

BEAULIEU PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON THURSDAY 16TH APRIL 2015
AT BEAULIEU VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Cllr. F. Norris (Chairman), Cllr. Fairweather, Cllr. Shanks, Cllr. S. Steele, Cllr. Knight,

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Weiss, Cllr. Gibbs

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs. N. Deering (Clerk), Cllr. P. Vickers, Mr. J. Beaumont

Cllr. Norris opened with saying it is the Annual Assembly and the problem with this is that by now everyone has had theirs and are assembled out, so if anyone has any thoughts, please bring up later.

1064. **MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

Proposed: Cllr. Shanks Seconded: Cllr. Knight

1065. **MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. Norris said of all the matters were talking about then, we do seem to have done most of them.

1066. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Reported we have lost one councilor, Carol McCafferty, so one vacancy exists, which we propose to fill next month with Mark Grindrod. Police liaison and attendance has been difficult due to police reorganization locally with many demands on the visiting officers time. Also losing Cllr. Vickers who for a number of years has been the presence of NFDC at our meetings. We thank him and wish him well in the future. Subject to being successful at the elections, he will probably be replaced by Cllr. Michael Harris. Last years report mentioned high speed broadband, which has hardly been high speed. It appears in our area there are more problems than most due to statutory bodies, ancient courts and quangos who have to be consulted and the complex issue of funding. Appears we are now nearing the green cabinet stage, some parts of the parish will be benefiting by the end of the year. Megabits per household will not be confirmed until after delivery. The parish council are keenly interested and attended various meeting. The council will continue to work for high speed broadband. The website went live at beginning of 2014 and due to the encouragement and financial support from Cllr. Thornber were awarded a grant of £1000 to purchase a laptop and software. Grateful to Cllr. Shanks for undertaking to upload items and keeping the website fresh, which is very important. If our website is successful then it is mainly due to her. Next phase as suggested by Cllr. Gibbs will be to develop an automatic direct feed to subscribers with updated alerts and news. The computer is proving useful now that we have moved meetings from the committee room to the main hall, as now able to project planning applications etc. Thanks to Cllr. Steele, flag officer to the parish council, we have engaged the services of Mark Young, who has been tidying the twinning garden and more recently the

square by village hall. Flag poles erected in twinning garden and following a grant from Common Good Trust some civic flags have been purchased. A grant of £125 was made by the Parish Council to the Twinning Association to replace the broken commemorative plaque. This year marks 30 years of the Twinning Association. On 16/17th May there will be a celebration in Hautvillers. I am going and will represent the Parish Council at that event. Another project undertaken by Cllr. Steele on behalf of the Parish Council was the successful purchase and installation of the defib in February. Two grants were obtained, one from BHF and the second from the Beaulieu Beaufort Trust. The Parish Council contributed £974 for the purchase of the cabinet and electrical installation. We are grateful to Beaulieu Estate for granting permission for the defib to be mounted on a wall of one of their buildings. The defib was delivered in January and a training course arranged in the village hall. In February had a photo shoot with the main benefactor, which attracted press coverage. Another project started at the same time was the possible installation of CCTV and I am grateful to Cllr. Fairweather for picking up this idea from Neighbour Hood Watch. I must thank Mr. Beaumont for his involvement in the early stages. Two trial cameras are now operating at bottom of high street and results shown at March meeting. These were good clear images in the day and at night car registration plates were clearly displayed. Discussions now taking place whether to lease or outright purchase. An approach made to NPA regarding planning permission. Very grateful to Cllr. Fairweather who has spent quite some time on this project to make Beaulieu safer. This year we have had quite a lot of planning applications, two quite high profile applications, one of which was quite challenging. The Council want the parish to be successful, with full employment opportunities for parishioner's and residents, home owners and businesses to improve homes and premises, and the council will always be supportive of planning applications if in the view of the Council it is lawful and within guidelines. The certificate of lawful development by Beaulieu Enterprises no. 13/00415 presented us with an enormous amount of documentation as did the Residents Association. A well attended and lively meeting was held on 19th June. Several of us on the council spent many man hours reading and rereading the applications, as well as being heavily lobbied by residents. I hope it proves we do take planning seriously and do try and do our homework. The other application 14/00520 Thorms Beach and because of the very tight time schedule imposed on us by the NP, caused us to hold an Extraordinary meeting, again a very full and comprehensive application to consider along with a site visit. We are as a council doing more site visits, which we feel makes the decision making process easier for us to arrive at the correct decision. All of us find the applications interesting. During our meetings this year we have tried to include some speakers on topics of interest to parishioner's. One such speaker was from Hampshire Ambulance who talked about defibs and the result can be seen. Other speakers have spoken on rural loneliness and village agents and one talked about the Solent coastline. This year we have made two grants, £1000 to the Cricket Club in recognition of their youth work and need for a new equipment shed and £1000 to the village hall for roof work. Apart from the above, the general housekeeping of the Parish Council continues in an unmarked

