

BEAFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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

In attendance - Cllr R Lock Cllr Elliott District Councillor and Cllr Saywell County Councillor and a  
member of the public

Apologies Cllr R Huxtable Cllr G Underhill 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.

It was raised from the floor, has there has been any progress on the footpath by Harepath, in response the application is being completed before coming for discussion at a Parish Council meeting. It was raised is there any possibility of removing the no entry sign, the Parish Council are not able at all to authorise this.

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October were agreed and signed.

2. Clerks Report, i. A thank you has been received from the Short Mat Bowls club for the grant of £600 given by the Parish Council.

ii. Wicksteed Report, this has been circulated, there are two items that require attention, a net connector on the bird's nest needs to be replaced and a post on one of the swings, TK Play will do contacted to do the net connector, and the post will be replaced.

3. Chairman's Report i. The Village Green, all in order apart from the bin beside the Youth shelter is not opening, Cllr Huxtable said he would look at it. The bin at the end of Coombe Lane was discussed, there is always a lot of rubbish dumped by the bin, Waste and Recycling at TDC are to be contacted.

ii. Flashing speed sign, various emails from Mark James Highway Superintendent have been received concerned at the sites for the sign, "I have now heard back from the Road Safety and Traffic Management team and whilst they both have no overall objection to the placement of the MVAS in Beaford, unfortunately their feedback has highlighted some concerns with the locations we were hoping to use, primarily with regard to the safety of those responsible for moving the sign between locations." Alternative locations have been suggested, these need to be looked at and a decision made. It was noted the school flashing speed signs have been removed.

4. Highway Issues. i.

Letters have been received regarding the Harepath Wood; Cllr Palmer is collating the application it will be presented to the Parish Council before submission.

The curbs along the main road and the flooding through the village due to either the dropped curb or blocked drains were highlighted. And the curb issue along Green Lane as it is a vertical drop and the pavement can not be accessed very easily by pushchairs, immobile people etc were discussed, it was agreed to ask Andrew Saywell to come and do a site visit for him to advise on the best course of action. Both manholes cover's have been reported as fixed but one is sub-standard so this is to reported again. The light that is out in church Lane has been reported.

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

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

5. Defibrillator, the 100% grant has not been obtained but a 50% grant of £750 can be applied for, if that is not successful an extra defibrillator at the Village Hall will be purchased at a cost of £1500. Funding will come from the Autumn Show, Village Hall and it was proposed by Cllr Steer seconded by Cllr Palmer for the Parish Council to grant £500, all in favour.

6. County and District Councillors items. Cllr Saywell reported **Devolution** – It has now been announced that the Government have approved a Devolution Deal in principle for Devon and Torbay (Plymouth have dropped out). Negotiations on finer details remain ongoing but at the very least the deal will involve a £16 million fund for environmental skills and infrastructure projects, a devolved Adult/Further Education Budget which will involve a closer working relationship with Petroc and Exeter Colleges, further funding for local transport infrastructure projects, and a joint investment plan for housing, working with Homes England to unlock potential affordable housing sites. More details as and when they are announced.

**Highways** – Thanks to the cancellation of HS2 DCC will be receiving an extra £6.663 million this financial year for capital highways funding. It will be followed by the same amount next year, and then there will be a minimum of £208.6 million between now and 2033/34. I will be working with my Neighbourhood Highways Officer to put further sites in Torrington Rural forward for consideration for patching and resurfacing. Dragon Patching of sites in Torrington Rural has now largely finished for the year with the weather becoming more autumnal. We are now looking at sites for Dragon Patching next year and with my Neighbourhood Highways Officer we are looking at potential sites within or adjoining Beaford.

**Budget Position** - Currently there is a projected £13.6m overspend on DCC's Budget for this financial year, mainly relating to pressures on Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care placements. Work is ongoing to address the overspends and I would, at this stage, expect this number to come down as we get towards the end of the financial year. 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.

