

# BEPTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Chairman:** Mr. Howard Ewing  
**Clerk:** Mrs. Lorraine Grocott, BEM, BA Hons (Local Policy)  
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## MINUTES of the Meeting of BEPTON PARISH COUNCIL Thursday 24 January 2019 at The Park Hotel, Bepton

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**Present:** Mr H Ewing (in the Chair), Mrs R Hart, Mr J Beckett, Mrs L Milner,  
 Mrs C Bower, Dr J Wilkinson, Cllr K O’Kelly (County Councillor).  
 Eleven Members of the Public (Latest Sand Mining proposals)

**688. Apologies** – Mrs A Cunningham, Cllr C Neville, District Councillor

**689. Declaration of Interests** of Members on Agenda – There were none.

**690. Minutes of the Meeting 22 November 2018** were agreed and signed.

**691. Report from the County Councillor – Cllr Kate O’Kelly**

**Soft Sand** -WSCC have opened their issues and options consultation on their soft sand review.

**Dates of consultation - Monday 21 January to Monday 18 March 2019**, to enable all interested parties to comment on potential approaches to maintaining a steady and adequate supply of soft sand. 4 of the nine sites are in the Midhurst division. She has asked for a meeting with the Planning and Infrastructure Team for a briefing and for an opportunity to express the views of the different parishes.

**A27** - Highways England (HE) have rejected the application to upgrade the A27 in the next round of funding. Both options, the mitigated Northern bypass and Southern option have been deemed unworkable. HE has said the Northern option would be against the National Planning policy – unlikely to get approval. Estimated cost of the Northern route would be £480million. Mitigated Southern option – HE has said it is not technically buildable, with challenging construction, and significant cost implications – estimated at £500 million. Both options deemed not to deliver value for money. MP and leaders of both councils are meeting with the Secretary of State on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan to chart a way forward.

**Bus Update** - Threat to reduction to bus routes and services across the County. Cabinet member has made his decision, £300k cut from the subsidized bus routes. Subject to the budget being adopted in Feb 2019. Bus operators have been informed – routes affected will be disclosed in February. She has asked to stay on the member group looking to find innovative solutions / partnerships for routes affected. The next local cross parish group meeting is on March 12<sup>th</sup> in Compton.

**Budget** - WSCC budget has been published and will be debated in Full Council on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Proposal is to increase the WSCC precept by 4.99%, including 2% ring fenced for social care.

**Health and Adult Social Care Select committee** - Scrutinised SECAMB - Trust rating across all services – 4/5 areas including safety, effective, responsive and well-led all requiring improvement. Rated good on caring. Issues have been raised locally concerning v poor response times particularly in rural areas. Presented CCG wide data – this was not good enough – provided with average response times, quicker response times in urban areas obscure what we suspect which is very poor response times in rural areas. Average SECAMB data –C1 7.11, (7), C2 19.24 (18), C3 3.13 (2hours) C4 4.12 (3 Hours) – C3 and C4 times well below the national average. The Committee have requested to see the data broken down locally – essential that the public can see this transparently only then will it be clear that more resource is required. Cross – border issues – I raised the issue of next-door Trust in Hampshire whether possible to help out if an ambulance is near over the border. Already happens for Cat 1 but not for any other of the categories. Request that they consider this.

**Kate’s Drop In**

Midhurst – The Grange – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 10.30-12.30

**692. Report from the District Councillor – Cllr Caroline Neville**

Confidential advice is available for people with alcohol problems. [alcoholdrinkcoach.org.uk](http://alcoholdrinkcoach.org.uk), <http://drinkcoach.org.uk/>. A two minutes online test is available at <http://dontbottleitup.org.uk/>

Free NHS health checks are available for 40-74-year-old people. Ask at your Doctors surgery.

Discussions again as to whether there is any help Highways England would give to improve the A27.

There will be a council tax increase of £5 based on Band D properties.

This will increase the CDC funds by £262K. Hopefully there will be no more cuts to services.

Chichester District Council is being trialed as the first council to retain 75% of the business rates. This will provide a much-needed extra fund for the district council rather than the rates going to central government.

There has been a saving of £102 following the move to the new waste contract site at Ford. This is good news following WSCC decision to take away waste and recycling credits.

The Chief of Police has advised that the police have arrested the ringleader of car break-in gang. Hopefully this will reduce/stop car thefts for the time being. Police numbers have been increased by 5 officers.

For a small donation, Lodsworth Local Care will do training sessions for First Responders.

CDC is looking to find way to encourage business as well as households to stop single use plastics.

The pre ap has now been updated for the the Grange development site. SDNPA have not objected to a Care Home but have objected to the size, design etc. and have added conditions.

