

## BEPTON ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

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Chairman: Mrs Rosalind Hart  
 Clerk: Mrs Lorraine Grocott, BEM, BA (Hons): Local Policy  
 23 West Meade, Milland, Liphook, Hampshire  
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### MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY of BEPTON PARISH held in The Park House Hotel, Bepton Thursday 11 May 2023

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Present Councillors – Mrs R Hart (in the Chair), Mr J Beckett, Mr J Beaumont, Mr P McCullough, Mr B Tyrrell-Evans  
 8 Members of the Public. 3 police officers and 1 recently elected District Councillor  
 Cllr Mrs Jess Brown-Fuller (District Council) and Mrs Judy Fowler recently retired District Councillor.

Apologies: Cllr Dr K O’Kelly, (County Councillor), Mr M Freeman, Mr B Cox, Mr & Mrs J Sadler, Mrs T Craddock.

1. WELCOME Mrs Hart welcomed all present to the meeting. The Annual Statutory Meeting of the Parish Council had been held earlier in the evening. Mrs Rosalind Hart had been elected chairman for the ensuing year and Mr John Beckett elected Vice Chairman. Other councillors for the ensuing year are Mr James Beaumont, Mr Paul McCullough, Mr Mike Freeman, Mr Ben Tyrrell-Evans. The Clerk was appointed as the Responsible Finance Officer and Mr J Beckett co-ordinator for planning. Mr Richard Buckler was appointed as the Council’s Internal Auditor.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 12 May 2022  
 These had been approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. SPEAKER FOR THE EVENING – PCSO Nathan Ford and his colleague PCSO Lucas Kowalski. PCSOs Nathan Ford and Lucas Kowalski were pleased to report that Bepton had relatively small incidents of crime. They had been invited to speak about the current and increasing problem of Scams and Fraud. Every year the British public loses billions of pounds to fraudsters who bombard us with online, mail, door-to-door, and telephone scams. Scams, or frauds, can be difficult to investigate. They can be complicated and often involve many victims and suspects and enquiries outside of the UK. They can take a lot of resources to investigate, and courts may find it difficult to convict suspects because of the grey area that may appear to exist between dishonesty and sharp practice. Scams target people of all ages, backgrounds, and income levels. One of the best ways to fight the scammers is to take steps to prevent yourself from being caught out in the first place. To help you stay safe and up to date about crime prevention advice, visit the Sussex Police website at [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk). PCSO Nathan Ford also distributed a booklet issued by Sussex Police about Scams that are prevalent and how to avoid them.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr. Dr Kate O’Kelly (emailed report – in brief)  
 It’s difficult to summarize the work of WSCC. It is a vast organisation with services that cover waste disposal, schools, adults, and children’s services and of course Highways. The largest budget item by far is supporting vulnerable adults and children. Everyone uses the Highways all the time with potholes being a major issue for all. To reduce the number of reports, she would like the parishes to coordinate their reporting if possible, so everyone knows if a particular pothole has been reported. There is now a new and more flexible speed policy which will mean residents are more able to achieve appropriate reductions in speeds in their communities.

Fire in Midhurst -The current situation in Midhurst is extremely challenging. The full impact of the road closure has hit businesses in the town and the surrounding villages. Resident’s lives have got more difficult in many ways, accessing healthcare has been particularly difficult. She has been meeting up the SDNPA to discuss the urgency of the situation. Coming so soon after Covid the businesses are on their knees and the cashflow situation for many is critical. The current plan is to try to get emergency compensation for the businesses most affected from the Secretary of State, Michael Gove.

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Gillian Keegan's representative was at the meeting, and she is going to urgently seek clarification from Michael Gove as to what details he needs in terms of financial losses. A powerful case will be made for compensation. The leaders of the SDNPA have been pushed for a 7 day a week construction project so that the road is opened sooner. Today the SDNPA have announced their chosen contractor for the project to shore up the building. The free car parking is now over but she is lobbying hard for key workers, particularly teachers who can't reach Midhurst Rother College without a long detour to obtain temporary car parking permits.

Walking and Cycling – Cllr O'Kelly met with the officers at WSCC who are finalising their new walking and cycling strategy – it was agreed for a key performance indicator (KPI) of actual outcomes of use of the paths rather than kms built (previous KPI was 7.5mk of newly paths built a year) and for better maintenance of paths. Poor maintenance leads to decreasing use and works against the active travel strategy. WSCC are still rated as zero by Active Travel England in terms of their ability to deliver cycling and walking schemes.

