

# Beoley Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Ian Shenton, Hill Cottage, 2 School Hill Cottages, Stratford Rd, Wootton Waven , Warks. B95 6BB

## Minutes of Meeting of Beoley Parish Council held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom conference software.

**Attendees:** Cllr. Bland (Chairman), Cllr. Joynes (Vice Chair), Cllr. Barry, Cllr. Cook, Cllr. Morgan, James Urry (part), Stephen Lewis (Parish Lengthsman), County Cllr. Hotham, District Cllr English, I. Shenton (Parish Clerk).

Members of the public attending: 1

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Merrill
2. **Declaration of Personal/Prejudicial Interests:** None
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (12<sup>th</sup> May 2020) were approved unanimously & will be signed** by the Chairman at the first available opportunity. \*
4. **Casual Vacancy for a Councillor**
  - a) 1 nomination received and it was agreed unanimously that James Urry should be co-opted onto the Parish Council.
  - b) The Clerk confirmed that all necessary paperwork will be sent to Cllr. Urry and completed before the next meeting.
5. **Report by District Cllr. English:** Written report attached as Appendix A
6. **Report by County Cllr. Hotham:** Points highlighted were:
  - a) Raised whether the Village Hall had claimed from the grants available
  - b) Attendance at schools was as high as 60%
  - c) Only one HWRC closed
  - d) County Cllr. Hotham will investigate which pathway on Church Hill needs to be repaired as he had received a report
  - e) Signs for wildlife (in particular badgers) – County Cllr. Hotham will investigate and report back
  - f) Paperwork for the container has been submitted for the sum of £800. The Chair expressed his thanks to County Cllr. Hotham for funding this.
  - g) Highlighted that we have the opportunity to use a gang from the County Council for a day and we should advise County on what we would like them to do – One suggestion was cleaning of the war memorial. Chair to confirm what work Parish Council would like carried out.
7. **Items b/f from previous minutes**
  - a) West Mercia Police Commissioner – date to be agreed for a Q & A session c/f\*
  - b) NDP – Date to be agreed for presentation by Chairman of a PC that has gone through the process c/f\*
  - c) Memorial tree for Cllr. Jean Luck – Agreed that this should be at the school. A small ceremony will take place. Costs to be obtained for a memorial plaque to sit alongside the tree.\*
  - d) James Urry (Highways Lead) update on “No Fly-tipping” signs from Bromsgrove DC - no progress to report.
  - e) Recruitment of new Parish Clerk – on hold due to Covid-19 and social distancing issues\*
8. **Village Magazine**
  - a) Chair to call Richard Peach and update members.
9. **Planning – Applications**
  - a) Planning presented in separate report but attached with the Agenda
10. **Portway & Hillcrest – presented by Cllr. Morgan**
  - a) Small shop had been tried out unsuccessfully at Hillcrest.
  - b) Noise from the unofficial Travellers site in Billesley Lane are the subject of a number of complaints.
11. **Report of Parish Lengthsman (PL).**
  - a) The PL report was accepted at the meeting.

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- b) Request to spend up to £30 on PPE by Cllr. Urry was approved unanimously.
- c) Request to spend up to £50 on anew beacon for the PL vehicle was approved unanimously.
- d) Cost of storage container of £800 has been paid by County Cllr. Hotham and thanks were given to him by the Chair on behalf of everyone present.
- e) Paint and locks expenditure (for the container) up to £300 was approved unanimously.

## **12. Report of Path Warden – Report accepted**

### **13. Finance.**

- a) Payments were approved unanimously.
- b) Bank balances were considered & approved unanimously.
- c) Risk assessment for the financial year ended 31/03/2019 was reviewed, accepted and approved unanimously.
- d) All schedules as highlighted and attached to the Agenda in respect of the financial accounts for the year ended 31/03/2020 were reviewed, accepted and approved unanimously. The schedules presented to the members were:-
  - i. Accounts
  - ii. Bank reconciliation
  - iii. Variances
  - iv. Risk Assessment
  - v. AGAR
- e) The documents as highlighted and attached to the Agenda were reviewed, accepted and approved unanimously. The schedules presented to the members were:-
  - i. The Financial Regulations
  - ii. The Standing Orders
  - iii. The Code of Conduct