**693. Public Participation – Soft sand extraction on Several East and West - Consultation**

The consultation is calling for views on possible approaches and sites for the supply of soft sand. West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) are seeking views on three key issues: the amount of soft sand that needs to be planned for, strategy options for soft sand supply and potential sites. Potential sites include the Severals East and Severals West. This sand extraction will have a major amenity effect on Bepton.

Cowdray Estate has claimed they could provide 'positive social economic and environmental benefits' after restoration of the land. The estate owns two (East and West Severals) of the nine sites proposed in new options for the SDNP and WSCC joint minerals Local Plan (JMLP). Both sites appeared in the original draft of the JMLP. These sites were put aside in 2016 when the SDNP decided not to allocate any sites in the park. However, they have been forced to reconsider after the government planning inspector who examined the plan ordered a review of the soft sand policy.

The Chief Executive of the Cowdray Estate, Jonathan Russell, has advised that it has partnered with Raymond Brown Quarry Products Ltd, a company that had demonstrated a record of both proactive engagement with the community and responsibility and respect for the environment.

The Chairman said that Bepton is on a belt of soft sand which is the largest in West Sussex. Bepton had objected to the previous application and would object again for reasons including the fact that sand extraction on this scale would have a serious detrimental impact on the environment, the natural habitat and the lives of people in Bepton, particularly on the Severals Road. The South Downs National Park has a statutory duty 'to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area'. Sand extraction in the Severals would fly in the face of that and destroy an area much loved for its tranquility and many footpaths.

A number of concerns were expressed by members of the public attending the meeting, all of whom were opposed to the sand quarries at the Severals. In addition to the points the Chairman made, they included the impact heavy sand lorries and their movements would cause in the locality and the problem of access to the A272; the effects of pollution, noise and dust; and the impact on the amenity of the owners of Severals House as well as those who lived in Severals Road and nearby. The Council were asked to oppose the proposals vigorously.

The Council will be distributing a Newsletter which will provide information to the local community. Further information can be seen on the Council website - [www.bep-ton.org](http://www.bep-ton.org).

The consultation which will run until 18 March, can be found online at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/mwdf](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/mwdf). Comments can be submitted online via the consultation hub – <https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk>. Response forms are also available at the Midhurst library, and at the SDNPA office in Midhurst.

**694. Chairman's Items**

- a) Speaker for Annual Parish Assembly on 23 May. Suggest asking someone from Midhurst Vision.
- b) Concern had been expressed about parts of a hedgerow at Church Farm being cut down. This was raised with the Cowdray Estate who had confirmed that what had been removed was primarily overgrown bramble and the gaps would now be planted up with hedging plants so that a continuous hedge would run along the boundary. Cowdray had also provided a photographic schedule of the works.

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**695. Finance report – Mrs Grocott, RFO****a) Statement of Accounts – Payments for approval**

BEPTON PARISH COUNCIL		Statement January 2019	Nat West - Sort Code 61-14-22					
Balance brought forward 26.11.18				10163.34				
Receipts	22.11.18 - 24.1.19	Big Lottery Fund		3165.00				
				13328.34				
Payments	22.11.18-24.1.19	Details	Gross		VouNo	Vat	Net	Power
03-Jan	SLCC	Subscription 2019	52.00		OL96	P	52.00	LGA72
18-Jan	ICO	Data Protection	35.00		DD	P	35.00	LGA72
21-Jan	L Grocott	Sal£213.45££36.66	207.31		OL97	P	207.31	LGA72
	HMRC	PAYE	42.80		OL98	P	42.80	LGA72
21-Jan	Bepton Hotels	Room hire	35.00		OL99	P	5.83	29.17 LGA72
	H Ewing	Bepton website reimburse	14.42		OL100	P		14.42 LGA72
	Bepton PCC	Donation 18-19	750.00		OL101	P		750.00 Sec 137
	Rother Valley Toge	Donation 18-19	125.00		OL102	P		125.00 Sec 137
	Citizens Advice Bur	Donation 18-19	50.00		OL103	P		50.00 Sec 137
	Midhurst Com Bus	Donation 18-19	50.00		OL104	P		50.00 Sec 137
	Samaritans	Donation 18-19	50.00		OL105	P		50.00 Sec 137
	WRVS (mealsonwh	Donation 18-19	30.00		OL106	P		30.00 Sec 137
	Midhurst AreaCycl	Donation 18-19	50.00		OL107	P		50.00 Sec 137
	Mid&DistrtSwimg	Donation 18-19	50.00		OL108	P		50.00 Sec 137
		<b>Balance 24.1.19</b>		<b>11786.81</b>			5.83	1535.70
		Less Lottery Fund Grant		-3165.00				
		Less Gratuity Fund		-937.91				
		<b>Available funds</b>		<b>7683.90</b>				
Note:	PC paid Madhurst Grant in June 18 - £50							
	Outset Youth Action removed from Grants - £35							
Less:	Clerks Gratuity Fund		£937.91					

The above payments were approved by the Council.

