

BEPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mrs Rosalind Hart
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MINUTES of BEPTON PARISH COUNCIL Thursday 24th November 2022 in The Park House Hotel, Bepton

Present: Mrs R Hart (In the Chair), Mr J C Beaumont, Mrs C Bower, Mr J Beckett, Mr P McCulloch, Mr D Hollowood, Mrs J Fowler (District Councillor)

- 051. Apologies** – Mr M Salmon, Cllr Dr K O’Kelly (County Councillor)
052. Declaration of Interests of Members – There were none.
053. Minutes of the Meeting 22nd September 2022 - Agreed and signed.

054. Public Participation – There were no public present.

055. Report from the County Councillor (previously emailed) – Cllr Dr Kate O’Kelly
Transport and Infrastructure

Speed Policy – The new speed policy in West Sussex is due for scrutiny then will go to the WSCC cabinet this month – it is something our group pushed for and will mean more flexibility in reducing speeds on all roads. The new policy will mean that speeds need to suit the particular situation, and this will take precedence over strict adherence to recorded average speeds or the number of driveways as in the previous policy.

Cycling - Midhurst Greenway meeting - I had an update from WSCC officers, the consultants are due to report back with new options to go South of the Pond in Midhurst and incorporate a new 20mph zone covering the heart of the old part of Midhurst. They hope to have a wider stakeholder meeting in the New Year then another community wide consultation.

Rother Valley Way – meetings with landowners along the route continue including discussions about route options. Anyone who wants to join the FoRVW and support the project let me know. Next wider meeting of the FoRVW is on 25th Jan 5.15 at the SNDPA Centre in Midhurst. All welcome.

Housing and Communities

Boundary Review

The Boundary commission have published their new proposals for the changes to Chichester Constituency. Big surprise – Selsey is now back in, but they are proposing to remove Harting, Midhurst and all the North wards and put them into the Arundel and South Downs (ASD) Constituency. It is good news that Selsey is back in with Chichester as everyone who lives there gravitates towards the City. They have however now included Bersted and Pagham, 2 of the Arun District Wards in the Chichester Constituency. Overall, it means 8 of the Chichester District Wards would be in the ASD constituency rather than Chichester. My view is that ideally the footprint of the MP / constituency fits as close to the District Local Authority boundary as much possible which helps collaborative working / lobbying. The North of the District is often an afterthought as far as the District Council is concerned and this would make matters worse. I think the 2 Arun wards would be better in with Bognor or ASD. If Bersted and Pagham were in either ASD or Bognor they would at least be in the right District of Arun. If anyone would like to make their views known the second phase of the consultation is open until 5th December, the consultation is at [BCE Consultation Portal \(bcereviews.org.uk\)](http://bcereviews.org.uk) The District Full Council debated this issue on 22nd Nov. They are going to propose to keep as many of the Chi District Wards in the Chi Constituency, including keeping Midhurst, Easebourne and Harting wards if possible and suggesting the ASD constituency takes the Bognor wards.

Environment and WellbeingHealth and Social Care

Debate at WSCC Full council on social care funding, I spoke on this issue for our group highlighting the challenging workforce issues and the devastating effect the lack of work force in social care is having on the NHS – delaying hospital discharges, increasing A and E waiting times and the increasingly concerning poor ambulance response times. Primary care access and Ambulance response times were scrutinised at the Health and Adult Social Care Committee today. It became evident that the overwhelming problem locally is delayed discharges – yesterday there were 237 people medically fit for discharge across the 3 hospitals Worthing St Richards and Princess Royal. WSCC have been given more money than they expected in the Autumn statement for adult social care, but the challenge is recruiting and retaining the workforce. I called for an aspiration for non-urgent GP appointments to be offered within 7 days. Waiting for non-urgent appointments sometimes leads to significant delay in diagnosis. Her next drop-in will be at Rogate Village Stores 28th Nov 10.30-12.30

056. Report from the District Councillors (Cllr J Fowler)

Chichester Youth Connections Service -This service has been set up in response to the negative impact of the coronavirus on young people. It supports young people who live or go to school in the district who are lonely or isolated or lacking in self-confidence and unable to connect to others. A counselling service is available for advice on careers, money or housing, or activities in a new interest, e.g. Sports or the arts. Young people can access this in 6 or 8 sessions. If you know anyone between the ages of 13 and 19 who may benefit from help, please email the team at: chichesteryouthconnections@chichester.gov.uk.

Supporting You team -As part of the Supporting You campaign, from 1 November a new team will provide holistic support for those who are struggling with the rise in the cost of living. Contact is supportyou@chichester.gov.uk or call 01243 534860.

Xmas Parking in Chichester -There will be free parking in the Ave de Chartres car park after 4 p.m. for the Xmas lights switch-on on 26 November and for the late-night shopping events on Thursdays 15th and 22nd December. The ‘one-hour free parking when selecting two hours’ by using MiPermit will be reintroduced to apply throughout the district.

Environmental matters -

CDC recently resolved to join WSCC’s concession contract for the planning and deployment, service and maintenance of electric vehicle charging points across West Sussex. The provider for this is Connected Kerb who will be looking at where to install the EVCPs and has already proposed 15 locations within Chichester District, with an emphasis on providing EVCPs close to residential dwellings that do not have access to off-street parking.

CDC has recently acquired 2 electric vehicles and 2 electric bikes for staff to use on work-related journeys. One of the bikes is folding to enable it to be taken on the train or in a car to be used in a different locality. The office-based vehicles are to encourage staff to use public transport to get to work.

Neutrality Mitigation - In October the planning committee resolved to enter into a legal agreement with a local landowner and SDNPA to deliver a mitigation scheme to offset the building of 150 units of accommodation, to achieve neutral development (which does not cause harm to Chichester harbour because of nitrogen being discharged into the harbour). It is hoped that entering this scheme will help to determine applications that have been held up by the need to demonstrate nutrient neutrality.

