

BEPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mrs Rosalind Hart
Clerk: Mrs. Lorraine Grocott, BEM, BA Hons (Local Policy)
 Tel. H:01428 741393 – M:07811885572
 Email: clerk.beptonparishcouncil@gmail.com Website – www.bepton.org

MINUTES of BEPTON PARISH COUNCIL Thursday 26th January 2023 in The Park House Hotel, Bepton

- Present:** Mrs R Hart (In the Chair), Mr J Beckett, Mr J C Beaumont, Mr P McCulloch, Mr D Hollowood, Dr K O’Kelly, (County Councillor), Mrs J Fowler (District Councillor) Member of the Public – Mr Ben Tyrell-Evans
- 068. Apologies** – Mr M Salmon, Mrs C Bower,
069. Declaration of Interests of Members – There were none.
070. Minutes of the Meeting 24th November 2022 - Agreed and signed.
071. Public Participation – The Chairman introduced Mr. Ben Tyrell-Evans who is considering standing as a candidate after the May elections. He has lived in the parish for about 5 years.

- 072. Report from the County Councillor** – Cllr Dr Kate O’Kelly – *full report attached – Page 5.*
Summary below:

- Transport and Infrastructure
 - Reporting Highways issues
 - Cycling
 - Midhurst Greenway
- Housing and communities
 - Chichester District Council
 - Damp and Mould
 - Local Plan
 - WSCC Full Council
- Environment and Wellbeing
 - Health and Social Care Meeting

Next drop-in Midhurst at the Grange 30th January 10.30-12.30

Questions and matters arising on the following items: -

- Mr Beckett expressed his concern about the both the lack of communication and slowness of response to his emails particularly regarding the footpath on Bepton Road. The Cllr O’Kelly suggested he email her with the specific item, and she would chase it up through the system.
- Mrs Hart asked about the drain clearance programme. The drains are cleared on a 4-yearly programme unless there is an emergency.
- Cllr O’Kelly referred to the Operation Watershed fund for larger problem areas. This could be useful for the ongoing problems at Bugshill Lane.

- 073. Report from the District Councillors** (Cllr Judy Fowler) – *full report attached – Page 6.*

Summary below:

- Adoption of the new Local Plan (LP)– The LP is undergoing inspection. Once adopted by the Council it will be submitted to a Planning Inspector independent examination on behalf of the government. An approved LP will provide development security to the district.
- Contract Services – Cancelling of plans to strike.
- Bathing Water Results
- Parking in Chichester and Bosham – No increase in parking charges in Midhurst.
- Minimum energy standards for Privately Rented Property
- Mould in Homes

Minutes of Bepton Parish Council meeting 26th January 2023

Item 073 – District Councillors report continued

- Homelessness
 - Sewer Flooding
 - Avian Flu- online system for reporting dead wild birds.
 - Independent Retailers Grant
- Mrs Fowler attended a Cowdray staff presentation where she was thanked for her 20 years of service to the Estate.
 - She will not be standing as a Councillor at the May elections as she will be retiring from local government having given some 20 years of service to the community.
The Chairman thanked Cllr Fowler for her contribution to the local area.

074. Matters arising from the Minutes –

- a) Councillor vacancies – With Mr Hollowood, Mrs Bower and Mr Salmon stepping down as councillors two residents have expressed an interest in becoming councillors.
- b) Incorrect name on war memorial at St Mary’s Church, Bepton. Merritts of Midhurst have provided a quote of £2320 to change the name as well as the regiment details. The Chairman has been in contact Mr Trevor Leggo at WSALC to ask if he can provide military contacts to help with funding of memorials post 1940s.
- c) Removal of Bepton Village sign – There had been two responses from residents as to the removal of the sign, 1 for and 1 against. The WSCC have agreed to its removal and are awaiting direction from the Council. After further discussion it was agreed that the sign would be removed. The Chairman will write to the resident who had opposed its removal. Action RH
- d) Police update – The Chichester Neighbourhood Policing Scheme has been reformed providing ownership teams on two main geographical areas. These teams will naturally grow providing further presence, knowledge, and experience. Rather than previously having a single organisation with one geographical area, i.e., Chichester, Inner City, Outer Chichester North, and South, we now have a team to discuss collectively the matters we wish to raise for our area. Monthly meetings have been planned from January through to June. All meetings will be via Zoom. Mr Beaumont has agreed to attend the first meeting in January and will report back to the council.
- e) Ownership of land at southern end of Bepton – WSCC Highways have raised an enquiry to look into the dead/dying Ash trees. They should report back in February. Councillors have continued to ask Highways about the ownership of this land. Their response is that they are only responsible for the first 2 meters either side of the highway. Land Registry search shows the land as being ‘without an owner’.