- b) Review of the Clerk's Salary – Following a review by LM and RH a new Contract was presented to the Clerk for her consideration and signature. Her new rate is SCP 19 = £12.89 per hour from 1 April 2019. Salary £1474.61pa and Expenses £220 = Total £1,694.61. *The Clerk subsequently signed the document.*

**696. Planning Report – Mrs Hart****COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO APPLICATIONS: -****SDNP/18/04539/FUL**

Wand Estates Ltd requests permission to change of use of The Bluebell public house to provide 2 dwelling houses. Withdrawn.

**SDNP/18/04882/HOUS**

Mr T Ellert of Bepton Common requests permission to build a new two storey rear extension and single front porch, to remove single storey utility room and alterations to windows, doors and roof. Refused.

**SDNP/18/04823/HOUS**

Mr Joel Benton of Oakwood House, Severals Road requests permission to build an outdoor swimming pool. Permit.

**SDNP/18/05545/NMA**

Mr & Mrs Keyes of Hopkilm Cottage, Bugshill Lane request permission for a Non-Material amendment to planning permission SDNP/14/02424/FUL to change the timber cladding on the southern gable of the barn from vertical to horizontal. Permit.

**SDNP/18/05583/HOUS**

Mr A Sadler of Stickedown, Severals Road requests permission to build a replacement garage/workshop with associated parking and landscaping. An extension of time to 25 January has been approved. Await decision.

**SDNP/18/06423/HOUS**

Mr T Ellert of Bepton Common requests permission to build a two-storey rear extension with associated roof works, to demolish the existing front utility room and erect a front porch as well as various alterations and additions including changes to fenestration. Await decision.

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**SDNP/18/06491/CND**

Mr & Mrs Keyes of Hopkilm Cottage, Bugshill Lane request an amendment to planning permission SDNP/14/02424/FUL to change the plans and elevations of the detached garage as a result of a change of access position. Await decision.

**SDNP/19/00105/LDE**

Cowdray Estates requests an existing lawful development certificate to regularise the construction of existing track at Church Farm, Bugshill Lane completed more than four years ago. Await decision.

**697. Parish Council Elections – 2 May 2019**

Nominations Papers are due to be received in March and will be available from the Chairman. Councillors were asked to consider whether they will be standing as Councillors for the 4-year term of office. If Councillors decide not to stand again it would be helpful if they could let the Clerk know and indicate possible people to represent their area.

**698. Community Use Defibrillator – Lottery Application**

Mr Beckett advised that the Council had been successful in its lottery application and has received the sum of £3165 for the project. Renovation of the telephone box will start in March. Once the order for the defibrillator kit is placed it will take about six-weeks to receive.

**699. Highways & Byways & Environment**

a) Winter Emergency Plan – This has been completed. There is a copy on the website. Mr Beckett will take on the responsibility for the Plan. In the event of snow conditions which the County decide needs to be cleared, ACS the local contractor for the snow ploughing will grit the road up to the T Junction. Should the Council feel the roads need clearing outside the WSCC direction it will be an arrangement between ACS and the Council who will have to pay for the extra work.

b) Rights of Way Inspection and Maintenance – This is being carried out in the spring with the work being programmed for December 2019.

c) Cowdray Estate – Recent roadside tree safety surveys have identified several trees in poor condition along some of the road edges in the Parish. Most of these trees are ash, suffering from ash dieback. The main area of work is in the woodland strip opposite Henchers Cottage on Bepton Road. All the ash and several oaks in severe decline will be removed. Following on from this they will be removing a very large multi stemmed group of ash on the bank above Bugshill Lane. Traffic management will be in place during these works and several different machines will be used to undertake the work in the most safe and effective manner. Disruption will be kept to a minimum. Some of the work will look quite severe but they will look to make good as soon as possible and will look to plant some replacement trees in parts of the worksite in the following weeks.

**700. Other organisations –**

a) Midhurst Area Cycling meeting 27 February at the Grange Centre.

b) WSCC County Local Committee meeting 5 March 2019 @ 7pm Northchapel Village Hall.

**701. Date of next meeting – 7pm – Thursday 21 March 2019 The Park House Hotel.**

Chairman: ..... Date: .....