The consultation for the reduction of speed to 30mph to outside the Woolbeding junction is now open – this speed reduction is part of the scheme to widen the Stedham to Midhurst Cycle path.

Health – NHS Dentists - At the Health and Adult social care committee in March they looked at access for residents to NHS dentistry across West Sussex. Many residents including young people have no access to an 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. It was agreed that this is a priority and that they will continue to lobby together.

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Mrs Jessica Brown-Fuller, was recently elected as one of the councillors to represent the District Council. Cllr Mrs Hannah Burton was also elected.

Fire in Midhurst – Further to Cllr Dr K O'Kelly's report Cllr Brown-Fuller said that an Urgent Works Notice has been issued. The building is privately owned. The owner is having to liaise with their insurance company and a builder. Three quotes for the shoring up of the façade have been received by the SDNPA and the successful contractor will be awarded the job on when he can start. A large crane will have to be brought in and this will take up two road lanes. The County Council and SDNPA are trying to get the company to work a 7day week as opposed to a 5-day week in order to expedite the reduction of the road closure period. Business loss is around 80% and shops have had to reduce and/ or lay off employees. CDC have provided a package of support amounting to £1,800 per business. CDC have also put forward another £200,000 to help with the shoring up of the building. Further financial support is not appropriate as it is a privately owned building. The retention of the façade is not a decision for the SDNPA to make and its removal would be illegal. Approval has been given for the demolition of the chimneys. CDC is in discussion about the pothole problem and the road repairs, and it is hoped that Highways will undertake this work during the low usage time. After a question from the audience, it was strongly suggested that any ancillary work on North Street should be identified and dealt with whilst the road is closed.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2022-23 – Mrs Rosalind Hart

Since the APA in May 2022 two new councillors were co-opted – Ben Tyrrell-Evans and Mike Freeman. Mike unfortunately cannot be here with us this evening. Last year three of our councillors had to resign for work reasons as well as moving out of the area. She expressed thanks to Carey Bower, Duncan Hollowood and Mike Salmon for their hard work and commitment to the Council. In the previous meeting this evening, Mrs. Hart was re-elected Chair and John Beckett as Vice Chair. Councillors were asked to introduce themselves and where they live.

Matters which have been dealt with by the Council since last year include various celebrations: -

The Late Queen's Platinum Jubilee – held last June was a great success. The residents of Bepton and their families attended the event at The Park House Hotel. Along with other activities, the community enjoyed games and a Tug of War, music and the tea was provided by the hotel. The raffle raised over £500. The surplus of £125 has been donated to St Mary's Bepton and Midhurst Food Bank. Grateful thanks were expressed to the organising committee and to the management of the hotel in offering their space and facilities for this lovely community celebration.

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King Charles III Coronation - Following on from this patriotic theme, the community also celebrated the King's Coronation Big Sunday Lunch last weekend. Approximately 80 local residents and their families came to celebrate this occasion as the tables - decked in red, white and blue - were laid out along White's Lane looking most festive together with bunting and Union Jacks fluttering from the trees. Once the picnic was underway and everyone was enjoying the wonderful sunshine, the Prosecco flowed and a toast was made to the new King & Queen with the joyous singer - Anouska Assisi - playing the National Anthem. This was followed by delicious cup cakes and a Tug of War! A profit was made of £48 which will be donated to St Mary's Church Repair Fund. Again our sincere thanks go to everyone involved in the organising committee.

Village Gates / removal of Bepton Village sign - As the parish council has now erected the Village Gates at the entrances and exits of Bepton, it was felt that the Bepton Village sign was obsolete. However, it was also felt that there should be some indication to slow down traffic entering this area as well as where one enters the northern part of Bepton at the new 40mph speed limit sign. After consultation with the residents via the newsletter and agreement from the County Council to its removal, the sign has been removed.

The Cowdray Estate - Mr Beckett and Mrs Hart met with the CEO of the Cowdray Estate, Jonathon Russell, at the beginning of this year to discuss various matters of local concern, including last year's increase of agricultural vehicle 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 the Severals car park as well as environmental initiatives by the Estate. Mr Russell also informed us 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. We need to keep a close eye on this while, at the same time, staying in regular contact with the Cowdray Estate.

