

Beoley Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Gill Sloan, 62 Gerard Road, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 6QQ

Minutes of Meeting of Beoley Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Beoley

Attendees: Cllr. Bland (Chairman), Cllr. Joynes (Vice Chair) Cllr. Barry, Cllr. Cook, Cllr. Merrell, Cllr. Morgan, Cllr. Urry, District Cllr. English, Ruth Bamford (Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services, Bromsgrove District Council – left at 8.55pm), Gill Sloan (Parish Clerk).

Members of the public attending: 0

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Declaration of Personal/Prejudicial Interests:** None
3. **Public Questions:** None
4. **Report of County Councillor Luckman:** no report, but email confirmation received that grit bin on Cherry Pit Lane has now been sited. Clerk received email from resident in Cherry Pit Lane suggesting location is incorrect and it would be better placed at bottom of road by incline. General agreement with this view; clerk to feedback to County Cllr. Luckman
5. **Report of District Councillor English:**
 - a) Road sweeping team contacted and leaves covering double yellow lines outside Hillcrest should now have been cleared; Cllr. Urry confirmed that they had
 - b) Lions Wood dog waste bins – these are apparently now in situ; Cllr. Urry to check that they are sited where requested
 - c) Council tax changes agreed by BDC for unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings, and long-term empty dwellings to encourage owners to bring them back into occupation
 - d) Levelling Up Fund award for regeneration of former Market Hall and Windsor Street sites – suggestions made that it would be beneficial to spread the monies around the district rather than just in Bromsgrove town centre in a true levelling up exercise
 - e) Council tax base - discussed at Cabinet; there will be a rise of council tax equivalent to £136 a year increase for a Band D property
 - f) Fly-tipping – a new Partnership project with Wyre Forest District Council to support private land owners identify and penalise fly-tippers on their land with funding from the Police Crime Commissioner is due to start in 2022
6. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (11th January 2022) were approved unanimously** and were signed by the Chairman
7. **Planning – presented by Cllr. Barry:**
 - a) Planning Applications were discussed and the responses of the Parish Council are detailed in the separate Planning report
 - b) Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning gave a summary of the planning enforcement system, how retrospective applications are dealt with, the concept of 'planning harm' and how helpful it is if people report an alleged breach of planning consent to BDC on the dedicated form on the council website (link also available on PC website). A discussion followed expressing Beoley Parish Council's frustration at the number of enforcement cases in the parish, the apparent lack of enforcement action when buildings have been built without planning permission or in breach of the planning conditions, the length of time taken for intervention from the Planning Department, and how difficult it is for the PC to react to enforcement issues as no information is available on whether cases are being investigated or have been closed. Ms Bamford explained that in some situations buildings do have to be taken down if planning permission

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is refused, that the process is very lengthy and action may well be going on behind the scenes, but agreed to consider if it may be possible to notify PCs when enforcement action is closed. The Chairman thanked Ms Bamford for attending the meeting and explaining the enforcement process

- c) Abbey Park/Hither Green proposed development – full planning application for 216 houses - Cllr. Joynes gave an update on progress to date by NoRCA, the local residents action group, and advised that he has agreed to sit on the steering group. Newsletters have been sent out encouraging opposition on the grounds of transport and traffic, environment, site being leisure land not in local plan for development, restrictive covenant on land, and no housing supply shortage in Redditch. Discussion followed on potential impact on Beoley, with concern expressed at likely increase in traffic, following transport consultant estimates of an extra 1000 vehicle movements per day. It was resolved that Cllr. Joynes would draft a letter of objection that the clerk would submit on behalf of the Parish Council

8. Items from previous minutes b/f:

- a) Memorial tree for Cllr. Jean Luck – Cllrs. Merrell and Morgan reported that the Village Hall Committee was happy for the tree to be planted within the car park. Chairman to meet with Cllr. Merrell to view potential site identified
- b) Residents letter regarding overgrown hedges – c/f to next meeting

9. Mowing contract – still awaiting information from Leon Hill at Bromsgrove Place Team, and map and tender document cannot be updated until received. Item c/f to next meeting

10. Queen's Jubilee Canopy Initiative – Cllr. Urry reported that Thatcher's Cider Company is running a scheme to donate cider apple trees to the public. It was resolved that Cllr. Urry should register an interest on behalf of the parish council for up to ten trees which, if received, could be sited in the corner of the parish field. It was agreed that further discussion is needed about the parish field and that this will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr. Joynes will ask for residents suggestions via the Beoley and Portway Facebook page, and the Chairman will do the same on the Parish noticeboards

11. Portway & Hillcrest – presented by Cllr. Urry: nothing to report

12. Highways – update from Cllr. Cook

- a) Lengthsman Scheme – siding out work has been carried out in the centre of Beoley and positive feedback received from residents. Scheme is working well so far
- b) Parish streetlight – unclear if it is Beoley's streetlight that is out; Cllr. Urry to check and report back at next meeting
- c) Beoley Brook – Chairman has been unable to contact Richard Clewer

13. Finance:

- a) Payments of £277.52 listed, plus an additional amount of £42 for repairs to war memorial, and bank balances were approved unanimously
- b) On-line banking – account details updated and card-readers and log-on details received by the three nominees

14. Correspondence: none received that had not already been distributed

15. Councillors' items:

- a) The Chairman extended a vote of thanks to Cllr. Joynes for arranging the visit from Ruth Bamford
- b) Cllr. Morgan reported that the Village Hall Committee had been concerned at the amount of litter in the hedges by the road, and felt that the traffic cones and old road signs looked untidy. Cllr. Cook advised that there was room to store the cones and signs in the PC storage container

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- c) Cllr. Barry reported that he had received complaints from residents regarding litter and dog mess; this will be added to the agenda for the next meeting
- d) Letter from resident received requesting funding for a Jubilee street party; Chairman to draft standard letter for all applicants and clerk to reply to resident with details

16. Meeting ended at 10.15pm

17. Date of next meeting – 8th March 2022 at 7.30pm, to be held in Beoley Village Hall

Signed _____ **(Chairman)**

Dated _____