fashion. Good housekeeping is 'you don't notice it until people stop doing it'. Keeping potholes filled, drains cleared, vagrants roosting in our bus shelter spoken to, paying and laying a wreath to our war dead, but one of the most satisfying and smallest works was the long awaited cleaning and painting of the back wall of the bush shelter in an interesting shade of grey!

1067. **HAMPHIRE COUNTY COUNCILS REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Cllr. Thornber not present.

1068. **NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCILS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Cllr. Vickers said it was his last official council meeting. End of 18 years involvement with District and County Council. Went to East Boldre PC meeting and they want to get a defib as they had a death and said they might approach us. Cllr. Norris said they have been in touch. Cllr. Norris thanked Cllr. Vickers for all his help over the years, said we have found his advice very useful and we wish him well. Cllr. Steele mentioned the coastal access. Cllr. Vickers said the act is quite clear and that is unless it is Ministry of Defence land then there should be, or should be created an appropriate route. Been tested in lots of areas, south west, coastal footpath from Minehead to Poole has been long established. Here we will have controversial issues of what to do about the Beaulieu River. When first mentioned 8 years ago, went with Robert Gayner to a meeting and giving the Environmental Agency powers to act and they thought this was wonderful, but would clearly affect a lot of land owners, house owners. All sorts of things came up as to what to do with the Beaulieu River, do you go up one side and down the other. Cllr. Norris said it is a nature reserve at the end of the river. Cllr. Vickers said that is why the act in these circumstances has to be tested, said maybe what will happen is someone will co-ordinate all of the reasons and difficulties in a constructive and professional way. Cllr. Steele asked if we could look at other areas like here. Cllr. Vickers said it is different as also in the NP. Cllr. Steele said do they have the powers to go through peoples gardens, Cllr. Vickers said in some coastal areas they have done that. Cllr. Steele said on the Beaulieu River there are a lot of gardens that go along the edge of the river. Cllr. Norris said would it be compulsory purchase, Cllr. Vickers said it would be an act of Parliament who give them the right. Cllr. Steele thought there was some exception for estuaries and said Mr. Montagu has written to households who expressed a concern saying what Cllr. Vickers has just said, and John Hackman was going to oversee it and asked people to volunteer their services to do some research, so wheels are moving. Cllr. Vickers feels we need to understand the act and talk to parishes in areas where it has already happened and learn from them. Cllr. Norris asked what the time scale was, Cllr. Vickers said over the next two years and there has been no activity on this for 5 years. Mr. Beaumont said years ago there use to be a ferry across from Gins to Lower Exbury.

1069. **PLANNING**

Thorns Beach, 15/00151 Replacement Dwelling

Mr. Brian Foster from Ineos joined the meeting.

Cllr. Shanks and Cllr. Fairweather declared an interest and left the meeting, so only 3 councillors tonight who can vote and make a decision.