Broadband - Last year the Council saw the roll out of full fibre by Openreach to the southern end of the village, which previously had some of the lowest internet speeds in the country. The full fibre roll out was about to be extended to the northern end when the government voucher scheme of £4,000 per household was paused. This meant Openreach were short of funds and subsequently rescheduled the installation. In addition, we are told that the grouping of the houses in north Bepton have now been combined with the Midhurst roll out. This is scheduled to start towards the latter end of the Openreach 2023-26 programme. Although presently, households in the 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 Openreach. James Beaumont will be in communication with Openreach regarding any further developments.

The Incorrect name on the war memorial at St Mary's Church - The Reverend Jonathan Jong has been in correspondence with the Council regarding a possible inscription error of two brothers on the war memorial. The memorial lists Percy Henry Denyer, and William George Denyer: but William was the father of Percy and Albert, both of whom were killed in battle. The Council is aware of its responsibility for the War Memorial. The Churchwarden, Sheila Ryan, has confirmed that the current evidence is insufficiently clear to justify the PCC starting to suggest an alteration at this time. However, the guidance from the War Memorial Trust will go as an appendix to the parish council's minutes for the benefit of a future generation of historians to reflect why this decision has been made.

Climate Change - in November 2021, a committee on Action for Climate Change was formed chaired by Duncan Hollowood. It was agreed that the Council accepted that there is a need to raise greater awareness in the community of the seriousness of the situation.

Parish cleaning days of road signs, cutting back vegetation to keep Bepton tidy continues to be organized by James Beaumont.

Public Rights of Way (PROW) - an inspection of the PROWs in Bepton is being carried out in January 2024. If any issues arise in the meantime, please let the Council know.

South Downs Way Anniversary - Andy Gattiker, National Trails & Rights of Way Lead, coordinated a project last summer to celebrate 50 years since the trail was opened. A plaque has been placed on one of the finger posts in each parish. The Bepton plaque is at the junction of the South Downs Way and Bridleway 898.

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The MADhurst Committee have donated £250 as a contribution to a project for the benefit of Bepton. The Council would like to refurbish the Notice Boards in some way. The Council is in discussion as to whether to make good the existing boards or whether to try and get funding for new ones.

Lastly, she thanked Lorraine, our Clerk, for her continued hard work during this past year.

7. FINANCE REPORT - Mrs Lorraine Grocott, Responsible Financial Officer - The accounts were prepared using Governance and Accountability for Small Authorities in England March 2018 with amendments in 2019. She expressed her thanks to Richard Buckler the Council's Internal Auditor. Moore are the External Auditors. The accountability and audit framework are 'risk-based' and the Council is required to assess and to set out how it manages its risks. The Council has prepared a Risk Management document, which includes physical and financial risks and maintains an Asset Register. These documents are reviewed on an annual basis. All payments are approved at parish council meetings. The precept for 2022-23 was £6475 with a precept per dwelling of £43.75. Miscellaneous expenses (rounded) totalled £1846 which included Mowing of Severals Green £250, road signs £496, Queens Jubilee £250, King Charles III Coronation mugs £800 (net). Other administration costs include: - Remembrance Day wreath £20; ICO £35; Room hire £229; internal audit £100; payroll £170; miscellaneous photo £20; WordPress Domain £99. The Council continued to support the community through donations to outside bodies which support and provide services to the parishioners. Grants and donations to outside organisations amounted to £1850 with the most significant donation of £975 to Bepton Church towards the maintenance of the churchyard. Subscriptions £194, Insurance £241, Newsletter £226. The c/a balance brought forward in April 2022 was £10159.43. The y/e balance is £9632.06. Ringfenced funds include Clerks Gratuity Fund £1387.80, Defibrillator funds £247.80 (Total £1,635.60) therefore available funds at y/e £7996.46. The precept for £2023/24 is £6,598 = £44.07 per dwelling. The Statement of Accounts is attached to the Minutes.

