Footpath, the footpath under Harepath has been covered in public participation. There has been a car driver driving through the village at 6am beeping his/her horn not regular but often, one resident identified the car taking the number plate which has been reported to the police. Mark James has visited the village and suggested one snow/grit bin initially, this to be sited by the school, central for people to collect grit. The grant from Cllr Clarke has been agreed so the order will be placed. Mr James said DCC were pushing for parishes to have Snow Wardens. The store of grit at present is not in the most convenient place Cllr Palmer was asked if he had a suitable storage place. The Snow Warden scheme will be raised again to the parish and to the new council when it is formed. So, it was proposed by Cllr Huxtable seconded by Cllr Pearce to purchase one bin, all in favour. The bin will be ordered through DCC.

The DCC website is [devon.cc/report-it](https://www.devon.gov.uk/report-it)

I have looked into these closures and apparently these were for emergency works due to a loss of service... hoping to find out more information directly from Openreach.

Potholes Since January 1st a total of **15,528** safety defects have been repaired. Over 40 gangs have been deployed and the Dragon Patcher also used in Torrington Rural to help with the repair backlog. From the anecdotal evidence I'm seeing locally they seem to be finally catching up, though where there has been big delays have been on patching repairs – which involves planing off the top road surface and resurfacing it, not a basic pothole repair.

Of the 15,000 repairs – circa 6,000 of those were **additional** defects identified by safety inspectors when responding to public reports. To give you an idea of the weather impact this winter has had... in December 2,431 potholes were repaired verses 7,376 for January. In January 2022 3,494 defects needed repair in comparison with 2023. Non-safety defect repairs (i.e. small or shallow potholes) have been suspended pending catching up on the backlog. The service seems to be confident they can resume non-safety defect repairs next month in April.

In addition, in the Budget the Government awarded DCC over £9.4m of additional capital funding, the highest amount for any local authority in England. This will be used to fund further patching and resurfacing schemes.

Devolution The Government have given outline approval for a Devon-wide devolution deal which could bring greater local control and allow partners to tap into additional resources to help tackle key local priorities such as affordable housing, better public transport and connectivity, and providing for the skills that the local economy needs.

More details to be confirmed but this will not involve the creation of an elected Mayor for Devon or a change to the existing democratic structures. Local partners across Devon have now been invited to work together to prepare a Final Business Case to present to Government for final approval later in the year.

Councils to receive additional funds to help support households with rising food and energy costs

Devon has secured additional funding to help households weather the rising costs of living, to help pay for food, energy and other essential items. The latest bid amounts to a little over £10 million, to cover the period from April 2023 until March 2024. It will take Devon's total level of Household Support Funding received so far to just over £25 million.

The funding is to support households in most need that are struggling to pay for food, energy, water bills and other related essentials. And specifically, those households that may not be eligible for other support that is already available from the government. More details online here - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/councils-to-receive-additional-funds-to-help-support-households-with-rising-food-and-energy-costs-2/>

Growing Communities Fund DCC has announced another round the [Growing Communities Fund](#), and are encouraging not-for-profit groups, charities, church or faith groups, schools and councils to bid for grants.

Typically these are grants of between £500 and £1,000, although funds of up to £3,000 will be considered for exemplary projects that will receive their funding when their project is completed.

The Growing Communities Funding is to support projects that: could offer warm safe spaces, something to eat and drink, and a place to work, learn, socialise or encourage healthy activity, or that address hardship such as food or fuel insecurity, build greater degrees of self-reliance and community resilience, for example offering advice, peer support or guidance on budgeting, cooking low-cost nutritional meals, tackle loneliness and isolation and build self-esteem, and that have a clear and direct community and environmental benefits.

More information can be found online here - www.devon.gov.uk/communities/growing-communities-fund

Cllr Clarke said the council is now winding down before the forthcoming May elections, Cllr Clarke thanked everyone for their support, and at the forthcoming election is standing as an independent. Cllr Clarke is setting up an LGBT group in the Torridge area most probably in Torrington, the link will be put on the Beaford website when it is up and running. Both Cllr Clarke and Cllr Lock were thanked for their grants over their time in office.

6. Tennis Court, a solicitor needs to be appointed to transfer the land from Mr Hartford to the Parish Council, TDC were contacted to see if they can carry out this service but they unable to do this, the suggestion was Tozers Solicitors from enquires to DALC so it was proposed by Cllr Huxtable seconded by Cllr Pearce to get a quote from Tozers, all in favour.

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

556	Beaford Village Hall	£12.00
557	TDC payroll	£1809.99
558	Office expenses	£45.50

ii. The subscription for the website currently paid by Cllr Millward is to be transferred to the PC in April. iii. As it is the end of the PC financial year an auditor needs to be appointed, the suggestion was Mr Lovell, he is to be asked if he would accept the appointment, papers have to be submitted to the external auditor by the 3rd July.

iv. There has been a request from Beaford Community hub for financial assistance towards there future plans, the next project is an outdoor garden, this was discussed it was proposed by Cllr Pearce seconded by Cllr Huxtable to grant £500, all in favour. The agreement was to grant the materials and equipment for the project.

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	
1/0794/2022/F UL	Part retrospective application for the erection of implement shed and agricultural storage building land at grid reference 254814 115022, Beaford	
1/1215/2022/ FUL	Part retrospective application for the siting of a lodge as a permanent dwelling. Land At Towell Farm, Towell Lane, Beaford	Refused
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	Approved
1/0266/2023/ FUI	Demolition of existing shed and erection of agricultural staff welfare building. Agricultural Building At Grid Reference 253282 114726, Beaford, Devon,	No objections

i. There has been numerous emails from Airband with proposed road closures, more details when definite dates are known. li. No further information has been received in relation to the queries to enforcement from the last meeting

9. Police Report, in the last 30 days 6 incidents where logs have been created: 2 highway disruptions 1 concern for welfare,1 suspect DIC and 1 RTC. During the same period there has been 1 crime reported to the police of criminal damage.

Email from the police. Reports will no longer be provided but general police reports for your area can be found on the [Home | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](http://www.police.uk) website – bespoke reports will only be produced where a specific issue or series of crimes affects your community. We will aim to have these sessions every 5 weeks in the evening, and this will ensure PCSO Sandra Brown and PCSO Melissa Baker will be able to attend as we work a 5-week rota with late shifts already set. We will be in touch again shortly inviting you to our first meeting.

10.Ways to improve the Village and Parish Environment. On going.

11. Caretakers Report & Hall report. The Coronation Committee have been formed. The hedging has been completed with the bark spread around the trees. The steps down from the double doors in the hall have been completed.

12. Correspondence

i. The DALC newsletters have been circulated.

ii. The weekly crime reports have been circulated.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 26th April Annual Parish Meeting 2023 in the Parish Hall **7.30pm**

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 24th May 2023 Annual Parish Council meeting.