

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024

Present Cllr G Underhill, Cllr S Berry Cllr R Pearce and Mrs A Snell clerk

In attendance - Cllr R Lock District Councillor

Apologies Cllr B Millward Cllr C Steer Cllr R Huxtable Cllr J Palmer Cllr Saywell County Councillor 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 Nigel Castle has answered the advert for a Maintenance Person for the Village, Nigel was welcomed to the meeting, the job description is general maintenance, cleaning up litter, looking after the bus shelter, washing signs, oiling of the benches and general work around the village, as directed by the Chairman. The hours will be no more than 2 hours a week, Mr Castle has Public Liability insurance. The hours are flexible and at the start it will be a trial period for Mr Castle and the Parish Council. Materials are to be purchased at South West Fixings where an account will be opened, Mr Castle will liaise with either the Chairman or clerk regarding the purchase of materials, Mr Castle will attend the next meeting for an update. Mr Castle was thanked.

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June were agreed and signed.

2. Clerks Report,

i. The Flashing Speed sign is due to be erected.

ii. Sale of the top half of the hall car park, an email has been received from Beaford Arts, Mrs Woodman has had a chat with Cllr Pearce about a possible sale. It's still in the very early stages, and Beaford Arts haven't decided on whether to put in for planning first or not, but will make sure they keep the Parish Council in the loop.

4. Chairman's Report i. The Village Green, thank you to Cllr Berry and Cllr Pearce for the work they have undertaken on the Green. The Community Hut has been repaired.

ii. Defibrillators, the question was asked would parishioners like the Parish Council to organise a defibrillator training evening, a notice will be put in the Bugle to assess the level of interest.

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

5. Highway Issues. i. Emails have been received regarding the closed not public footpath on Halsdon land, the reply will be sent again saying the Parish Council are not pursuing this.

6. County and District Councillors items. Cllr Saywell reported **Local Highways Matters** – Serviceability patching has now taken place on 'Upcott Hill' and having driven it recently I would say on the whole it is in a much-improved condition. Still a couple of rough sections I'd like to see treated but, compared with what it was like, it is now a lot more drivable!

**Devolution** – Unfortunately due to the calling of an early General Election there was not enough time to pass the statutory orders to legally create the Combined Authority/Devolution settlement.

Nevertheless, the legislation and legal work is ready to go... The new Government is making positive noises about devolution, although they seem to be even keener on Elected Mayors than the last Government. Still TBC as to whether they will go ahead with Devon's deal as is, or if they try to make changes.

**Council Restructures/Modernisation** – Restructuring and streamlining of the Council continues behind the scenes. The Information Governance and Customer Complaints Team are being merged with the Legal Directorate which should create a more streamlined team and as there is quite a lot of synergy between governance, complaints and legal it, in my view, is a logical merger.

**Summer Holiday Activities and Food** – Holiday activities and food for children who receive free school meals will be available again over the summer holidays. Funded by the Department for Education, DCC have teamed up with over 100 different activity providers across Devon to offer more than 30,000 places to children aged five to 16 years old, who receive benefit-related free school meals. From arts and crafts workshops to sports tournaments and outdoor activities, the programme is designed to keep children engaged, active, and well-nourished during the school break. All clubs will be operating for a minimum of four hours for four days and will include a hot meal. The Council have also increased the number of places for secondary school aged children, with some sessions taking place during the evenings and at weekends. More information on the HAF programme, including booking details and eligibility criteria can be found online here -

[www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/family-support/haf-programme/](http://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/family-support/haf-programme/)

