

BEPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mrs Rosalind Hart
Clerk: Mrs. Lorraine Grocott, BEM, BA Hons (Local Policy)
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MINUTES of BEPTON PARISH COUNCIL Thursday 16th March 2023 in The Park House Hotel, Bepton

Present: Mrs R Hart (In the Chair), Mr J Beckett, Mr J C Beaumont,
 Members of the Public – Mr Ben Tyrell-Evans, Mr Michael Freeman

- 082. Apologies** – Mr P McCulloch, Mr D Hollowood
 Cllr Dr K O’Kelly (County Councillor), Cllr Mrs J Fowler (District Councillor)
- 083. Declaration of Interests** of Members – There were none.
- 084. Minutes of the Meeting 26th January 2023** - Agreed and signed.
- 085. Public Participation** – The Chairman introduced Mr. Michael Freeman who is considering standing as a candidate after the May elections. Mrs. Hart welcomed Mr. Tyrell-Evans to the meeting. He has agreed to stand as a candidate in the May elections.
- 086. Report from the County Councillor** – Cllr Dr Kate O’Kelly – *full report attached – Page 6.*
Summary below:
- Transport and Infrastructure
 - Cycling – Meeting with officers to finalise walking and cycling strategy.
 - Friends of Rother Valley Way – project now has various teams in place.
 - Midhurst Greenway – meeting soon with stakeholders on proposals for this path.
 - Housing and communities
 - Chichester District Council Local Plan – Now submitted for technical consultation.
 - Damp and Mould – problems contact CDC housing team 01243 534565.
 - Hyde Residents – Big rise in rental charge for garages.
 - Environment and Wellbeing
 - Health and Social Care Meeting March – discussed access for residents to NHS dentistry across West Sussex.
 - WSSC Budget
 - Full Council last Friday budget agreed. 5% increase in Council Tax.
 - 2.99% increase max allowed and 2% increase for adult social care.
 - Agreed a £4.5m increase in budget for Highways maintenance – a one off.

Next drop-in meeting - March 23rd White Hart South Harting 10.30-12.30.

- 087. Report from the District Councillors** (Cllr Judy Fowler) – *full report attached – Page 7.*
Summary below:
- Supporting You – There has been a very positive impact on people struggling with a range of issues.
 - Tree Planting – Almost 8000 trees are due to be planted in the district this winter.
 - Parking Charges – In April revised parking charges will be introduced.
 - Covid 19 Vaccination Centre Northgate Car Park – has now been removed.
 - CHASM (Crustaceans Habitat & Sediment Movement) – Brighton, Southampton & Portsmouth universities have submitted a funding proposal of £1m. to the environment research council into the cause of the current mortality of crustaceans around the Manhood peninsular.
 - Sustainability in Tourist & Hospitality Sector – CDC are working with Great Sussex Way to support businesses in the sector to operate in a sustainable way and promote their credentials.

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Item 087 Report from the District Council continued.

- Damp and Mould – Residents suffering from this problem should contact their landlords in the first instance. If not satisfactorily resolved, they should contact the Housings Standards Team.
- Council Tax – There will be an additional £25 for those in receipt of Local Council Tax Reduction (LCTR) and will be available to people of working age and pensioners.
- Business Rates Revaluation – The Government have announced a new Business Rating list which will come into effect on 1 April and will run for 3 years.
- Energy Support Scheme Alternative Funding – The scheme began in February and is to complement the national scheme of reducing energy bills by £400 for those who fall outside the main scheme's parameters.
- Climate Change & Domestic Energy Efficiency – A second resident's climate change event will take place on Thursday 30th March at Chichester College. It will focus on home energy efficient to help residents to save money and reduce carbon emissions.
- ECO+ Home Energy Grants – The Government is to widen the remit of this scheme to help provide insulation to households on low incomes in the least energy efficient homes to include tax bands A-D. The scheme is due to launch in the summer.
- Waste Carrier Action Day – On 21 February members of the Environmental Protection team and the Policed joined representatives from HMRC, Driver Vehicle Standards Agency and the Environment Agency for an Action Day. Vehicles likely to be carrying waste were stopped at a certain location on the A259 and relevant document were checked, and advice given.
- Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle – The new RCVs will be delivered in April, following inspection at the suppliers works and maintenance procedure training for workshop staff. The vehicles will be the first RCVs to be in service in West Sussex.

