

BEAFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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

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

Apologies Cllr C Steer Cllr R Huxtable Cllr J Palmer 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

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January were agreed and signed.

#### 2. Clerks Report,

i. Wicksteed Report, TK Play have been contacted to do the net connector, but it was not confirmed if the repairs had been undertaken, the post will be replaced in due course.

ii. The Post Office changes were well advertised in the Bugle.

3. Chairman's Report i. The Village Green, councillors have requested the Green is cut early so the contractor will be contacted. The benches are in good order and will be oiled again in the Spring. All the rubbish bin is not being emptied regularly Cllr Pearce has contacted TDC to ensure all the bins are emptied on a regular basis.

DOG WASTE, the dog bin at Shepherds Meadow is having the poo bags left around it and not placed in it, PLEASE USE THE DOG WASTE BINS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND TIDYNESS, THANK YOU.

ii. Flashing speed sign, Cllr Huxtable was not in attendance but a plan to erect the sign needs to put in motion. The suggestion for a site at the garage end of the village was the small piece of grass just outside the garage, the owner will be contacted by the chairman.

4. Defibrillators, the spare defibrillator has not found a site as yet, a site in a different area of the village is to be looked into, notices have been received regarding the medical equipment this will be addressed.

**The DCC website is [devon.cc/report-it](https://devon.cc/report-it) PLEASE REPORT or ring 0345 1004 115**

5. Highway Issues. i. It was reported there are trees down on footpaths, this is the responsibility of landowners to remove trees on public footpaths.

ii. The voluntary post of Road Warden, this will be put in the Bugle again asking for another volunteer.

6. County and District Councillors items. Cllr Saywell reported **DCC Budgets** – The Budget meeting was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> February and agreed. The overall revenue budget is set to increase to £743 million. Adult Care and Health gets a 6% (£20.5m) increase with an overall budget of just under £361m. Children's Services gets a £21.5m increase of 10.4% for a budget of just under £228m. The Highways and Transport Directorate gets a more modest 4.7% increase of £3.9m... but that is still welcome!

In addition, the final Central Government Financial Settlement was more generous than expected – a further £1.5m will go into Highways Drainage on top of the proposed budgets. Councillor Locality Grants will also be increased from £5,000 back up to £8,000. DCC's share of the Council Tax will increase by 4.99%, of which 2% is specifically ringfenced for Adult Social Care. I know Council Tax increases are never welcome... but it is needed to fund the continued demand on social services and Highways and to ensure the Council has a sound budget. The alternative is to take money out of reserves to prop up day to day expenditure... and if we did that it would weaken Devon's financial position and start getting the Council into the mess that other authorities like Somerset and Birmingham have got themselves into...

**Devolution** – The Devolution Deal for Devon and Torbay has now been published. The 40-page proposed Deal sets out in detail proposals that could see the transfer of powers and funding to a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority, subject to approval by Devon and Torbay following a public consultation which has now started.

The proposed Combined County Authority would be a partnership made up of Councillors representing the councils of Devon and Torbay, including District Councils, and representatives from business and education. Together, that partnership would deliver on a jointly agreed programme, working alongside a wide range of local stakeholders to tackle key local priorities.

The Government has chosen Devon and Torbay as one of only a small number of local authority areas in the country to form a Combined County Authority (CCA), that will **not** require an elected Mayor or changes to the current structure of local councils. The Deal should allow important decisions to be taken locally by people who know their areas best, on priorities that matter to the people of Devon and Torrington Rural such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport.

Highlights of the proposal are:

Direct control of adult education to create up to 50,000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030.

Government transfer of over £16 million to invest in new green jobs, homes, skills, and business growth, and accelerate Devon and Torbay's transition to a net-zero economy.

Stronger partnership with Homes England to create a joint local action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people and reduce homelessness.

Even closer working between Devon and Torbay to improve the efficiency and co-ordination of public transport. There is an ambition to introduce a single ticketing system for travellers and investment in services to provide greater access to public transport.

Devon and Torbay would be responsible for developing, designing and delivering the next stages of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2025.

Boosting and supporting high growth business sectors in Devon and Torbay, such as advanced marine engineering, defence, photonics and digital.

More information about the Deal and the public consultation can be found online at [www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk](http://www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk)

Cllr Lock reported that at the last full TDC meeting the precept increase will be 2.99% equating to £5 for a Band D property, 62% of properties in Torridge are in Bands A, B, C or D.

The flooding was discussed at Caddsdow, the details have been sent to Cllr Saywell.

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: - ,

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587	Beaford Village Hall	£15.00
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589	VIA Energy	£410.98
590	Beaford PCC	£500.00

ii. Cllr Pearce declared a prejudicial interest and took no part in the decision, to grant the PCC the annual amount of £500 proposed by Cllr Underhill seconded by Cllr Berry, 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	
1/1217/2023/FUL	Retrospective application for hardcore field track- land at grid reference 255192-15510, Beaford	Rejected

i. Cllr Lock said she has spoken to the planning officer regarding the case at Down Lane, TDC Enforcement are actively pursuing this as slurry is running down the lane. There has been no update on the lodge at Towell. Folly Barn was raised, it was resolved councillors have asked the chairman to have further discussions with Cllr Palmer regarding the shed and caravans in Folly field, to clarify the situation, all in agreement.

10. Police Report, Speedwatch Cllr Pearce would like to step back from his role on the Speedwatch team, a successor needs to be appointed, if anyone would like to join the Speedwatch team, training is given please contact Cllr Pearce for more information. Cllr Pearce was thanked for all his effort, hard work and dedication he has put to the role.

11. Ways to improve the Village and Parish Environment. There are environmental seminars being held both at Dolton Village Hall and Beaford in the next few months, these will be advertised. There has been a request for public car parks to host electric charging stations, Cllr Berry is to forward this information to the Village Hall committee.

12. Caretakers Report & Hall report, the hall is doing well and there has been a request from the Chairman to attend a Parish Council meeting, the suggestion was the Annual Parish meeting when the Chairman is always asked to give a report, the APM is the 24<sup>th</sup> April, open to all parishioners please come along.

13. Correspondence

i. The DALC newsletters have been circulated.

There were some points raised by parishioners through a councillor regarding road closure past the hall and mud on road between Cow Flop Cross and Cuppers Piece these have both been resolved.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March Council Parish Meeting 2024** in the Parish Hall **7.30pm**

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Parish Council meeting.  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** followed by a Parish Council meeting.