Contract Services

Bottle tops can now be recycled at home. WSCC have announced that plastic bottle manufacturers have changed the type of plastic which means it is easier for CDC to collect and recycle bottle tops so long as the tops are placed back on the bottles.

NB No loose lids in recycling smaller than that of a jam jar. Loose lids clog up the machinery and get lost. For what can and can’t be recycled visit <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/waste-and-recycling-and-waste-prevention-in-west-sussex/a-to-z-of-recycling>

057. Matters arising from the Minutes – There were none.

different owner. The second concern was to scrutinize the procurement and subsequent payments to the selected contractor who is known but not mentioned in these minutes. Findings were based on the church accounts for 2021 and the total expenditure in the churchyard for twelve months ending 31 December 2021 was £1,242.00. BPC donation £975 which being less, confirmed these monies were 100% used for the churchyard maintenance. The second finding was that St Mary's church had reviewed a contractors offer for the scope of work and selected a local Bepton contractor which a fixed price agreement and subsequent VAT invoices and services provided were in conformity according to the church treasurer.

Mr Hollowood supported the donation to Bepton Church but as the donation is also the most significant donation from the Council, he felt strongly that there should be closer scrutiny of the way the donation is spent along with the agreement with the mowing/maintenance contractor so that the donation represents good value for money and that the parishioner's money is being spent wisely.

060. Planning report – Mr John Beckett

a) SDNP PLANNING RESPONSE TO APPLICATIONS: -

SDNP/22/04616/FUL

Solar panel installation, land North-West of Bepton Lodge, Bell Lane Bepton, GU29 0HX

Application in progress

SDNP/22/03888/HOUS

Single storey rear extension, front link extension. Replace tile hanging with timber cladding. New porch internal floor plan alterations. New car port. Half Acre Bepton Road Bepton GU29 9RB

Approved

SDNP/22/03482/HOUS

Installation of ground mounted solar panels in 2 groups of 10 panels (total of 20). Tyelands Severals Road Bepton West Sussex GU29 0LR

Application in progress

SDNP/22/02466/FUL

Development of a residential care home (Uses Class C2) and part reconfiguration of the existing car park. The Grange Development Site Bepton Road Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9HD - **Refused**

SDNP/22/01275/FUL

Replacement windows, change use of second floor plant room to additional en suite guest bedroom, re-location of plant room, alterations to dormer window, hipped roof and ground floor extensions. Park House Hotel Bepton Road Bepton West Sussex GU29 0JB

Application in progress

SDNP/21/03448/FUL

Erection of 70 new homes with associated access, parking and landscaping following demolition of existing buildings. Metis Homes, Council Depot, Bepton Road, Midhurst

Approved

b) Tractor movements on Bell Lane and Bugshill Lane going to Rectory Farm. Despite the agreement that all agricultural vehicles should access Rectory Farm from the south via the Church Farm it has been noted on several occasions that they are not abiding by this arrangement. The matter will be discussed with Cowdray Estate.

061. SDNPA – Parish Workshop 18th October – Mr Beckett

There was an update on Key Projects including the Local Plan Review, the Design SPD, Nature Recovery, and climate change action with an opportunity to share progress and best practice. Bepton was able to advise that information is being put onto our website. There had been a call for local development sites with 259 submissions received. It is not known if any have been submitted for Bepton at this time.

062. Action for Climate Change – Mr Hollowood

- a) Liaison is taking place between ERA and Petersfield Environment Community Action (PECAN) group who are promoting the planting of a fruit tree in every garden. Fruit trees are available through the group at a cost around £15.
- b) Website is live with 15-20 links on different subjects including a link for food. The Sub-Committee have now agreed the wording for the website.

063. Parish email distribution list system – Mr Hollowood

Following a check with SALC it appears that the Council could hold a distribution list for the purpose of alerting residents in an emergency or possibly using the lists to consult residents on a particular issue. The clerk would be the holder of the address lists. Further discussion will take place at the January meeting. In the meantime, Mrs Bower has agreed to do the Spring Newsletter in January.

064. Winter Resilience Plan 2022-23 – The Plan is complete, however WSCC are liaising with ACS Ltd regarding the cover on their insurance. Public authorities require that agricultural vehicles are required to have an added documents to show they are covered for snow, frost, or ice clearance.

065. Environment matters/ Highways matters/ Rights of Way

- a) Verges on Bepton Road – Work has been done to open the pavement. Investigation is taking place as to ascertain whether further work can be funded and done by Highways.
- b) Rewilding of Severals Green – Ideas to be brought to the January meeting for discussion.
- c) Midhurst Vision – There has been a good response to the consultation by the community.
- d) Rights of Way – Problems with a Rights of Way can be reported via the WSCC web form or by email: prow@westsussex.gov.uk or by phone 01243 777620.
- e) Flooding of Bugshill Lane and the road to St Mary's church – Thanks were expressed to the Cowdray Estate for clearing the culvert however the Estate has made it clear they are not responsible for ongoing clearance of the culvert or drains. The responsibility for this task will be discussed with Cowdray Estate and WSCC Highways to determine who is responsible for this task.

066. Other meetings

- a) MAC meeting of 12 October – The minutes of 12th October had been emailed to councillors. The next meeting will be held on 18 January.
- b) CDC All Parish virtual meeting date TBA
- c) WSALC AGM 25th November – Councillors Beaumont and Beckett to attend.

067. Date of next meeting – 7pm, 26th January 2023 at Bepton Park Hotel.

Chairman:

These Minutes are unconfirmed until signed by the Chairman.