

BEAFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the
Wednesday 25th October 2023

375

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

In attendance - Cllr R Lock District Councillor and 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.

Mr Spilstead attended representing the Short Mat Bowls Club and commented on behalf of the club that, since 1st October we have joined the local Merton afternoon bowling league to reduce our travelling during the winter months. We are now looking to purchase a new bowling mat to replace one that is over twenty years old, at a cost of £1,200. We have raised just over £600 from various fund-raising activities and are looking for any other funds to help us achieve our target. We now have over 15 players regularly playing on every Monday and Friday afternoon as well as mid-week league games (at home and away). In a short space of time, we have become the largest user of the village hall whilst bringing bowlers from other clubs all over Devon into Beaford and show them what lovely facilities we have at the village hall. The short mat bowling in Beaford not only gives many residents regular exercise it also provides them with a fun social environment. Mr Spilstead was thanked for his attendance.

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September were agreed and signed.

2. Clerks Report, i. The hedge along the road side of the Village Green and Tennis court are planned to be cut on Friday the 27th at 11 o'clock notices have been circulated. ii. A further grass cut to the Village Green is planned.

3. Chairman's Report i. The Village Green, the play equipment and Green are looking in good order, the benches have been oiled thank you very much to Cllr Huxtable and Cllr Millward an excellent job has been achieved. Cllr Pearce said the bin beside the Youth shelter is not opening, Cllr Huxtable said he would look at it. Cllr Huxtable was thanked for watering the commemorative tree during the summer it is now looking well

ii. Flashing speed sign, as yet the documentation has not received approval so an email asking for this to be completed is to be sent as the sign was purchased back in February.

4. Highway Issues. i. Footpaths, no 5 has been signed off so no further work is to be undertaken. Complaints regarding walkers not sticking to the correct footpaths and not keeping dogs on leads have been received, a copy of the footpath map is to be put in the Bugle with advice for walkers. Letter have been received regarding the Harepath Wood; Cllr Palmer is collating the application it will be presented to the Parish Council before submission.

The man holes cover along the A3124 have been reported again with questions asked as to why they have not been repaired, highlighting that Utility companies have a statutory obligation under the NRSW act to maintain their highway infrastructure to the required standard and to repair defects in a timely manner, as you would no doubt agree 8 months and counting is not timely.

The increase in traffic through the village is due to the road closure at Town Mills towards Little Torrington on the A386, speed watch was carried out recording 225 vehicles an hour a huge rise from the average 130-140.

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

ii. The voluntary post of Road Warden, a notice was put in the Bugle again asking for another volunteer.

5. County and District Councillors items. Cllr Saywell reported **Devolution** - Talks with Central Government remain ongoing. Hopefully there will be a deal announced in the Autumn but we shall see as negotiations continue. **Budget Position** - Currently there is a projected £9m overspend on DCC's Budget, mainly relating to pressures on Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care placements.

Work is ongoing to address the overspends. It is important that we do so. A restructuring of Council staff teams has started. Although the Council has enough in reserves to cover off this overspend, experience from other Councils shows us that if you don't tackle the overspends in year, they usually continue and get worse in the following financial year(s). An example of that is our neighbours in Somerset who, unlike Devon, failed to balance their budget last year and had to take £18 million out of their reserves to cover the overspend. They had to take money out of their reserves again this year to set a budget and are now facing a projected overspend of £21 million this financial year.

Mobile Libraries/Community Library - The decision to end the mobile library service was called in and referred back to Cabinet which will take a decision in November. There is the possibility of a legal challenge though I expect to be able to give details next month of how we can get the Library Service to support rural communities like Yarnscombe which currently does not benefit from the Mobile Library Service, and is unlikely to benefit from it even if the service continues...

Highways - Dragon Patching of sites in Torrington Rural has now largely finished for the year with the weather becoming more autumnal. With my Neighbourhood Highways Officer, we are now assessing sites for next year. *Other Highways matters* - With the cancellation of HS2 there is a possibility that Highways will receive more capital funding for resurfacing as the funds are reallocated nationally. We await details from the Department for Transport...

Cllr Lock reported on the material being dumped at Down Lane the Enforcement Officer has visited again the material may be hazardous so the complaint has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection officer. No further update on the Towell Lane development or the refusal of the Towell Lodge.

Cllr Lock was thanked very much for all the support and dedication she puts to her role as District Councillor representing Beaford.

6. Tennis Court, Cllr Huxtable has contacted Mr Hartford regarding the land transfer. This is still ongoing further enquires are to be made.

7. Defibrillator, an application to DCC has been submitted for a grant towards a second defibrillator to be located at the Village Hall.

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

577	Beaford Village Hall	£15.00
578	TDC payroll	£1749.99
579	Cancelled	£
580	DALC training	£36.00
581	Flag Mr R Pearce	£23.99
582	Short Mat Bowls Club	£600.00

ii. Consider grant for the DAAT landing site grass cutting, a quote from Mr Heard is still awaited

iii. Consider grant for the short mat bowls club, after discussion it was proposed by Cllr Steer seconded by Cllr Underhill to grant £600 all in favour.

9.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	
1/0733/2023/FUL	Erection of a first-floor extension to existing single storey with balcony. West Lane End Cottage, Beaford,	Passed
1/0786/2023/LBC 1/0785/2023/FUL	Replace existing windows & doors, add two roof lights, internal and external alterations. The Stables, Beaford	Passed
1/0955/2023/FUL	No 13-panel ground mounted system, Sand School at grid ref 255452 115152 Bond Street Beaford	No objections

i. It was raised to clarify that Cllr Palmers application for the hut is all in order providing it is not lived in for residential purposes.

10. Police Report, no report has been received. Speedwatch has been carried out twice this week, the Speedwatch volunteers are going to Exeter next week for further training.

11. Ways to improve the Village and Parish Environment. Devon Communities together have information on energy saving.

12. Caretakers Report & Hall report, the field has been topped again thank you to Brian Steer, a group of 7 volunteers painted the front of the Village Hall, the new Chairman is Mr Dennis Buswell. The DAAT light is to be inspected the day after the meeting. The recently held Race Night raised £600, £300 for the Tennis Club and £300 for the Village Hall

13. Correspondence

i. The DALC newsletters have been circulated. ii. Contributions towards the Devon Records office and the Citizens Advice will be discussed at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 29th November Council Parish Meeting 2023** in the Parish Hall 7.30pm

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 24th January 2024 Parish Council meeting. To be agreed.