

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 12th April 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, Gill Sloan (Parish Clerk).

Members of the public attending: 1

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Declaration of Personal/Prejudicial Interests:** None
3. **Public Questions:** None
4. **Report of County Councillor Luckman:** update received advising that Worcestershire County Council has agreed to improve the lighting on the zebra crossing outside the school with more powerful Zebra street lighting; more self-lit signage has also been requested
5. **Report of District Councillor English:** circulated prior to meeting
 - a) BDC received £429,000 Sustainable Warmth funding from the Government to help local property owners increase the energy efficiency of their homes
 - b) BDC has produced a useful report on the support available to residents in fuel poverty. Funding available through the Household Support Fund has enabled fuel vouchers to be issued to eligible residents. Funding allocated to Act on Energy was used to provide vulnerable residents with one off fuel payments, fuel vouchers and replacement/repair of boilers/heating systems
6. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (8th March 2022) were approved unanimously** and were signed by the Chairman
7. **Items from previous minutes b/f:**
 - a) Disposal/burning of commercial waste – letters written by the Chairman to the Head of Planning and the Chief Fire Officer but no response received to date
 - b) Flooding at Chapel Lane – Cllr. Cook reported that this has been completely resolved
 - c) Dog bins – District Cllr. English to follow up whether bins already installed are for dog waste and if stickers are available to indicate this
 - d) Queen’s Jubilee Canopy – Cllr. Urry reported that a bare root walnut tree has been purchased, complete with stake and protective guard. This will need planting within two weeks. It was agreed that the parish field would be the best site for the tree. Cllr. Urry to prepare site for planting
8. **Mowing contract** – the Clerk circulated a table summarising the results of the tender process. It was resolved to accept the tender from Bromsgrove District Council at a cost of £3503.50 per annum. After a site visit to Portway by members of the Parish Council, a map was produced detailing a proposed area of verge cutting in this area. It was agreed that a quote should be requested from the new contractor, with a view to adding this work to the existing contract
9. **Parish Field** – the Chairman reported that he had spoken to the Headteacher at the School who would speak to staff, but no response received to date. Cllr. Joynes reported that he had researched the feasibility of a play area, and that grant funding is available. Discussion followed regarding potential users of the play area, the possibility of installing benches, and enclosing the area to keep it dog free. Costs range from £4000 to £25000 for safety surfaces, and insurance is a consideration. It was agreed that Cllr. Joynes would lead on further fact-finding, with input from the

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Chairman, and that the Clerk would contact Alvechurch Parish Council, which has recently installed a play area.

10. Policing Priorities – report from Safer Neighbourhood Team on last quarter’s priorities:

- a) Speeding – a speed survey conducted on Church Hill on 14/03/22 recorded an average speed of 33.25 mph; more need to be conducted and the issue has been referred to Safer Roads
- b) House burglaries and Vehicle thefts/ASB – no burglaries in the area reported since January. Regular patrols of Beoley have been conducted as indicated on Twitter page.
- c) Priorities for next quarter – it was agreed that speeding is still the main concern; clerk to complete form and return

11. Planning: presented by Cllr. Barry:

- a) No new Planning applications received since the last meeting; updates were discussed and the responses of the Parish Council are detailed in the separate Planning report
- b) Development on the corner of Storage Lane – a planning breach has been logged on behalf of the Parish Council. It was noted that although Ruth Bamford agreed to provide updates on planning breaches nothing has been received to date
- c) Abbey Park/Hither Green Lane proposed development – Cllr. Joynes confirmed that the application is still pending and that 264 objections have been registered. Four weekly steering group meetings are continuing

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

- a) An application has been received from Hillcrest Residents Association requesting funding for towards their Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. It was resolved that a donation of £100 be made. Clerk to draft reply. Following discussion on how the Queens Jubilee could be marked it was resolved that £250 be allocated for the purchase of bunting and flags for the Parish. Cllr. Urry offered to organise the purchase
- b) Headway – there have been many residents’ complaints regarding litter, illegal and dangerous parking and speeding problems. Footpaths are blocked so residents have to walk on the road, and parking on verges means that contractors will be unable to mow these areas. Cllr. Urry to provide details to District Cllr. English. Chairman to draft letter to Headway expressing concerns of Parish Council for Clerk to issue
- c) A planning breach has occurred where a garage added to a house is going to be used as a separate dwelling; Cllr. Urry to provide details to Cllr. Barry so a planning breach can be registered

13. Highways – update from Cllr. Cook

- a) A meeting was held with Worcester Water Management Team regarding the stream – measures are to be put in place to slow the movement of rocks. They will also talk to WCC Highways Department about clearing under the bridge, and the resident near the stream has been asked to do some remedial work
- b) Parish troughs – these have been cleared and cleaned out ready for next season. A budget will be required if the troughs are to be planted again this year, together with volunteers to help with watering. It was agreed that the troughs significantly improve the appearance of the Parish, and draw many positive comments. It was resolved that £250 be made available for expenditure on plants

14. Finance:

- a) Payments of £646.56 listed and bank balances were approved unanimously
- b) Precept – the first payment of £8278.50 was received on 1 April 2022
- c) Lengthsman Scheme – agreement for 2022-2023 received, signed and returned by Clerk; budget increased to £2629.75
- d) Insurance – notification received from Norris & Fisher that they are no longer able to provide Local Council insurance; clerk to obtain new quotations before renewal date of 1 June 2022

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- e) National Pay Award 2021-2022 – the Clerk advised that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services has agreed new rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2021. The increase is 1.75% on all pay points for clerks employed under the terms of the model contract, and should be paid as soon as possible
- f) Fixed Asset Schedule – reviewed and agreed; no land value stated for parish field as this is not an asset that can be sold
- g) Financial Regulations – amendments and revisions reviewed and unanimously approved

15. Policies and Procedures

- a) New Statement of Internal Controls – reviewed and unanimously approved
- b) New Complaints Policy – reviewed and unanimously approved

16. Correspondence: the Clerk presented a letter received from resident regarding out of date information on the noticeboards. It was agreed that the noticeboards need to be updated; Clerk to prepare list of Councillors and their contact details for display; Cllrs. Bland and Urry agreed to update the boards. Clerk to reply to resident

17. Councillors' items:

- a) A local resident has sadly recently passed away; Steve Lewis can be contacted regarding the funeral arrangements
- b) Annual Parish Meeting – meeting to be held immediately before May Parish Council Meeting; usual guests to be invited; Clerk to advertise meeting on website

18. Meeting ended at 9.45pm

19. Date of next meeting – 10th May 2022 at 7.30pm, to be held in Beoley Village Hall

Signed _____ (Chairman)

Dated _____