**Support for Residents struggling with the Cost of Living** - DCC has received funding from Central Government via the Household Support Fund to help residents struggling with the cost of living crisis. For this coming winter, Devon's district and city councils have over £2 million to offer 'one-off' financial help to those who are struggling to pay for their food and utility costs or other household essentials. Help may also be available for unexpected or exceptional circumstances, for example, rent arrears prior to being in receipt of appropriate housing benefits. DCC are also working with the Devon Community Foundation to provide grants to voluntary sector organisations supporting communities that don't always get the help they need. Their 'Food, Fuel and More' grant scheme was very well received earlier this year and will re-open this winter with a further funding pot of over £260,000. The scheme will offer large grants of up to £25,000 to organisations that support homeless people or people in temporary or insecure housing.

Further details as to what help can be provided can be found online at [www.devon.gov.uk/cost-](http://www.devon.gov.uk/cost-)

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 has had a phone call from a resident regarding Airband and the erection of a pole, this cannot be undertaken on private property without the owner's consent. It has been reported to Parish

Councillors that the Towell Lane mobile lodge is being lived in, despite the planning application being refused, this will be reported to the Enforcement Officer.

The rubbish at Down Lane, the Environmental Protection Officer has visited as well as the Environment Agency, this is being looked at.

7. Tennis Court, progress is ongoing, the next project is for a new fence to be erected in the spring.

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

583	Beaford Village Hall	£15.00
584	C Snell hedge trimming	£80.00
585	Wicksteed	£158.40

ii. Consider grant for the DAAT landing site grass cutting, only one quote from Micheal Baker has been received for £200 for the site to be cut to co-incide with the other grass cutting in the village. So, it was proposed by Cllr Steer seconded by Cllr Berry to accepted this quote all in favour.

iii. Consider the grass cutting tender, Mr Baker quoted £1140 for the Village Green and £260 for the tennis court, it was proposed by Cllr Steer seconded by Cllr Palmer to accepted this quote all in favour.

iv. Set the precept, this was deferred to the January meeting.

#### 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	
1/0955/2023/FUL	No 13-panel ground mounted system, Sand School at grid ref 255452 115152 Bond Street Beaford	
1/1049/2023/LBC 1/1048/2023/FUL	Erection of garage - Beaford Mill Mill Road Beaford Winkleigh	

10. Police Report, the following report is for 01/11/23 to the 28/11/23. During this period, 4 incidents where logs have been created: 2 information intelligence, 1 highway disruption and one burglary to a dwelling. In the same period 3 crimes were carried out 1 notifiable crime and two burglaries, business & community.

Speedwatch has been carried out with 1246 vehicles checked resulting in 125 vehicles speeding, the monitoring times have been changed.

11. Ways to improve the Village and Parish Environment.

12. Caretakers Report & Hall report, it was reported hall bookings are very good. A new Beaford Hall sign is to be erected. The very good market has returned once a month. The installation of the defibrillator will require electrical work to be undertaken.

13. Correspondence

i. The DALC newsletters have been circulated.

ii. A letter has been received from Geoffrey Cox MP regarding the Parliamentary Roads petition he is putting together as an important initiative, which needs signatures to show support. And Levelling up Partnership Priorities, five were suggested the Parish Council opted for the rejuvenation of local town centres with town centre improvement schemes and special retail zones, as the highest ranked project followed by the restoration of the Bideford to Barnstaple railway, the re-development of the former Taddipport Creamery site, then the expansion of the Holsworth Agri-business centre as a hub for agri business and finally the creation of a Bideford Maritime Heritage area.

The final initiative was Royal Mail letter post and Broadband, a note is to be put in the Bugle asking for experiences to feedback to Geoffrey Cox MP for him to use when liaising with Royal Mail and Broadband providers.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January Council Parish Meeting 2024 in the Parish Hall 7.30pm**

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Parish Council meeting.