075. Chairman’s Items - Mrs Rosalind Hart

- a) King Charles III’s coronation 6th May 2023 – Materials suggestions to celebrate this event included commemorative mugs £3.52, leather bookmarks .95p. coins £5.15. Mrs Hart will circulate when she has more information. The council as such will not be organising a celebratory event but residents would be welcome or organize a local event.
- b) Speaker for the Annual Parish Assembly, 11th May 2023 – Ideas included Petersfield Climate Action Network (PeCAN), Police – Talk on Scams and Fraud, SDNPA. It was agreed to set a time limit for the speaker.

Minutes of Bepton Parish Council meeting 26th January 2023

Item 075 Chairman's Items continued

c) Meeting with Cowdray Estate – Mrs Hart and Mr Beckett had met with the CEO of Cowdray Estate, Jonathon Russell, to discuss various matters of local concern, including the recent increase of agricultural vehicular movements moving slurry along Bepton Road to Linch Farm, flooding issues at the junction of Bugshill Lane and the road to St Mary's church, holes in Several's car park as well as environmental initiatives.

d) Civility and Respect Pledge – The Council discussed the Pledge which has been set by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Council Clerks, (SLCC) and One Voice Wales (OVW), to start a culture change for the local council sector. The council agreed the following:

“Our council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers with civility and respect in their role.”
The council signed a Code of Conduct in November 2012.

076. Finance Report – Mrs Lorraine Grocott

a)

BEPTON PARISH COUNCIL - Statement to January 2023		Nat West - Sort Code 61-14-22						
Balance brought forward	6.9.23		£11,069.02	VouNo		Vat	Net	
Balance brought forward	5.12.22		£12,982.97					
<u>Payments for approval</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Gross</u>		<u>VouNo</u>	<u>P/E/O</u>	<u>Vat</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Power</u>
Microsoft Subs	Microsoft Subs 23/24	59.99		OL321	P	10.00	49.99	LGA72
SLCC	Subscription 23/24	73.00		OL322	P		73.00	LGA72
Info Comm Office	CDPR/Data Protection	35.00		DD	P		35.00	LGA72
L Grocott	Sal£154.06:Exp£18.33	141.59		OL323	P		141.59	LGA72
	HMRC PAYE 19.1.23 - 2309	30.80		OL324	P		30.80	LGA72
	Sal£154.06:Exp£18.33	141.59		OL325	P		141.59	LGA72
	HMRC PAYE 19.2.23 - 2310	30.80		OL326	P		30.80	LGA72
Park House Hotel	Room Hire	35.00		OL327	P	5.83	29.17	LGA72
Bepton PCC	Churchyard maintenance	975.00		OL328	P		975.00	Sec137
Rother Valley Together	Donation 2022/23	100.00		OL329	P		100.00	Sec137
Citizens Advice Bureau	Donation 2022/23	75.00		OL330	P		75.00	Sec137
Mid Community Bus	Donation 2022/23	50.00		OL331	P		50.00	Sec137
Samaritans	Donation 2022/23	75.00		OL332	P		75.00	Sec137
Mid Area Cycling	Donation 2022/23	50.00		OL333	P		50.00	Sec137
4 Sight	Donation 2022/23	50.00		OL334	P		50.00	Sec137
Madhurst Festivities	Donation 2022/23	75.00		OL335	P		75.00	Sec137
Air Ambulance	Donation 2022/23	100.00		OL336	P		100.00	Sec137
CPRE	Donation 2022/23	50.00		OL337	P		50.00	Sec137
Azets	Qtr 3 payroll 2022-23	51.00		OL338	P	8.50	42.50	LGA72
Kerry Type Ltd	Newsletter	67.25		OL339	P		67.25	LGA72
J Beaumont (Exp 21.9.23)	WordPress bepton.org	48.00		OL340	P		48.00	LGA72
J Beaumont (Exp 8.2.24)	Domain Reg bepton.org	15.00		OL341	P		15.00	LGA72
	Est Balance at Bank		10653.95			24.33	2304.69	
	Less Ringfenced funds		1957.84					
	Available funds		8696.11					
<u>Ringfenced funds:</u>						Payments made		
Clerk Gratuity Fund		1710.04	final salary x 0.037 x no. years					
Defibrillator funds		247.80	£1848.70 x 0.037 x 25 years = £1710.04					
		1957.84						

These payments were approved for payment.

b) VAT Reclaim April 22 – January 23 – The Clerk will be reclaiming the VAT for the past year.

