

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 March 2022 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Beoley

Attendees: Cllr. Bland (Chairman), Cllr. Joynes (Vice Chair), Cllr. Cook, Cllr. Morgan, Cllr. Urry, Gill Sloan (Parish Clerk).

Members of the public attending: 6

1. **Apologies:** District Councillor English, Cllr. Barry
2. **Declaration of Personal/Prejudicial Interests:** None
3. **Public Questions:** None
4. **Report of County Councillor Luckman:** no report received
5. **Report of District Councillor English:** circulated prior to meeting
 - a) BDC facing financial difficulties and has increasingly needed to use reserves to balance budget. Central government funding has reduced making forward planning difficult, and budget approved contains no new spending commitments and moves £400000 from earmarked reserves back into general balances
 - b) The Council has been awarded £400000 to improve housing insulation under the Sustainable Warmth fund; details of eligibility and how to apply are on council website
 - c) More information has emerged regarding the discharge of sewage into local watercourses, which are responsible for 23% of all man made harm to the natural river environment. Water companies are investing heavily to improve the Victorian sewage system
6. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (8th February 2022) were approved unanimously** and were signed by the Chairman
7. **Items from previous minutes b/f:**
 - a) Memorial tree for Cllr. Jean Luck – this has now been planted in the grounds of the village hall and a plaque is to be ordered by the parish council
 - b) Residents letter regarding overgrown hedges – Cllr. Urry has carried out an inspection and there are currently no overhanging hedges
8. **Mowing contract** – tender document updated to reduce contract length to two years, schedule updated as BDC now responsible for cutting verges in 30mph area, and mowing depth on verges reduced, and location plans revised. Invitation to tender letter updated to enable electronic submission of tenders; tender packs to be sent out within next 7 days
9. **Queen's Jubilee Canopy Initiative** – Cllr. Urry reported no response from Thatcher's Cider Company, so presumed the parish council has not been awarded free trees. He advised that a cherry tree has already been planted for the Queen's Jubilee by St Leonard's Church, and suggested that a walnut tree would be a suitable specimen for the parish council to plant as its Queen's Jubilee tree. Funding available from the Woodland Trust has closed for the spring but will reopen in November. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the tree should be planted as soon as possible. It was resolved that Cllr. Urry be authorised to purchase a tree, stake and protective covering up to a limit of £100. It was also agreed that a plaque already held by Cllr. Bland be suitably engraved and displayed with the tree
10. **Parish Field** – Cllr. Joynes reported that the most suggestions received were for a play area. Discussion followed regarding other options, and it was agreed that everyone would like to see the

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field used more by the community. Need to investigate how it could be used to generate income too. Suggestions included hiring out for weddings, and installing a fixed open sided structure with seating and BBQ for community use. Cllr. Joynes to look at the insurance implications. Cllr. Bland agreed to investigate costs and talk to the Headteacher at the School. Parish field to be a standing agenda item while options are being considered

11. Attendance of Police Representative at Parish Council Meeting – email from PC Stuart Head from Safer Neighbourhood Team requesting details of meetings when the Parish Council would like a police representative to attend discussed. Consensus was that once a quarter would be welcome; the police are also always invited to the Annual Meeting. Clerk to respond

12. Portway & Hillcrest – presented by Cllr. Urry:

- a) Dog waste bins – the bins mentioned by District Cllr. English are not in situ. Apparently dedicated dog waste bins no longer provided; Cllr. Urry to ask District Cllr. English if stickers can be added to existing bins advising that they can be used for dog waste
- b) Lengthsman activities in Portway and Hillcrest noticed by residents and welcomed
- c) Attwell Farms – car park at front no longer field but proper hard standing, and also used as a storage area. Residents concerned that permission was never given for a permanent car park and about traffic congestion at weekends – road was gridlocked recently
- d) Oaklands – complaints received from residents about light pollution, and also additional buildings currently being constructed without planning permission. Residents urged to complete online reporting form on BDC website; Cllr. Joynes to post link on Beoley and Portway Matters Facebook page
- e) Hillcrest – Cllr. Urry attended a meeting and was asked about funding for a jubilee party; he will provide details of how to claim. Cllr. Cook advised that WCC is offering grants of up to £100
- f) Significant concerns raised by residents over domestic property in Portway with no running water being used to burn commercial waste including tyres, creating fire and health and safety issues, and potentially breaching other planning/environmental regulations. Residents have been making reports to Regulatory Services. Chairman to write to Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning, Worcestershire Environmental Services and the Chief Fire Officer

13. Planning:

- a) In Cllr. Barry's absence updates since the previous meeting were given by the Clerk and the responses of the Parish Council are detailed in the separate Planning report
- b) Development on the corner of Storage Lane – a local resident has notified the Parish Council that a large mobile home has been erected on the site in breach of planning regulations. He has reported this, and it was resolved that the Parish Council would also report the breach
- c) Abbey Park/Hither Green Lane proposed development – Cllr. Joynes confirmed that the Parish Council had submitted a letter objecting to the development, and that to date 263 public comments have been lodged, with 35 not yet registered, the vast majority opposing the development. Regular newsletters are being issued by NoRCA, and an online petition against the development currently has 909 signatures

14. Highways – update from Cllr. Cook

- a) Some highway issues already reported to County Cllr. Luckman as per his request, but given issues raised in item 12 it was agreed that a face to face meeting with County Cllr. Luckman to discuss highways issues would be beneficial; Clerk requested this after last meeting but no response received; Chairman to make contact
- b) Resurfacing currently being undertaken in Dagnell End Road
- c) Chapel Lane – water leak has got worse and flooding is causing significant problems. Cllr. Cook has reported issue three times and Severn Trent has carried out site visit but no remedial action taken yet. Concerns over health and safety implications. Chairman to write to Liv Garfield

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- d) Parish streetlight – Beoley’s streetlight is working, it is a different streetlight that is out; Cllr. Urry to report to County Cllr. Luckman

15. Finance:

- a) Payments of £903.73 listed and bank balances were approved unanimously
- b) On-line banking – one nominee has successfully logged on to online banking; Chairman waiting for further log on information from Lloyds Bank
- c) Ongoing computer issues – supplier who repaired computer has advised that a subscription to Office 365 is the best way forward. Clerk advised that cost is £59.99 per year. It was resolved that the subscription be purchased immediately
- d) Financial Regulations – carried forward to next meeting
- e) Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2021-2022 – it was resolved to reappoint D M Payroll Services at the same cost as last year; paperwork to be signed by clerk and returned to auditor

16. Policies and Procedures

- a) New Statement of Internal Controls – carried forward to next meeting
- b) Review of Fixed Asset Schedule – carried forward to next meeting
- c) New Complaints Policy – carried forward to next meeting

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

18. Councillors’ items: none

19. Meeting ended at 9.30pm

20. Date of next meeting – 12th April 2022 at 7.30pm, to be held in Beoley Village Hall

Signed _____ (Chairman)

Dated _____