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088. Matters arising from the Minutes.

- a) Councillor vacancies – The Chairman offered her thanks to Mr Hollowood, Mrs Bower and Mr Salmon who will be stepping down as councillors. She thanked Mrs Bower for her production of the Newsletter, Mr Salmon for his help with Rights of Way and to Mr Hollowood for the Broadband project. Mr Freeman and Mr Tyrell-Evans will be standing as councillors in the May elections.
- b) Correction of name on war memorial at St Mary's churchyard. The War Memorial Trust advised that it is not good to change names unless there is a real complaint. There are many inaccuracies on gravestones and memorials. Mrs Hart provided this information to Jonathan Jong, the vicar, and the Churchwarden. Although they were unhappy with the response it was agreed that the estimated cost of £2,000 to correct the memorial name was excessive. Action - JAB and JCB
- c) Removal of Bepton Village sign – WSCC will be removing the sign during the next month. While they are onsite the engineer will repair the 40mph sign near Heathlands Farm.
- d) Police update – The Zoom meeting planned for 27th February had been cancelled. Mr Beaumont explained that the scheme will provide a conduit for local communities to report any problems and for the police to gather this information. They will monitor and respond to any trends. Bepton is a low crime area. The next Zoom meeting will be on March 30th. Action - JCB
- e) Ownership of land at southern end of Bepton – Mr Whitby, the CDC tree officer, had a site visit and, whilst he acknowledges one dead Ash tree and one Beech tree with overhanging branches, he said that it was not the responsibility of CDC or WSCC Highways to fell them. Neither the Land Registry nor the Cowdray Estate have been able to provide information on the land ownership.

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089. Chairman's Items - Mrs Rosalind Hart

a) King Charles III's coronation 6th May 2023 –Mrs Hart had circulated information and costs for King Charles III Coronation China Mugs at a cost of £800.28 + vat £160.06, Total £960.34. This was agreed by the council and has been ordered and paid for.

b) Coronation Sunday Lunch on 7th May at The Country Inn - Residents are in the process of organising a celebration in the garden of The Country Inn. There will be games for the families etc. to make it another memorable event which will be similar to the one held for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Flyers will be going out shortly. The Clerk will be applying to the Chichester District Council for a Coronation Grant of up to £250.

Mr Beaumont asked what the situation would be should the event make a loss i.e. who would cover the short fall? Mrs Hart agreed to clarify this with the organisers. Action - Clerk, RH Insurance cover for the event – The Clerk has been provided with information regarding event planning and this will be passed onto the organisers.

b) Speaker for the Annual Parish Assembly, 11th May 2023 – Nathan Ford, PCSO. has agreed to give a short presentation on Scams and Fraud at the Annual Parish Meeting which will start at 7.30pm

c) Donation £250 from MADhurst Committee as a contribution to a project for the benefit of Bepton. After discussion it was agreed that the donation would be helpful in refurbishing the Notice Boards and Severals Road green and the one at the top Southern end of the Parish which are both in need of repair. Action JAB/JCB

090. Finance – Mrs Lorraine Grocott

a) Thank you letters and emails had been received from several of the donation recipients including Air Ambulance for Kent Surrey Sussex, Midhurst Community Bus, 4 Sight Vision Support, St Mary's Bepton for churchyard maintenance. The Treasurer for Bepton St Mary's PCC confirmed that the donation of £975 will be recorded as Restricted funds for maintenance expenditure in the churchyard. Year ending 31.12.22 spend was £1765.20 on necessary maintenance in the churchyard.

