

BEAULIEU PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON THURSDAY 18TH MARCH 2021

A virtual meeting held on zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic HM Government regulations.

PRESENT

Cllr. F. Norris (Chairman), Cllr. P. Fairweather (Vice Chairman), Cllr. C. Knight, Cllr. S. Reece, Cllr. S. Steele, Cllr. M. Grindrod, Cllr. L. Dearing

APOLOGIES

None

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr. K. Mans, Cllr. M. Harris, Mrs. R. Pearson, Mrs. E. Schofield, Mr. T. Mack, Mr. C. Cooke-Hurle, Mrs. N. Deering (Clerk)

1964. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Proposed: Cllr. Steele Seconded: Cllr. Fairweather

1965. **MATTERS ARISING**

1960. Cllr. Steele said the new swing was put up today, tested and fine, and someone very kindly mended the broken rail, maybe the Estate? All looking fine.

1959. Mrs. Pearson said the slurry tanker is the constant emptying of the sewage treatment at Thorms. Cllr. Reece spoke to one of the drivers and he said it was filling up quickly and road broken up so using tractor and slurry tank, as cannot get usual vehicle down there. Mrs. Pearson said something has happened to the pipe, but are checking with them. Cllr. Knight said the roads and verges being wreaked. Cllr. Norris said nice to see the verge where cars park at Park Shore has been gravelled. Mrs. Pearson said tried to create more car parking, but fear will not be enough for demand. Question is how to reduce to demand.

1966. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

1967. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mrs. Schofield said on behalf of the Village Hall, the possible arrangement is not going to happen. Cllr. Norris asked if the hall will be available for us on Thursday evening. Mrs. Schofield confirmed and Cllr. Norris asked Cllr. Grindrod to book from May. Cllr. Grindrod asked if we need it earlier for the AGM. Cllr. Norris said AGM at 6.15pm and change of Chair and new Cllrs. coming onto council. Please book from 6pm – 8.30pm. Cllr. Norris thanked Mrs. Schofield.

1968. **POLICE LIAISON**

PC Eastwood not present.

1969. **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Cllr. Mans said Covid numbers in the new forest were levelling off. Vaccinations going well, almost up to half of new forest being vaccinated for one dose. Lots of testing relating to schools going back is going very smoothly. 98% of primary school children back at school and 90% of secondary school children now back.

Well above national average. All staff at schools done tremendous job and gone really well. Said about the importance of getting a vaccination, more people that have one, it slows down any lingering infection across country and makes it easier to get back to some sort of normal. Elections in May and suspect more postal votes, people will be worried about going to polling station. Talked about Community Renewal Fund and Community Ownership Fund. CRF is a fund which community groups locally can bid for money. Gives assistance where appropriate to organisations who bid. COF is for example, if a local shop is shutting down and only one in the village and community want to continue with it and buy it, i.e. Pilley, might be able to get money. Cllr. Dearing asked if the council balanced the cost of processing the cleaning up of ever increasing fly tipping against charging for licenses to put rubbish at refuse centres? Cllr. Mans said cannot say definitely, the amount dumped now is more than previously. Think statistics not as clear as may appear in the media. Have a system of free domestic centers. Also take DIY waste for a small fee. Vast majority of fly tipping is coming from commercial operators who actually offer a service to individuals for a price and then they dump it. Real problem throughout the country. Still looking at ways we can charge for the disposal of commercial waste. We continue to battle with this and hope to find a solution. Cllr. Steele mentioned funds available, as we are clearly going to be inundated with visitors, as we are already, if we have extra costs like litter bins and maybe organising litter pickers, are there any funds available. Cllr. Mans agreed and been speaking to Alison Barnes, NPA we need to preempt the extra litter by ensuring we have more bins. Asked the clerk to email me and I will see what I can do and also with NFDC and NP and try and do things to prevent it. Cllr. Steele said we need more collections, bins getting full on daily basis. Cllr. Fairweather said the point Cllr. Steele made about the frequency of collections, the biggest challenge we face is council services run Mon-Fri and those days produce least volume of litter, problems come when no collections at all. Services need to be reviewed in tourist areas between spring/summer season. Cllr. Mans agreed, said it was DC matter, but will talk to Cllr. Harris. Need to discourage people not to leave their litter in the forest. Discussing with Alison the possible banning of disposable BBQ's, they get left and cause fires. Cllr. Norris said dog waste is a problem, is there any signage available to our parish, to educate people about dog waste and littering, it is bad now and I dread to think what it will be like when lockdown lifted. Cllr. Mans said have bins in Milford that say you can put dog waste in then, see no reason why that cannot be extended. Discussed with Alison the possibility of signage on all roads entering the forest, she talked about electronic signs, for car parks full etc and not leaving litter. Will bring this up at next council meeting. Cllr. Norris said the third most popular walk is Beaulieu to Bucklers Hard. Cllr. Mans feels we do not have the balance right with the affect visitors have on the forest, making sure they have a good visit. Not using their cars throughout the forest, parking near and using buses or bicycles. Cllr. Norris agreed and thanked Cllr. Mans.