077. Planning report – Mr John Beckett

SDNP PLANNING RESPONSE TO APPLICATIONS: -

SDNP/22/05862/HOUS

Construction of hard porous tennis court and chain-link fencing surround. | Broadland Court Bepton Road Bepton West Sussex GU29 0LY

Application in progress

SDNP/22/05554/FUL

Item 077 Planning report continued**SDNP/22/05554/FUL**

Change of use of ancillary outbuilding to coffee shop. Country Inn Severals Road Bepton West Sussex GU29 0LR

Application in progress

SDNP/22/04616/FUL

Solar panel installation, land Northwest of Bepton Lodge, Bell Lane Bepton, GU29 0HX

Application in progress

SDNP/22/04236/FUL

Raising of roof height and formation of additional accommodation at first floor level. | Park House Hotel Bepton Road Bepton West Sussex GU29 0JB

Application in progress

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

Approved

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

Approved

078. Action for Climate Change – Mr Hollowood has handed over the papers to Mr Beckett as he will be leaving the area soon. In the meantime, he will continue to manage the website. What Bepton PC do as a small group, will inevitably be superseded by other local groups which the council will be part of. The website should be kept up to date. This will be done by Mr Beaumont.

079. Proposal to use emails as a distribution system – There is a proposal to review the way the council communicates with the community. Mrs Bower who previously prepared the Newsletter for distribution has now left the village so there is an opportunity for a review. If the council wishes to use an email system, it will require the written consent of residents. There will be further discussion at the March meeting and at the Annual Parish Assembly. Mr Hollowood was thanked for his contribution to this item. The Spring Newsletter has been placed onto the website.

080. Environment matters/ Highways matters/ Rights of Way

a) It was noted that the notice board on the Severals junction is in need for repair.

081. Other meetings

a) CDC All Parishes virtual meeting on Monday 6th February at 5.30pm

b) MAC meeting at the Grange Centre on Wednesday 15th February at 6.30pm

082. Date of next meeting – 16th March 2023 at Bepton Park Hotel.

Chairman:

These Minutes are unconfirmed until signed by the Chairman.

Item 072. County Councillors Dr Kate O’Kelly’s report to Bepton Parish Council

1. Transport and Infrastructure – She has received lots of frustrated emails on the topic of potholes and poor repairs that are not lasting through the recent torrential conditions. I have asked for the committee at the County to scrutinise more formally the quality of the remedial work as there is clearly a significant problem.
2. Cycling - She attended a WSCC member cycling group in December – heard from Hampshire CC active travel leaders – they explained how if the cultural change, then more cycling grant money can be received from the Government and better schemes can be delivered achieving the national standards. WSCC are way behind – still only paying lip service on active travel, the culture change needs to be embedded in the organisation our group will continue to push for this in 2023.
3. Midhurst Greenway - The officers at WSCC are going to arrange a meeting soon with stakeholders regarding another round of consultation on the proposals for this path. It is hoped this will include a 20mph zone on South Street going into the Old Town.
4. Housing and Communities - Damp and Mould - The District Council have produced a new leaflet with detailed advice on mould and how to tackle it www.chichester.gov.uk/media/36430/Damp-Leaflet-Nov-2021/pdf/Damp_leaflet_Nov2021.pdf
5. The District Council have been advising those who rent their home and are experiencing issues with damp and mould, to report this to their landlord as soon as possible. If the problem worsens, or they don’t hear back from their landlord they should contact the CDC housing team by emailing housingstandards@chichester.gov.uk or by calling 01243 534565.
6. Local Plan -The District Council have published their long-awaited Local Plan – they will start the 6-week technical consultation in February with a view to submitting for inspection in the Summer. Very challenging as evidence on transport and flood risk keeps on needing updating and the changing information from Government means that the goalposts keep moving.
7. WSCC Full Council - Our group had a motion that went to Full Council in December on Voter ID – we called for a delay for the implementation of the new law that requires everyone to take photographic ID to the polling station, asking the Cabinet member to write to Michael Gove. In addition, asking the District Council teams to prepare more info for residents on details of how to get free voter cards and postal vote forms and to send this out with the council tax letters should the plans to change the process proceed. Unfortunately, this was voted down. Recommend residents without photo ID are encouraged to arrange a postal vote. Forms can be downloaded at [Apply for a postal vote - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
8. Environment and Wellbeing
9. Health and Social Care Meeting - At HASC last week we scrutinised the new Stroke specialist service. The proposal is to make St Richards a Centre of Excellence open 24/7 for the highest standards of emergency stroke care including weekend consultant cover. This is good news for our area. They had to choose between Worthing hospital and St Richards. It makes more sense geographically as the other specialist stroke hospitals are in Brighton and Portsmouth. There is now going to be a 12-week consultation as it is a significant change to the health services locally.

