

BEAFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the
Wednesday 24th May 2023

365

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

In attendance - Cllr R Lock District Councillor Cllr Saywell County Councillor.

Apologies Cllr Elliott and PCSO Brown

Declaration of Interests – Councillors are invited to declare any disclosable 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.

Prior to the meeting the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms were signed by all councillors and the Members interest forms completed.

Election of Officers

It was proposed by Cllr Huxtable seconded by Cllr Palmer for Cllr Millward to be elected as Chairman; Cllr Millward accepted the post.

It was proposed by Cllr Pearce seconded by Cllr Huxtable for Cllr Palmer to be elected Vice Chairman; a further proposal by Cllr Steer seconded by Cllr Millward for Cllr Underhill to be elected to the post of vice Chairman, after a paper ballot Cllr Underhill was elected and accepted the post.

Parish Hall Representative, Cllr Berry was proposed by Cllr Huxtable and seconded by Cllr Underhill, Cllr Berry accepted the post.

Advisory Committee, any Councillor able to attend agreed to represent the Parish Council when the meetings resume.

Road Warden Cllr Palmer was proposed by Cllr Huxtable seconded by Cllr Underhill

Footpath representative Cllr Huxtable accepted the post.

Tennis Club representative Cllr Huxtable accepted the post.

Village Warden Cllr Pearce accepted the post.

Cllr Millward thanked everyone for electing him to the position of chairman, then went on to give a huge thank you to Cllr Underhill for her time in the office as chairman showing dedication, hard work and a quiet stoicism towards the role.

Cllr Pearce raised from the previous meeting comments not made in the meeting but regarding the number of posts he holds on committees in the parish, on contacting the Charity Commission he was informed there is no reason an individual cannot hold posts on various organisations, Cllr Pearce emphasised he was trying to help the community in which he lives by being proactive.

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th April were agreed and signed.

2. Clerks Report, i. District Council Elections, congratulations to Cllr Rose Lock and Cllr Thomas Elliott who have been elected to represent the ward. A thank you was expressed to Cllr Clarke for the hard work and dedication she put to the role as District Councillor and the help and support given by her to the Parish Council.

ii. The Kings Coronation celebrations went very well, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, a huge thank to the Coronation Committee for an excellent well organised weekend of events. The Parish

council granted £200 but the committee said it would return the amount if a profit was made, a profit was made between £700-£800, as the committee has no bank account the amount is held with an individual, on first discussion it was agreed to leave it, but as the £200 is public money and although there are further celebrations next year it was agreed by Councillors to have the money returned but be earmarked for the forthcoming celebrations next year.

4. Chairman's Report i. The Village Green, the new bin has arrived and erected, hopefully this will solve the litter problem in that area of the Green, it was reported the litter bin in the bus shelter is overflowing this will be reported to TDC. Cllr Huxtable has purchased the teak oil to oil the benches.

ii. Flashing speed sign, Cllr Huxtable has a list of requirements to erect the sign, thank you Cllr Huxtable for undertaking this. It has come from a parishioner that the village will be 20mph from the 2nd July, actually for the whole village to be 20mph an application has to be made to DCC and approved, this was discussed with Cllr Saywell who would support an application, so evidence is to be gathered and an application submitted, Cllr Saywell was unsure when the next round for applications was taking place.

5. Highway Issues. i. Footpath, the footpath under Harepath, an email as minuted at the last meeting has been received from Caroline Gatrell PROW Officer "she can confirm she has received the letters you mentioned from a number of local residents. It sounds like the most appropriate course of action would be for a formal application to be made to claim the route in question as a public right of way, this was discussed, it was proposed by Cllr Huxtable seconded by Cllr Pearce to complete the application and ascertain the amount of evidence gathered before submission, which will then be discussed and raised again at that stage, for all councillors to agree to the submission.

The DCC website is devon.cc/report-it PLEASE REPORT

ii. Parking on the yellow lines, it was raised that some cars are not adhering to the parking restrictions, 2 cars seem to be parked on the lines, school time there are also other cars. On the whole villagers are pleased with the results but it is felt the restrictions are being taken advantage of by certain drivers, PCSO Brown is to be contacted.

