

Minutes of 108th Statutory Annual Parish Assembly of
Beoley Parish Council
held on Tuesday 13th October 2020 at 7.00pm via
Zoom conference software.

Attendees: Cllr. Bland (Chairman), Rev. Francis Maloney, Cllr. Joynes (Vice Chair), Cllr. Barry, Cllr. Cook, Cllr. Morgan, Cllr. Urry, County Cllr. Hotham (part), District Cllr. Annette English, Stephen Lewis, I. Shenton (Parish Clerk).

Members of the public attending: 4

Rev'd Francis Maloney led everyone in saying prayers

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr. Merrill; Rev Paul Irving, Mr Ben Irving (Head Teacher of Beoley First School)
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (107th meeting held in 2019) were approved unanimously & will be signed by the Chairman at the first available opportunity.**
- 3. Chairman Report:** The biggest spend over the last year was on Smartwater security kits for residents. During the year there had been a number of planning issues including a complaint from a resident in Seafield Lane. The Parish Council started to receive complaints about the Village Inn which have been conveyed to Greene King. The current Parish Clerk indicated in March that due to workload in his other role as a District Councillor for Stratford DC, that he wished to resign but due to Covid-19 he has stayed with us until now. We have now appointed a new Clerk Mrs Gill Sloan who will be picking up the reins from here onwards. We managed to purchase a steel shipping container to store machinery and tools over the last few weeks and it is now sited and being used. Finally, we will lay a wreath at the memorial on Remembrance Sunday as there will be a socially distanced service at 11am.
- 4. Report by County Cllr. Hotham:** The year commenced with the County Council needing to make significant savings and progress had been made until March 2020 when Covid-19 hit us. Adult services are causing a huge deficit but this is a national problem. Covid-19 is having a huge impact on running costs although some costs will be met by central government. It is possible that the government will dispense with the need for a referendum if councils request more than a 2% increase (excluding Adult Social care increases). "Children First" was set up by the County Council with new training and ideas and it has made a significant improvement on Children's services. The Fire & Rescue service spent time fending off the PCC who wanted, with government approval to take over the running of the service. There have been lots of issues with the lights at Bordesley, which were replaced but the current situation with regards to sequencing is not good and they are being re-programmed. The Amazon site is progressing and hopefully there will be minimal light pollution from it but it will be monitored by Regulatory services. We supported and met the cost of a shipping container that the Chairman referred. In closing I would like to say it is good to see Hillcrest residents Association being involved locally and finally I will ensure that your new Parish Clerk Mrs Gill Sloan is put in touch with other clerks.

- 5. Report by District Cllr. English:** This has been my first year of being your local District Councillor and much has happened in that year! High on the list is planning issues; from inappropriate developments in the Green Belt to issues with the Eastern Gateway that is so close to Beoley Parish boundaries. There have also been strategic planning issues this year with the start of the District's Green Belt review as part of the ongoing review of the Local Plan. New national initiatives regarding Planning will affect the Local Plan review so I aim to keep you all up to date with any new developments. I have been involved with discussions with BRAID, dog wardens, planning officers, local residents, Parish council members, District council officers and the press. I have also regularly attended the residents' meetings at Hillcrest and even opened their new Members' Clubhouse with ex-Cllr Paul Bridgewater. A definite highlight! There have been difficult issues to deal with but also great initiatives to get involved with such as Glastonbeoley. I also hope that I have helped with communications a little by organising Beoley to become part of the distribution area for the great local magazine – the Village. Thank you to all the volunteers who help deliver the magazine every month. Fly-tipping has been and continues to be, an issue. Hopefully Bromsgrove District Council will be utilising their mobile CCTV cameras in Beoley to help with this issue. I managed to obtain a Litter-picking station for Beoley and I hope that it has been utilised well within the Village school. On the point of litter, I have learnt that an important part of being a District Councillor is being able to sort out dog poo bins (!) and I am hopeful that I will have managed to obtain at least one and maybe two, new bins for the residents of Beoley Parish. Recently the most difficult situation we have all had to face has been the impact of Coronavirus and the subsequent lockdowns, restrictions and impacts on individuals and businesses. Beoley Parish Council, however, has continued its business on line and I have been pleased to be able to attend the Zoom meetings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for making me feel very welcome. I have enjoyed my first year with you all and look forward to continuing my work as your local District Councillor. Thank you.
- 6. Report from Rev'd Maloney - St Leonards Church:** I would like to thank everyone for coming along and would just like to remind everyone that services have resumed.
- 7. Report from Hillcrest Residents -** Tony thanked everyone for all their help this year and especially to former Cllr. Bridgewater and Cllr. James Urry.
- 8. Report from the Parish Clerk:** The Parish Clerk presented the accounts on screen and highlighted some of the increases in costs and the precept that had been requested earlier this year. The Parish Council has a small level of reserves/buffer now and is in a stronger position than 18 months ago. He also highlighted that the Parish Council had now received two clean audit reports in succession. No questions were raised.
- 9. Other matters:** A resident Mr Sanat Shelat expressed his thanks for an interesting meeting but highlighted that fly tipping is an issue. The Chairman advised that instances should be reported to the Police and to the District Council.
- 10. A vote of thanks was given by the Chairman and County Cllr. Hotham to the retiring Parish Clerk Ian Shenton thanking him for all his work.**
- 11. The next meeting is planned for 11th May 2021 at the Village Hall commencing at 7pm**
- 12. Meeting closed at approximately 7.45pm**

NB. Due to the High Court ruling in April 2021 on remote meetings and COVID restrictions, and following NALC advice, the meetings were subsequently postponed to 25th May 2021 at the Village Hall.

Signed _____(Chairman)

Dated _____