Mr. Foster said this is the 4th application and each time they have tried to change the application using feedback from NP, PC, residents, but as it is something quite different from what there today, we have struggled to win hearts and minds. It is very much about a special piece of planning law – P55 of the National Planning Framework and is there a case for an exceptional property on this site. It is slightly bigger and it is an exceptional site. The 1st application we withdrew, 2nd went to appeal with a very senior inspector who turned it down, said not of the highest standard of architecture under P55, but he highlighted 4/5 very specific items why he thought it did not quite meet the highest standards and advisers felt that was inviting a modified applications. Said it was most unusual for a planning inspector to turn something down and then say these points, so put in another application in October and was turned down by the NP Committee. Have now appealed that decision but felt it was in our interest to reflect on some of the feedback, so made small adjustments to design. Taken away the Boat House and accommodation, additional design feature changes that addresses some of the criticisms and expectation is if it is ultimately turned down we will have a joint appeal. 10/0 vote last time but in the end it will be an experienced architect inspector who will make the final decision. Said they have over 200m beach front and said cannot see this property only from the sea and only in a rib or rowing boat as larger boats cannot get in close because of tidal situation. Inspector said it was a site that could take a substantial property, a special property and encouraged us to come back. Cllr. Norris said you are asking for refusal and Mr. Foster said yes, then we will go through to planning appeal. Said planning Inspector considered the site to be isolated. Mr. Beaumont said he had lodged his objections with the NP. Said P55, an average acreage is 234 acres. This site is not isolated, there are approx. 11 houses within 800yards. Under P55 thought the inspector was incorrect saying it was isolated. Said regarding exceptional architecture and innovative design, it failed on 3 major points. Said if this application was passed it would open the flood gates to all manor of unsuitable buildings. Mr. Foster said every application should be taken on its own merit. Cllr. Norris said he had very little in the way of formal communication, said the Residents Association had a meeting last week and Thorns Beach was discussed and thinks they are of the opinion that probably this is going back to the inspector. Letter of support on the NP website from an address in Beaulieu Road, Lyndhurst and had an email from Charles Cooke-Hurle supporting the application. Cllr. Norris thanked Mr. Foster and said the real problem is that reasons for turning it down not addressed which are DP10. Said at a committee meeting that an ordinary person struggles to get 30%, this is 80% and will challenge DP10. Cllr. Steele said under P55 is this an exceptional design? Said in her book a good design is a property that sits very comfortably in its surroundings, and one of the problems with this design is it is just too dominant and stretched right along the foreshore. If you look at houses in the vicinity it is bigger than Durns in frontage and longer than Througham – two very big houses. This design looks like 2 houses with the pavilion. Thinks this is what worries people, thinks they are happy having a modern property on the site, it quite lends itself, but this is too big and the way it is positioned it is too dominate across the front of the site. Durns is

28% of its frontage, Thorns Beach is 19%, that is because Thorns has a much bigger foreshore. This house would have a bigger frontage than Durns and Througham, which are regarded as pretty large houses. Would look better if pavilion was behind. Said in winter there will be an awful lot of spray going over the pavilion in the winter. Mr. Beaumont said Solent Protection have rejected this application and sent to NP and they are architects and understand the Solent view. Had email from Daniel Wiseman from Turley saying hopes it will be refused and urge NP to refuse quickly under designated powers.

Took vote – In favour = 0 Against = 3

We recommend refusal for the reasons below:

The building does not meet the criteria set out in the National Park Planning Policy Framework in relation to exceptional cases for isolated new homes in the countryside, as it is still felt not to be of the highest standards of architecture and does not significantly enhance its immediate setting due to it being so prominently positioned along the Solent foreshore.

With regard to Policy DP10, we feel that the building is unacceptably large in relation to the building it is replacing.

Cllr. Norris thanked Mr. Foster for attending the meeting. Cllr. Vickers said the District Council can choose to speak at any committee meeting and is not time limited. Wanted to make us aware that District Council has certain powers which are very useful to the community and you. Said irrespective of what you say or anyone else says a DC can always choose to speak at a NP planning committee meeting. Cllr. Vickers said regarding the application here for Lawful Development, by Beaulieu Enterprises he made it known from the start that he was calling it in. To have it being an officer decision based on the Estate giving all numbers and all ok.

1070. **PLANNING DECISIONS**

Little Marsh 15/00129 - Granted

Franks Yard 15/00067 - Granted

Cricket Club Licensing Act 2003. Sale of alcohol to members Monday – Friday 17.00hrs – 22.00hrs. Saturday/Sunday 14.00hrs – 22.00hrs.

Will this then turn into the equivalent of a village pub. Where will cars park? No road way in. Cllr. Norris asked Cllr. Vickers if we can modify the hours, Cllr.

Vickers said to put in a response. Cllr. Steele said it would be ok to have functions occasionally selling alcohol after a cricket match, but not open every day. There would be beer lorries, deliveries etc. Cllr. Vickers said you can put forward quite a few tangible objections. Said only agree to a Tens License.

Cllr. Knight said should we talk to the Estate and see what they feel. Cllr.

Fairweather said there would also be waste and recycling issues.