Next drop-in Midhurst the Grange 30th Jan 10.30-12.30

Item 073. Report from the District Councillor – Cllr Mrs Judy Fowler

1. Local Plan - The CDC CEO has described 2023 as a very busy year to come, commencing with the adoption of the new Local Plan which is undergoing inspection at the time of writing. Once the Plan has been adopted by the Council later this month it will be submitted to a Planning Inspector for independent examination on behalf of the government. More on this can be seen at www.chichester.gov.uk/localplanreview.
An approved Local Plan will provide development security to the district.
The Council has welcomed the news that Government intends to hand back control to local councils over the number of houses to be built. Changes to the National Planning Policy can be viewed at Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill; reforms to national planning policy – GOV.UK(www.gov.uk).
2. Contract Services - The GMB have cancelled their plans to strike following constructive negotiations. CDC has awarded the streets and waste teams a 5% allowance in recognition of the challenging conditions of the work (unsocial hours/handling unpleasant materials/working outside in all weathers). This has been accepted so no disturbance to the service has been necessary.
3. Bathing Water Results - DEFRA announced the results just before Christmas. Bracklesham Bay, Selsey and West Wittering were all classed as excellent.
4. Parking in Chichester & Bosham - A new parking strategy has been approved for the next 4 years, considering the changes in the way people shop and use the high streets in the district following Covid. Removal of 120 spaces and the introduction of a permanent events/market space is being considered for the Cattle Market car park; a feasibility study is being done to reorganise the layout of North Street carpark to improve its connection with the city centre and visitor attractions; a feasibility study on Bosham carpark to improve traffic flow and layout; and more electric charging bays in all car parks. Also, there is a review of the parking payment options across the district's car parks.
 - There will be no increase in parking charges in Midhurst.
5. Minimum energy standards for Privately Rented Property - CDC has worked with Adur DC to reduce the number of privately rented properties classified as 'cold homes' and applied for Government funding to pass on to landlords. Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards target properties with an energy rating of F or G. Any property privately let as a home must have a rating of E or above. Minimum energy efficiency standards can be seen at: www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-private-rented-property-minimum-energy-efficiency-standard-landlord-guidance.
6. Mould in Homes - CDC is advising people living in rented accommodation who are experiencing issues with damp and mould to contact their landlord. If they do not hear back in a reasonable timescale or the problem worsens, they should contact CDC Housing Team by email on housing/standards@chichester.gov.uk or on 01243 534565.
7. Homelessness - After a government grant of £47,500 CDC is piloting a scheme to help long-term homelessness. Up to 20 clients will be referred to BEAM, a social enterprise organisation which helps with people who have experienced long-term homelessness to gain employment.
8. Sewer Flooding - Exceptionally heavy rainfall in the last 3 months has resulted in some sewage discharges. Southern Water is responsible for the public sewer network and residents should contact them in the first instance <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/sewers-and-drains>. If there is no resolution to the problem contact OFWAT's advisory body, the Consumer Council for Water at <https://www.ccwater.org.uk/>. CDC's Environmental Health department have powers to deal with defective private drainage, e.g., a landlord or neighbour that fails to attend to a blocked or surcharging foul drain.
9. Avian Flu - There is an on-line system for reporting dead wild birds, see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-dead-wild-birds>
10. Independent Retailers Grant - 9 applications were approved to be allocated funding from a total of £27,279.15. Locally one of these is in Midhurst and one in Petworth (4 in Chichester, 1 in East Wittering).