b) Payments for approval

BEPTON PARISH COUNCIL - Statement to March 2023		Nat West - Sort Code 61-14-22						
				VouNo		Vat	Net	
Balance brought forward	5.12.22		£12,982.97					
<u>Receipts</u>	6.12.22-3.3.23							
	VAT Reclaim 22-23	318.23	<u>318.23</u>					
			13301.20					
Payments	6.12.22-3.3.23		<u>-2279.02</u>					
			11022.18					
<u>Payments for approval</u>	<u>Details</u>			<u>VouNo</u>	<u>P/E/O</u>	<u>Vat</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Power</u>
L Grocott	Sal£154.06:Exp£18.33 P.11	141.59		342	P		141.59	LGA72
HMRC	PAYE 19.3.23 - 2311	30.80		343	P		30.80	LGA72
L Grocott	Sal£154.06:Exp£18.33 P.12	141.59		344	P		141.59	LGA72
HMRC	PAYE 19.4.23 - 2312	30.80		345	P		30.80	LGA72
Park House Hotel	Room hire 16.3.23	35.00		346	P	5.83	29.17	LGA72
Midhurst Area Cycling	Donation 2022/23	50.00		347	P		50.00	LGA72
Insignia	King Charles III Corontn	<u>960.34</u>	<u>-1390.12</u>	348	O	<u>160.06</u>	<u>800.28</u>	LGA72
	Est Balance at Bank		9632.06			165.89	1224.23	
	Less Ringfenced funds		<u>-1957.84</u>					
	Available funds 31.3.23		£7,674.22					
<u>Ringfenced funds:</u>								
Clerk Gratuity Fund		1710.04	final salary x 0.037 x no Payments made					
Defibrillator funds		<u>247.80</u>	£1848.70 x 0.037 x 25 years = £1710.04					
		1957.84						

These payments were approved.

d) VAT Reclaim April 2022- January 2023. The sum of £318.23 had been reclaimed.

e) Year End 2022/23 accounts will be prepared for the internal audit.

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091. 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

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

Other Planning Matters

Bepton input to SDNP Local Plan Review

- 1) Settlement Facilities Assessment – The information provided will help to update the information they have on the number and type of facilities and services provided in individual settlements across the National Park. Action - JAB

- 2) Open Space Assessment – The purpose of this study is to understand how much public open space is available across the National Park and identify any shortfall which can be considered through the Local Plan Review. Action - JAB
Deadline for the Settlement Facilities Assessment and the Open Space Assessment is 6 April 2023.

- 3) Parish Priority Statements (PPS) – These are for parishes that are wholly in the National Park or whose main settlement is in the National Park. They provide the parishes with the opportunity to set out the principal needs and prevailing views of your local community and are much simpler than Neighbourhood Development Plans. Action - JAB
Deadline for the Parish Priority Statement is 20 October 2023.

- 4) Data gathering for the Parish Priority Statement – It was agreed that the Annual Parish Assembly would provide an opportunity for the residents to complete a questionnaire. A form could be attached to the Annual Parish Assembly Agenda and a form could be placed onto the website for residents to complete online. Action – JAB

The Council will liaise with the Cowdray Estate, as the major landowner in the parish.

SDNP are creating a series of Digital Hubs on their website to improve communication between parishes and the SDNP. Topics such as Accessibility, Walks, Nature Recovery, Community and Climate Change will be covered.

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092. **Broadband** – Mr Beaumont

Last year we saw the roll out of full fibre by Outreach to the south end of the village which previously had some of the lowest internet speeds in the country but now with full fibre these households through their providers can receive ultra fibre broadband speeds of up to 1 GBPS. The full fibre roll out was about to be extended to the north end when the government voucher scheme of £4,000 per household was paused which meant Outreach were short of funds and subsequently rescheduled the installation. In addition we are told that the grouping of the houses in the north of Bepton have now been combined with the Midhurst roll out and this is scheduled to start towards the later end of the Outreach 2023-26 programme. Although presently households in northern end of the village have a copper wire connection some improvements were made about 2 years ago when a fibre link was extended from Midhurst to the cabinet on Severals Green. However, despite this the present overall internet speeds are still inadequate at the northern end of the village and this will only improve when the full fibre to individual households is rolled out by Outreach. JCB will be in communication with Outreach regarding any further developments.

093. **Council Elections 4th May 2023**

Councillors wishing to stand for election at the election completed their Nomination Forms which will be taken down to Chichester District Council Offices to be checked and submitted. Residents who wish to stand for election should contact the clerk for a Nomination Form. The deadline for nominations is 4pm on 4th April 2023.