Cllr. Harris joined meeting later.

1971. **PLANNING**

21/0070 – Application from Open Reach, for Cabinet Beaulieu 5, located on land owned by Lord Montagu at Hilltop, near Royal Oak in woodland. To connect to cable in main road. A10 Cabinet, all in one. Permitted development. Lot of stake holders involved and all happy. All Cllrs. agreed. No. 1

Proposed: Cllr. Grindrod Seconded: Cllr. Dearing

21/00178 – Change of entrance to the proposed new car park. Permission already granted for car park, this application is to move entrance. Highways no objection, but more info needed before formal recommendation. Mrs. Pearson said been discussed with Lord Montagu and Cllr. Fairweather. Felt by moving it to proposed site it would be advantageous for issues of lorries going into garden centre. Cllr. Fairweather said new scheme will keep the traffic flowing better.

Mrs. Pearson said there will be more visibility from new entrance. Support No. 1

Proposed: Cllr. Knight Seconded: Cllr. Reece

21/00204 – Whitehall, High Street, Beaulieu

Detached outbuilding. Needs application because in conservation area and in curtilage of Grade 2 LB. Mr. Cooke-Hurle said it is a small garden shed underneath the trees halfway down the garden, not visible to anyone. 3' x 4' potting shed of wood, raised slightly. Cllr. Steele said can see no problem, but anything to do with LB can be a problem, happy to pass. Cllr. Norris said listing is usually a problem when something is attached to a LB. Cllr. Fairweather said it looks very discreet and happy. All Cllrs. in support. No 1.

Proposed: Cllr. Steele Seconded: Cllr. Fairweather

21/00165 – Sowley Cottage, replacement garage, demolition of existing garage.

Cllr. Reece said Cllr. Knight and myself looked at it and proposed garage will be a huge improvement. Cllr. Steele said the owners of Pond Cottage have been consulted and happy. Agree No.1.

Proposed: Cllr. Reece Seconded: Cllr. Knight

Cllr. Norris said had meeting with Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy re planning application for Mallards. Following meeting we decided to refuse planning application.

Lodged our comments with NP which they edited. BPC recommend refusal, has no objection to demolition of Mallards as of little architectural historic value.

However the proposed replacement building is not considered acceptable as the size of the main house pavilion exceeds that of DP35 and DP36. Existing house has already been extended by the strategy % and therefore cannot be extended further. Based on NP figures these proposals would result in a further habitable floor space of 82%, taking the house and pavilion together to one complex, the proposals would be a 50% increase in habitable floor space. BPC also have some concerns as to whether the proposed palladium mansion and light render is a suitable replacement for this important riverside site, as neither the design or materials are characteristic to this sympathetic stretch of the Beaulieu River.

All councillors in agreement. Cllr. Steele said she circulated to the PC the report that Ken Robinson did re designs of new properties on the river to safeguard the look of the river and in principle we support it. Now sent to Steve Avery who has circulated to NP team. Mr. Avery supportive, so thinks done some good. Do we

need to confirm we support it or have we done enough to show our support? Cllr. Fairweather said we do not want ownership. Cllr. Norris agreed and said Lord Montagu and his sister have written at length to planners re the application at Exbury, which overlooks the river, opposing it, tremendous weight of land owners supporting the refusal of the development. Appropriate the PC commented on it. Cllr. Steele said thinks Lord Montagu's letter is extremely interesting and gave a very good view of the Estate's replacement properties along river bank should look like and how the area should be handled very sympathically, not too much glass and sympathetic materials. Cllr. Norris said think it would be a guide document, example of how we should consider applications when located along the banks of the Beaulieu River. Mrs. Pearson said Lord Montagu had seen the report and was in agreement, comments in letter summarised his feelings. Mr. Avery has responded to Mr. Robinson to say thank you for helpful document. Cllr. Steele said this has put in place a robust view of what is acceptable and made people realise there are NP planning regulations that are imposed. Good exercise, Cllr. Norris thanked Cllr. Steele and Mrs. Pearson.