5. County and District Councillors items Cllr Saywell also wanted to congratulate Cllr Lock and Cllr Elliott, and also thank Cllr Clarke. Regarding the budget at DCC this will break even and is on course for a £1m underspend, the Council are in a strong position for the coming year.

An email has been circulated regarding the 315 Bus Service, most of the service has been preserved, but the notice is "use it or lose it", at present there is a £2 fare cap, this could rise in October to £2.50 subsidised by DCC, the current grant should see the service through two years if it is not used the service may be cut to peak times. The highways inspector has been in the area today identifying defects, Upcott Lane was highlighted. DCC have with extra money purchased a smaller dragon patcher for narrow roads, a huge amount of dragon patching is scheduled to be undertaken in Torrington Rural this summer. Cllr Saywell has also attended a meeting regarding using Elestomac which is a method of road repairs with less men, quicker, seals better and uses recycled materials. Cllr Saywell was asked regarding the cost to DCC for claims against vehicle damaged due to pot holes, Cllr Saywell reported there have been 4561 claims in the last financial year, 286 from the 1st April to the 14th May, 22-23 £26417 was paid to claimants and £9133 from April to May.

Cllr Lock has spoken to Helen Smith of the Planning department regarding the Towell Lane planning application, it has gone very quiet and they have heard nothing from the applicant. The slurry pit along Down Lane is under investigation.

Helen Smith would like to hold a planning presentation with Beaford, St Giles and Roborough to inform councillors of the procedures and rules connected with planning applications and responding to them, a date will be discussed with the other councils. Councillors also asked for a definitive map of parish boundaries, Cllr Lock said she would obtain one. Latchford was mentioned as the public

footpath running near the property is now very wet, the owners filled in a pond which seems to have resulted in the wet footpath, this is to be investigated and discussed at the next meeting.

6. Tennis Court, Tozers solicitors have responded but as yet Cllr Huxtable has not started the process. Play has resumed on the court and the club are looking at money raising.

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

562	Beaford Village Hall	£24.00
563	DALC affiliation fee reissued	£133.15
564	Mr. Lovell Internal auditor	£75.00
565	Glasdon	£204.19
566	Community First	£328.28
567	South West Fixings R Huxtable	£16.96

ii. These cheques were approved previously but not minuted: 533 25/05/22 J Spilstead £60,536 27/07/22 Beaford Village Hall £12,537 27/07/22 K Lewis £850,543 26/10/22 Beaford Village Hall £12,544 26/10/22 M Baker £1,320,545 16/10/22 C Snell £80,546 26/10/22 T D C £1,749,547 25/10/22 South West Fixings £70.80. Cheque 536 was lost and subsequently reissued; this is covered under 562 for £24 for the Village Hall. An amendment to the minutes of the meeting dated 26th October 2022 list is required as the cheques listed for approval state "chq 543 Community First £321.71" This should read "chq 540 Community First £52.23" (this is the difference between the invoice for £321.71 and the one paid earlier in the year Chq 531 for £269.48). Extra, insurance was required for the play equipment, the youth shelter was added.

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	
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i. There has been numerous emails from Airband with proposed road closures, as Airband are a utility they are allowed road closures. li. Enforcement queries covered under Cllr Locks report.

9. Police Report, following the recent email, no report has been received. Speed watch will resume shortly.

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.

10. Ways to improve the Village and Parish Environment. Cllr Millward and Mary Ritson have attended various meetings and it is their intension to work with residents, householders and farmers on ways of improving the environment.

11. Caretakers Report & Hall report, Cllr Pearce reported all seems in order, pleased with the new bin and the grass cutting contractor, it is to be raised at the next meeting regarding the Parish Council paying the contractor to cut the helicopter site.

12. Correspondence

i. The DALC newsletters have been circulated.

ii. The weekly crime reports have been circulated.

The verge on the right when exiting Coombe Lane was discussed as the visibility is difficult due to the height of the grasses etc.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 28th June Council Parish Meeting 2023 in the Parish Hall 7.30pm

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 28th July 2023 Parish Council meeting.