094. **Environment matters/ Highways matters/ Rights of Way**

- a) Agricultural Vehicle Movements – The Council has been informed by Jonathan Russell of The Cowdray Estate that, according to a definitive plan – yet to be shown – they will use Rectory and Church Farm as their preferred route of access, although for operational reasons it cannot be used exclusively.
- b) Spring Clean Week 17th March to 2nd April. This will be done by councillors and residents. Signs will be cleaned, and litter collected.

095. **Other meetings**

- a) All Parishes Meeting held via Zoom 6 February 2023 – Items discussed included the District Local Plan, the Emergency and Resilience Plan Template, Elections Update.
- b) Carbon Literacy Project webinar Monday 20th March at 10:30am to mark the launch of a new Parish, Town, and Community Councils Toolkit Course. Action: JAB/ JCB

096. **Date of next meeting –**

Annual Statutory Meeting, Thursday 11th May 2023, 6pm in The Barn, Bepton Park Hotel.
This will be followed by refreshments, 7.00pm until 7.30pm when the Annual Parish Assembly will be held. The Speaker for the evening will be Nathan Ford, PCSO, talking about Scams and Fraud.

Chairman:

These Minutes are unconfirmed until signed by the Chairman.

County Councillor Report Bepton Parish Council 16th March 2023

Transport and Infrastructure

Cycling

Meeting with officers at WSCC finalising walking and cycling strategy – I pushed for a key performance indicator of actual outcomes of use of the paths rather than kms built (previous KPI was 7.5km of newly paths built) and called for better maintenance of paths. Poor maintenance leads to decreasing use and works against the active travel strategy.

Friends of Rother Valley Way

A meeting for the wider group with briefing – the project now has various teams doing comms, landowner discussions, fundraising / grant applications and we will be meeting regularly to move things forward. First phase Petersfield to Nyewood, second phase Nyewood to Elsted Marsh. Anyone who wants to get more involved with the active running of the project or the wider friends of RVW do contact forothervalleyway@outlook.com

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, I am hoping this will include a 20mph zone on South Street going into the Old Town.

Housing and Communities

Chichester District Council Local Plan

Now submitted for the technical consultation – between 3rd Feb - 17th March.

Damp and Mould

Anyone who rents their home and are experiencing issues with damp and mould, are advised to report this to their landlord as soon as possible. If the problem worsens, or they don't hear back people should contact CDC housing team for help and advice by emailing housingstandards@chichester.gov.uk or by calling 01243 534565.

HYDE Residents

Recently Hyde have sent out letters with a big rise (£10 to £27) increase in rental charge for garages – unaffordable currently – our group have asked the Director of housing at CDC to address this urgently with Hyde.

Environment and Wellbeing

Health and Adult social care committee in March – we again looked at access for residents to NHS dentistry across West Sussex. Many residents including young people have no access to and NHS dentist, dentists in their preventative work often pick up other non-dental conditions such as oral cancers and poor oral health is also linked to other physical health conditions. West Sussex is not unique it is a national issue that urgently needs addressing.

WSCC Budget

Full Council last Friday budget agreed. 5% increase in Council Tax
2.99% increase max allowed and 2% increase for adult social care.

Agreed a £4.5m increase in budget for Highways maintenance – this was a one off – our amendment included building this into the budget year on year, but this was not agreed.

LD group amendments were not agreed included additional officer resource for active travel, buses, and rights of way. Increasing the team for carers support and recruitment for more occupational therapists. We also proposed a climate emergency fund to encourage innovative community projects that reduce carbon and improve the environment.

CDC REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS MARCH 2023

Supporting You

The Supporting You team has had a very positive impact on people struggling with a range of issues. They work with Voluntary Action Arun & Chichester, Citizens' Advice, local housing associations and WSCC, assisting people to access help with financial strictures, domestic abuse, alcohol addiction, terminal illness, and eviction. If you know anybody who might benefit from consulting the team, please visit:

www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyou or call 01243 534860.

There is also a budgeting calculator to enable customers to self-serve at

www.chichester.gov.uk/benefitsandbudgetingcalculator.

Tree Planting – Almost 8000 trees are due to be planted in the district this winter. Various community organizations as well as residents have applied for the subsidised trees (50% covered by funding). Since its inception in January 2021 the planting tree initiative has resulted in over 24,500 trees being planted in the district.