1972. **LITTER BINS**

Cllr. Norris said we have Mr. Mack's photos, two people emailed PC about the bin at Baileys Hard. This bin was emptied by NFDC but they did not pick up the rubbish around it, Mr. Mack picked it up and that bin get filled up by about Wednesday. Cllr. Norris said we have increased number of visitors and the pandemic and council restraints on collection are making this a problem. There are quite a few catering facilities within the parish so people coming to Beaulieu having coffee and dog walking etc. Its popular and going to get worse. What can we do. Cllr. Fairweather said put hand up as partly contributor, but NFDC collection service needs to take into account the amount of waste created at weekends. The collection service in the week is inconsistent, some bins they glance at and if 2/3rds full they leave it, so no policy of emptying half empty bins, which will then soon be overflowing the day after. They seem reluctant to let me empty the bin next to us, which we are doing. My suggestion for Baileys Hard and forwarded link to Cllrs. and Mrs. Pearson, should persuade council that we install a solar panel compacting bin, stores five times as much, probably be first solar panel bin in the NP. Said it would solve the problem. Cllr. Norris said Mr. Fort would be interested in this, appeal to him and may attract funding. Mrs. Pearson said what about the grant funding mentioned earlier. Cllr. Norris said that as well and asked Mrs. Pearson if there was something to be done at Baileys Hard, what would you like to be done, we could work together on this. Mrs. Pearson said Cllr. Fairweather's idea of more collections would help everyone. Cllr. Norris said we need to contact Colin Reed. Said maybe a bigger bin on four wheels. Cllr. Fairweather said daily waste removal is done on a flat bed and requires bin bags to be removed. Said if get into large wheelie bins they would not have the kit to lift then. Mrs. Pearson said shall we have two bins at Baileys Hard. Cllr. Harris joined the meeting and Cllr. Norris showed him the photos, said we have Mr. Mack with us tonight who picked the litter up. Experiencing bins that are overflowing and not coping with the number of visitors, know this will increase dramatically, also tremendous problems with dog waste, need to do

something to address this. Option for large bins. Some people in the parish feel the collection is not too bad weekdays, but influx of visitors at weekends, this is when this problem occurs. Helpful if council could collect weekends, we are a tourist area and we are attracting visitors. Cllr. Harris asked for the photos to be forward to him and said it is unacceptable and worry if this is happening now in lockdown, what will happen after lockdown. Said a code being produced by various bodies to say to visitors you are welcome, however please respect the area. Said will go to head of bin collection and say can we do something, have collections at the weekend, the problem will only get worse, need to start putting things in place now. Mrs. Pearson said other point raised was if bin only half full they do not empty it and within a few hours it could be overflowing, ask them to empty all bins regardless of how much in there. Cllr. Harris said he is shocked to hear that. Mrs. Pearson said if we were to add an additional bin at Baileys Hard, could two bins be emptied there. Cllr. Harris said will check, but yes. Mrs. Pearson said Cllr. Fairweather sent a link about solar powered compacting bin that holds five times as much. Cllr. Fairweather said maybe NFDC or NP could become first place to install one. Asked if they are expensive, Cllr. Fairweather said he did not know, but will send link. Cllr. Norris said HCC are offering grants, so we could try and get a grant. Cllr. Fairweather said the photo of bin with litter all around it had just been emptied, but they did not pick the cups up, a parishioner picked them up, also they do not leave their van in making a decision to empty the bin or not, cannot even get close enough to it to see how much is in it. Could there be an agreement that local community help empty bins, need somewhere for the bin bags to be stored before they are collected. Said he is emptying council bins and putting them in waste bin that he paid for. Cllr. Norris said at the start of the walk to Bucklers Hard we are awaiting another bin there. Dog waste bin there which is being used for rubbish and householder who lives nearby and picks it up, by Monday the bin is overflowing. Cllr. Harris said I feel a site meeting is required, list all these items. It makes things happen. Cllr. Norris said thank you. Mrs. Pearson and Cllr. Knight to be involved. Cllr. Knight said a bin should be placed at end of Fire Station Lane, not at Brickyard. Agreed with Estate to have bin placed there, not happened yet. Mrs. Pearson said we need a bin at both ends, Fire Station Lane and Baileys Hard. Cllr. Grindrod said we were talking about signage, these bins will get full no matter what, could we not put signage on the bins saying 'once this bin is full, could you take your litter home'. At least we are trying to do something.