8. PLANNING REPORT – Mr John Beckett

Schedule of Planning Applications received and dealt with since Annual Parish Assembly 12th May 2022

**SDNP/23/01085/TCA**

Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Ash tree. 2 Bepton Grange Bepton Road Bepton Midhurst West Sussex GU29 0HZ

**Decision - Raise no objection.**

**SDNP/22/05862/HOUS**

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

**Decision - Approved**

**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 North-West of Bepton Lodge, Bell Lane Bepton, GU29 0HX

**Decision – Approved**

**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/22/03888/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

**Decision - Approved**

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**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

**Decision - Approved**

**SDNP/22/03223/TPO**

Reduce height and width and lift crown on 1 no. Oak tree (T1) subject to BP/07/00070/TPO. Oakwood House Severals Road Bepton West Sussex GU29 0LR

**Decision - Approved**

**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

**Decision - Refused**

**SDNP/22/02139/LDP**

Alteration, replacement and new windows, doors and rooflights. Juliet balconies and replacement flue. Bradshaws Barn Bepton Road Bepton West Sussex GU29 0NA

**Case withdrawn.**

**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

**Decision - Approved**

**SDNP/22/01247/HOUS**

Conversion of part of existing garage to provide an extended gym/fitness area. | Burgrove Severals Road Bepton Midhurst West Sussex GU29 0LR

**Decision - Approved**

**SDNP/21/05609/HOUS**

Proposed swimming pool and pool house with associated paving. Bepton Lodge Bell Lane Bepton GU29 0HX

**Decision - Approved**

**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

**Decision – Approved**

- a) Revision of the SDNPA Parish Plan – The council will be consulting on a Parish Priority Statement (PPS) with the community. This document will provide residents with an opportunity to set out their principal needs and prevailing views. Topics will include development, management of land, design of homes, natural environment, businesses, public spaces. It was noted that 90% of the land in Bepton is owned by the Cowdray Estate. It will be much simpler than Neighbourhood Development Plan. The deadline for the PPS is 20th October. The consultation letter will be via a letter placed in the Autumn Newsletter.

9. QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE –

Q.1 Why is finding a use for the Old Grange site taking so long?

Q.2 Would a local landowner be willing to offer a piece of land for solar panels?

CONCLUSION 8.50PM.

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

*These Minutes are unconfirmed until signed by the Chairman.*

Att.1 - Incorrect names on the War Memorial at St. Mary's Church – Guidance from the War Memorial Trust.

Att.2 – Accounts for 2022-23

Att. 1. Response from WMT Conservation 22 February 2023

Our ref: WMO/280425 (WM12619)

Dear Rosalind

Many thanks for your enquiry regarding the spelling of a name on Bepton war memorial, [www.warmemorials.org.uk/memorial/280425/](http://www.warmemorials.org.uk/memorial/280425/).

Actual and perceived misspelling of names on war memorials is not uncommon and can happen for a number of reasons. It is always worth researching the history of the war memorial to try to determine how the names were collected to understand if there are errors or not. For instance, in some cases, spellings of names have changed over time, and in other cases mistakes were made in the transcribing process. It may also be the case that names were missed and the name recorded on the memorial may be a different person altogether so making a change might remove someone unintentionally. Please see our helpsheets about [Researching the history of a war memorial](#) and [Researching the names on a war memorial](#) which I hope will be of interest.

We also have a help sheet with advice about the [addition of names](#), which has advice relevant to the amendment of names which I recommend you consult.

War Memorials Trust would express caution about changing names. The decisions about names added to war memorials were made at the time of erecting a memorial by communities and changing or altering these needs to be approached with extreme caution. If communities chose to leave memorials with the names and believed errors where not amended at the time, then it suggests they were comfortable with the accuracy of the details. Names may not be what we believe them to be today because of less certainty on spelling, names used on the war memorial being the names people were known by as opposed to their given name, people signing up under different names or choices made by families or communities. Retrospectively changing them to suit what we think they should be can be changing history and as such is something to undertake with caution. If there are errors these should be seen as part of the memorial and its history; providing updated information could be done on associate information boards, plaques, or books. This will provide the community today with wider background without changing the choices made at the time a memorial was erected. It also ensures that any changes made or suggested can be changed if later research brings up alternative information.

If it is decided to accept the request to change the name, corroborative evidence will be needed to demonstrate accuracy of the spelling, this should include the following as a minimum:

1. Military records such as Commonwealth War Grave Commission records
2. Copies of corresponding formal documentation such as birth/marriage/death certificates I note that the current proposals include grinding down the face of the stone. This will not only remove an amount of historic stone but is likely to remove the protective skin that the stone has developed over time and increase the rate of weathering. You mention some concern over the difference between the recording of the regimental details. The Trust would not consider this work to be necessary. The two faces of the memorial were inscribed at different times and different decisions were made on the manner of the inscription. This does not represent an error, but a conscious decision made by the community at the time which should be respected. It is important to find a contractor who is experienced with undertaking conservation works to historic stone, the Trust has a helpsheet on [Contractors](#) which may be of assistance.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight that as the memorial is within a churchyard it is recommended that you contact the DAC as Faculty permission may be required for any work.