Parking Charges - In April revised parking charges will be introduced. Changes to charges reflect the different circumstances post-Covid and the different methods of collection and the various towns in the district.

Covid 19 Vaccination Centre Northgate Car Park – The Vaccination Centre has now been removed and the area is available for public parking. However, the NHS has requested space for a mobile vaccination unit (a minibus) to be sited in the car park and this application is at present being considered.

CHASM (Crustaceans Habitat & Sediment Movement - Brighton, Southampton & Portsmouth universities have submitted a funding proposal of £1million to the environment research council into the cause of the current mortality of crustaceans around the Manhood peninsular. Work has also begun to examine marine sediment influencing Selsey and CHASM will partner with BLUE Marine Foundation.

Sustainability in Tourism & Hospitality Sector - CDC are working with the Great Sussex Way to support businesses in the sector to operate in a sustainable way and promote their green credentials. In conjunction with a local marketing company some useful tools have been developed to help businesses to promote what they are doing to reduce their impact on the environment.

Damp and Mould - Residents suffering with these problems should contact their landlord in the first instance and if the problem worsens or they do not receive a satisfactory response from the landlord they should contact the Housing Standards Team.

Council Tax - In December the government brought in additional support aimed at reducing the impact of rising Council Tax. There will be an additional £25 for those in receipt of Local Council Tax Reduction (LCTR) and will be available to people of working age and pensioners. CDC will incorporate this payment into their billing in April. WSCC have also agreed to fund a local scheme offering a further payment, up to £25, for working aged people in receipt of LCTR. In addition, the remainder of funding after payment of LCTR will be used by CDC under a Discretionary Scheme to all bill payers in the district who are financially vulnerable because of the rising cost of living (on top of those receiving LCTR). The scheme will predominantly be administered by the Supporting You team.

Business Rates Revaluation - The Government have announced a new Business Rating list which will come into effect on 1 April and will run for 3 years. This will mean a change in business rates for many businesses within the district, 72% will increase, 23% will reduce and 5% remain the same. There are schemes to reduce the impact of any increase, the main one being Transitional Relief, which caps any increase to between 5% and 30%, depending on level of rateable value. This relief is applied automatically. and no application is needed. In addition, small businesses who are no longer entitled to Small Business Rate Relief will receive a cap on any increase up to £600 per annum. There is also an increase in Retail & Hospitality relief from 50% to 75%, which will reduce rates payable for approx. 900 businesses in the district for this coming financial year.

Energy Support Scheme Alternative Funding

This scheme began in February and is to complement the national scheme of reducing energy bills by £400 for those who fall outside the main scheme's parameters, i.e., park home residents, social housing residents with power supplied via the landlord with a commercial meter, partially or wholly self-funded care home residents, houseboats, householders on private electricity networks, travellers on authorised sites and households in temporary or supported accommodation.

Eligible customers should use this link:

www.gov.uk/apply-energy-bill-support-if-not-automatic.

There is a national dedicated phone Freephone line at 0808 175 3287 (Mon-Fri 0800-1800)

Climate Change & Domestic Energy Efficiency

The second residents' climate change event will take place on Thursday 30 March at Chichester College. It will again focus on home energy efficiency to help residents to save money and reduce carbon emissions. There will be presentations on top tips to save energy, installing solar and heat pumps and what a 'whole house retrofit plan' involves. Experts will be available to consult on individual issues.

ECO+ Home Energy Grants – The Government is to widen the remit of this scheme to help provide insulation to households on low incomes in the least energy efficient homes to include tax bands A-D. The scheme is due to launch in the summer.

Waste Carrier Action Day - On 21 February members of the Environmental Protection team and the Police joined representatives from HMRC, Driver Vehicle Standards Agency and the Environment Agency for an Action Day. Vehicles likely to be carrying waste were stopped at a certain location on the A259 and relevant documents were checked, and advice given as to waste carrier registration and waste transfer notes. Approx 40 vehicles were spoken to. It is hoped to make this a more regular event.

Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle -The new RCVs will be delivered in April, following inspections at the suppliers works and maintenance procedure training for workshop staff. The vehicles will be the first RCVs to be in service in West Sussex.