**Family Hub Consultation** – The Council is changing the way that young families are supported at Children's Centres, and is inviting those who use the services, as well as professionals and community groups, to help influence the changes. It follows a national move, announced by the Government last year, for Children's Centres to become Family Hubs, as part of its Start for Life Programme initiative. In Devon that means extending the age range, from current services that deliver targeted support to 0 to 8 year-olds, to future services that provide **universal** as well as targeted and support to 0 to 19 year-olds, or up to 25 year-old young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. And it would mean a wider range of services than present, including support from local community groups, working together to help young families. Having agreed at the end of last year to make the change in line with national thinking, Devon County Council is now inviting families, professionals and community groups to help shape what the new Family Hubs support network will look like in Devon. Exactly which services will be integrated into a Family Hub will very much depend on the needs of local families. But the kind of services that families could access include early years services and education; Public Health Nursing and Midwifery services; activities delivered by local groups; drug, alcohol and domestic abuse support; mental health support and youth services. This will likely lead to a change in how some of the current Children's Centre buildings are operated but I want to make it very clear that this is not about cutting or reducing services. Indeed, for rural areas I see this as an advantage because if the services provided by the Family Hubs can be delivered through outreach services directly in rural communities, that is better than making a family travel into Bideford to access the service from a building there. Family Hubs are likely to be located in areas of greatest need, with outreach services extending from them into local communities. Much of the support families currently receive will still be available.

**New Interchange Railway Station for Okehampton** – The DCC Cabinet approved plans to build a new 'Interchange' station at Okehampton which will be located near the industrial estates on the road heading towards the A30. It should have 200 parking spaces and will be an easier station for people to get to and use than the existing historical station which has few parking spaces. The reopening of the Okehampton Line has been one of the most successful re-openings in the country and I hope this new station will make it an even more attractive option for local people to travel by rail to regional and inter-city destinations without having to travel all the way down to either Exeter or Tiverton Parkway, or take lengthy connections from Barnstaple or Umberleigh. I appreciate in Beaford Okehampton might be too far away but overall, I still think this is good news for the wider area. As work had

already started on this, this scheme shouldn't be affected by the new Government's budget cuts. However, it looks as though both the Tavistock rail link and the new station at Collumpton have been axed. Given this climate I'd be highly surprised if any progress is made now on re-opening the Bideford-Barnstaple railway line...

Cllr Lock reported on the Towell housing development the final draft of the S106 is with the applicants' solicitors. The unauthorised silage clamp at Towell Farm has been reported. Regarding the Towell lodge appeal, this has been refused. Under the Conservative Government TDC was promised £25million levelling up fund, TDC will have to wait and see if this is still to be received.

7. Tennis Court, the clerk is pursuing the transfer.

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

605	Beaford Village Hall	£15.00
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### 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	
1/0459/2024/AGM B	Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. dwellinghouse and associated building operations under Class Q (affecting a public right of way) Agricultural Building At Grid Reference 254558 114982, Beaford, Devon	Approved
1/0650/2023/FUL Appeal Reference: APP/W1145/W/24/3341178	Part retrospective application for siting of a lodge as a local needs dwelling (resubmission of application 1/1215/2022/FUL) Towell Farm, Towell Lane,	Refused
1/0518/2024/AG FLEX	Prior approval for change of use from agricultural building (Class R) to a flexible commercial use (Class E - commercial, business or service of Schedule 2, Part 3) Agricultural Building At Grid Reference 256248 114751 Beaford	Approved
1/0530/2024/FU H	Erection of rear extension and deck - 12 Marshalls Mead Beaford	Approved
1/0581/2024/FUL	Ground mounted solar panels, Canns Down	

10. Police Report, In the last 30 days there have not been any crimes and the police have had 3 calls where incidents have been created: 1 Suspicious incident, 1 Highway disruption and 1 Harassment/stalking. Cllr Pearce reported when undertaking Speedwatch a visit was had by PCSO Sandra Brown. The volunteer Speedwatch members are now wearing cameras.

11. Ways to improve the Village and Parish Environment.

12. Caretakers Report & Hall report, there is a good selection of library books in the hall.

13. Correspondence

i. The DALC newsletters have been circulated.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024** in the Parish Hall 7.30pm

Please note a WEEK EARLY

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024 Parish Council meeting.