If you have any further questions, please contact [conservation@warmemorials.org](mailto:conservation@warmemorials.org) or 020 7233 7356.

Best wishes, Ms Emma Suckling (se/her), Email: [emma@warmemorials.org](mailto:emma@warmemorials.org)

**From:** Rosalind Hart <[rosbeptonpc@gmail.com](mailto:rosbeptonpc@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 3:12 PM  
**To:** WMT Conservation <[conservation@warmemorials.org](mailto:conservation@warmemorials.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: War Memorial at St Mary's church, Bepton, West Sussex  
**From:** Rosalind Hart <[rosbeptonpc@gmail.com](mailto:rosbeptonpc@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, 7 Feb 2023 at 15:10  
**Subject:** War Memorial at St Mary's church, Bepton, West Sussex  
**To:** <[memorials@iwm.org.uk](mailto:memorials@iwm.org.uk)>

Dear Sir,

By way of introduction, I am the Chair of Bepton Parish Council. Bepton is near Midhurst in West Sussex. We are a small parish of approximately 112 dwellings.

It has come to our attention that the war memorial at St Mary's church, Bepton, has an incorrect name engraved on it. It is with regard to the two Denyer brothers. The memorial lists PERCY HENRY DENYER and WILLIAM GEORGE DENYER, but William is the father of Percy and ALBERT WILLIAM DENYER, both of whom were killed in battle, whereas William died in 1964 aged 80. This is borne out on the CWGC website where the two men's entries are at <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2275848/denyer,-albert-william/> and <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2066204/denyer,-percy-henry/>. *(Please refer to the attachment St Mary's Bepton war memorial WWII side)*

I am advised that, in order to get our memorial correct, we also need to change the regiment names so that 4th SUSSEX as well as 9th SUSSEX reads the same as on the reverse for WWI names *(please refer to the attachment WWI memorial photo)* ie RL *(with L up in the air with a stop underneath)* SUSSEX REGT *(with T up in the air with a stop underneath)*.

In order to do this, I am advised that the whole face would have to be ground down and all the lettering recut on that side. I have been able to source a contractor, after some initial difficulty, and they have quoted me £2320 to carry out all the works.

My next step was to try and get some funding. Trevor Leggo, CEO of Sussex Association of Local Councils (SALC), suggested yourselves and hence this email. I have been on your website to try and apply for a Grants Pre-application form via the War Memorial record in War Memorial Online. However, I am failing at the first hurdle as I cannot find a reference to our war memorial.

I wonder if you are able to assist me with this.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

Rosalind Hart  
Chair  
Bepton Parish Council

BEPTON PARISH COUNCIL		Nat West - A/c 50286099	
YEAR END Accounts from 1 April 2022-31 Mar 2023		Sort Code	60-14-22
<b>Balance brought forward 1 April 2022</b>		<b>10159.43</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>1.4.22-31.3.23</b>		
	Precept	6475.00	
	Miscellaneous	255.32	
	VAT	319.29	<u>7049.61</u>
			17209.04
<b>Payments</b>	<b>1.4.22-31.3.23</b>		
	VAT	349.08	
	Grants / Donations	1850.00	
	Subscriptions	193.52	
	Misc (mowing)(Coronation mugs)	1846.28	
	Training	0.00	
	Administration	802.67	
	Insurance	241.00	
	Clerks Salary	1479.12	
	Clerks Office	219.96	
	PAYE	369.60	
	Newsletter	225.75	<u>-7576.98</u>
	<b>Balance at bank 28.2.23</b>		<b>9632.06</b>
	Less Ringfenced funds		<u>-1635.60</u>
	Available funds		<b>7996.46</b>
	Lorraine Grocott, RFO, 31.3.23		
	<u>Ringfenced funds:</u>		
	Clerks Gratuity Fund	£1,387.80	(£1542x3.75%x24 years service)
	Defibrillator funds	<u>£247.80</u>	(£405 less 157.20, 24.11.21 Bal 247.80)
		£1,635.60	