### **14. Questions to the Chairman:**

- a) A letter of complaint had been received by the Clerk concerning the Village Inn which has been passed to the Licencing Dept. at Bromsgrove District Council.
- b) The Chair advised that he had received a request for the use of the Parish field and as he alone makes the decision he has decided to allow as long as the “party” complies with current social distancing guidelines.
- c) In response to a question over representation for Portway Cllr. Urry offered to take this role up and accordingly it was agreed unanimously.
- d) Payment to St Leonards Church of £100 was put forward under a S137 applications and was approved unanimously.

### **15. Meeting ends at 9.30pm**

### **16. Next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30pm and will be held using Zoom conferencing software.**

### **Note**

- Indicates that this item is being carried forward to a time when the current pandemic crisis allows.

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Chairman)**

**Dated** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Appendix A

### Report for BPC meeting 9.6.20 from District Councillor Annette English (Alvechurch South Ward) Bromsgrove District Council Update.

**Bromsgrove District Planning Committee meetings**, Overview and Scrutiny meetings and Cabinet meetings have resumed again using Skype for Business. All other meetings have been cancelled including Full Council meetings. The Bromsgrove Alliance are pushing hard to make sure democratic processes are followed and have stated that they see no reason why other meetings should not be held via the internet.

**A new (Anti-Social Behaviour )ASB** policy that outlines how the Council will work with the police and other partner agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour across the District has just been adopted. The policy is based on a framework of prevention, early intervention, support and enforcement. A number of changes are reflected in the policy revision; including an updated definition of ASB in line with legislative changes, clarification on what is considered ASB, enhanced case management procedures and risk assessment processes and updated details about the tools and remedies available to address ASB. The policy can be found on the BDC web-site.

**Discretionary Business Rates Grant** -The Council has previously been awarded grants of approximately £21m at the onset of the Covid19 lockdown and these have been distributed to nearly 2,000 businesses. It became apparent, however, that not all those businesses which had suffered as a consequence of Covid-19 had been eligible for the original grants. Central Government therefore announced an additional fund of approximately 5% (of the original grant), the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund, on 1st May 2020 and published guidance for local authorities on 13th May 2020, together with appropriate guidance. This further scheme provided financial support to businesses impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and was in addition to the two existing schemes administered by local authorities: the Small Business Grants Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants Fund.

The Government has announced three mandatory criteria for support under the scheme;

- The business must have been trading on 11th March 2020
- The business must not be eligible or have received support under the other Covid-19 support schemes
- The business must not be in administration, insolvent or have had an order to strike off made.

The Government has advised that payments under the scheme should be targeted at small and micro businesses. Local authorities have been provided with discretion as to which businesses to support under their scheme, however, government has stated their expectation that businesses in shared offices, small bed and breakfasts, charities in occupation on one small property, and market traders with fixed property costs are prioritised for grant.

The scheme will be published on the Council's website and social media channels. The applications will be opened for a fixed period of time, anticipated to be 14 days from June 8th 2020, after which

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the scheme will be closed and the applicants assessed. If Parish Councillors are aware of any local businesses still needing support, please signpost them to the BDC web-site where they can find more information.

## **Alvechurch and Beoley Stronger Together**

This is a new online group focussed on the mental health and wellbeing of the residents of Beoley and Alvechurch parishes. It is run by April Lavercombe (a mental health worker) and Helen Bremner (an ICU nurse and trained hypnotherapist). The group Administrator is Martin Ball and the coordinator is Annette English. We have also had offers of help from a trained life coach, and a counsellor who is part of the emotional well-being group in Wythall and Hollywood. The group's focus is on the emotional well-being of residents in both Beoley and Alvechurch parishes and aims to have a chat group as well as activities to help with emotional well-being during the CV-19 crisis. There is a new Facebook page set up for the group where people can find a recording of the live guided meditation session that was run on May 25th. A great way to relax and clear your mind of any anxieties!

## **Annette English**