Cllr. Vickers said to focus your comments on the questions they pose, or after election ask Cllr Harris to talk to James Knight and ask what is going on. Cllr.

Norris will draft a letter and circulate to councilors.

Tree Works Application

Bird Cherry – Front of Palace House (get number) Section fell to ground level. Cllr. Knight said there must be something wrong with it to be taken down to ground level. All councilors approve.

1071. **CHEQUE SIGNING**

Mark Young - £97.50

Mark has done the courtyard cutback and looking better. Twinning garden looking good. Cllr. Steele wishes there was somewhere Mark could dispose of the rubbish. Could we ask the Estate if they have anywhere.

C. Fairweather Ltd - £60.00

HALC – Affiliation Fees - £270.00

HALC have sent two invoices, one for membership another for HR policy, which we have never had before. Cllr. Vickers thought HR advice was included in the membership. Clerk to write and enquire.

Proposed: Cllr. Steele

Seconded: Cllr. Knight

1072. **QUESTION TIME**

Cllr. Norris said the finger post has been knocked out of the ground on Cripplegate Lane. Clerk to contact Highways.

Cllr. Fairweather wanted to mention the footballs coming over the fence and said it is again damaged now as much as it was before the council paid for repairs.

Village children play football in the school playground, near the fence at the Garden Centre and we had an issue with children climbing over the fence to collect balls, and items getting damaged and vandalism. Made decision to put a fence up, which would allow the children to use the playground in the evening, 50/50 funded from a grant from Cllr. Thornber and Fairweathers, but have ongoing maintenance issues. Have asked them to use lighter footballs, but they like proper footballs. Said last night 5 children climbed the fence over the front in to the garden centre and were trespassing. They then climb on top of things to get balls and one of them is going to hurt themselves and do not know what to do next. Cllr. Norris said can we speak to the parents. Shame they cannot play on the grass, but they play on the tarmac of the school yard. Will signs help? Cllr. Norris thinks a word with the parents. Cllr. Fairweather said perhaps if we provide them with a couple of goal nets then they might play on the grass. Agreed a good idea. Cllr. Fairweather and Cllr. Norris said they will try and talk to the parents. Cllr. Norris said they need a football coach.

Cllr. Knight said according to Mr. Baker there is a brick missing on the speed ramp at bottom of High Street and also reported a hole in the pavement outside John Phipps house.

Cllr. Shanks said after having the long battle with Chestnut Cottage, now that it is finally finished she wonders if we could write to the Listed Building people at NP and thank them that this property has been saved. Cllr. Norris said this was a good idea and said it was all down to Cllr. Shanks.

Cllr. Steele mentioned the benches in the Twinning Garden, Cllr. Knight said he had not looked yet. Said she rang the Estate office and reminded them about the flag staffs and they said they would get it sorted, as we need them for the 30 year

celebration.

Cllr. Norris said he had a letter from Mrs. Borthwick regarding the fact that she did not want the PC to be responsible for the death of a 97 year old in Beaulieu High Street, by encountering cyclists on the pavement. Mr. Beaumont has seen them on the corner of the Montagu Arms. She has suggested a sign.

Cllr. Norris will write and will try to do something, but very difficult to get signs put up in Beaulieu.

Cllr. Knight mentioned the Wiggle event. Cllr. Fairweather said it was awful for trade on Saturday and there was a lot of abuse. Cllr. Vickers said he would encourage us to write to NFDC, Annie Wrightham and James Knight, who are co-ordinators of SAG, who are the advisory group who have to give permission for these events. It will enhance the case going forward to the Ministry of Transport, as Cllr. Vickers did a year ago. Mention how difficult it is, the abuse and the inconvenience. Cllr. Norris to draft letter. Said the steward, where the road split into short/long route was just reading his book, not in single file up the High Street. Cllr. Vickers said it is a very popular event in this area, also we have all the animals on the road, fowls, and it was holiday time. We need numbers licensed to 1000 by the council. There were 3000 on Saturday and nearly that number for Sunday. Each rider is paying approx. £30, so organisers are not going to back down when making that sort of money. NFDC need to go to Julian Lewis and ask him where we are going with this.

Mr. Beaumont thanked Cllr. Vickers for his 18 years service, for his guidance and said it has been a delight to listen to his advice.

Meeting closed at 8.10p.m.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 21st May at 6.30p.m. in the Main Hall of the Village Hall.