1970. **NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Cllr. Harris reported that NFDC are very busy still. Distributing grants from government, £15m of grants, some to people who have business premises, based on their business rateable value. When we get more funds we get in touch with businesses we have already helped and say you could receive more money, are you suffering from Covid? If yes, here comes more money. Covid testing centre has been set up in Totton H & L centre. Confirmed by cabinet and council that the management of our 5 H & L centres has been transferred to Freedom Leisure, they look after 100 H & L centres in England. New contract and review throughout. Its brilliant, assets belong to NFDC, and management who have

expertise, business like approach. Said to people if thinking about getting a membership, now is the time as convinced in 1 or 2 years time, if you apply they will say we will put you on the waiting list. Said NFDC continue to build and acquire new council houses. Plan to have 600 additional houses by 2026, which is very good. Council tax increased 2021/22, Band D £183.86, increase slightly under 5%. Had letter about Post Office closing in Beaulieu, not unexpected, same happened in Brockenhurst, but Welcome store took it on. Asked Cllr. Fairweather if there was anything he could do, we could do it collectively to try and persuade someone, or do you think there is no need for one? Cllr. Norris said the revenue has dropped from £15,000 to £3,000 and not attractive enough. Also when you see the considerable number of postmaster who have been sued for fraud. Revealed it was a post office error and they were never guilty. Said in some areas churches have taken it on. Cllr. Steele said because we have a good WH Smith in Dibden Purlieu, lots of locals have got use to using it and they deliver papers. Think if reopened it do not think it would have the same impact as people have made other arrangements. Cllr. Reece said some of the reasons that businesses have failed is because of lack of parking. Dibden Purlieu and Pilley have parking. Hopefully when we have new car park a lot more life and activity will come into the High Street. Cllr. Harris agreed. Cllr. Norris said whilst lovely to have post office, people do not send the letters, do not collect pensions, so much post offices use to offer had been stripped by government. Mrs. Pearson said regarding car park feels soon start building, should we start talking about High Street restrictions, as that will take time. Cllr. Norris agreed, waiting to hear from HCC. Cllr. Fairweather said to Cllr. Harris as portfolio holder for Economic Development whether the prospect of the NF rural fund being carried forward into the next budget year is looking positive? Feel as businesses looking for ways to building themselves out of what has been a very difficult time, great shame if lack of funds to encourage growth and employment. Believe funds come to an end at end of March. Cllr. Harris said correct, its money that comes from central government, so beholden to them. Rumours of other monies coming down the line, await news. Hear something to help accelerate out of covid, particularly for business in H & L. Cllr. Norris thanked Cllr. Harris.

1973. **NOTICE BOARD**

Cllr. Norris said then Item 13, where I will have to ask all visitors to leave as this is a Cllrs. closed session, involves Cllrs. themselves and adoption of a new Cllr, result of which will be made immediately available.

Cllr. Reece said the notice board should be completed in a week. Cllr. Norris said we have a new encapsulated sign for the defib to go on the notice board.

Cllr. Norris thanked all visitors.

1974. **CASUAL VACANCY**

A closed session took place to co-opt on to the Council two candidates to fill the casual vacancies. The successful candidates were Mr. Nick Hubbard and Mr. Michael Dolbear, both resident in the Parish of Beaulieu.

1975. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Forest Matters

Bus Shelter Leaflet

Cosco Booklet

1976. **CHEQUE SIGNING**

Mr. J. Cuffling - £35.00 – to put up new swing

1977. **QUESTION TIME**

Cllr. Reece said an observation down Dock Lane, pass Dock House on hardstanding of the yard seems to be a lot of building activity at the moment. It could be just a temporary building, extending the building itself. Cllr. Steele will go and look.

Cllr. Steele said for several nights running at 3a.m. has heard cars roaring around village, very loud. Cllr. Knight has heard it also. Clerk to report to PC Eastwood.

Meeting closed at 20.27pm

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 15th April 6.15p.m.