

BEAULIEU PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 16th November 2023

PRESENT

Cllr. N. Hubbard, Cllr. P. Fairweather, Cllr. S. Steele, Cllr. C. Knight, Cllr. S. Reece, Cllr. M. Grindrod joined meeting later.

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr. K. Mans, Mrs. N. Deering (Clerk)

Minute Ref			Action
2229	APOLOGIES	Cllr. D. Poole, Mrs. R. Pearson	
2230	CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2231	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	Cllr. Fairweather – Fairweathers planning application. Cllrs. Hubbard and Steele – Trustees of Beaulieu Common Good Trust	
2232	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING	Approval of October Minutes Proposed: Cllr. Fairweather Seconded: Cllr. Steele Motion carried unanimously.	
2233	REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS	HCC Cllr. Mans said budget approved last week and 2 year budget. (Cllr. Grindrod joined the meeting). Hope we have money so we can meet money required to get pot holes and flooding sorted. Cllr. Steele asked if there is still a cap. What they have done in the past is allow HCC to increase the council tax by 5%, but said 3% has to be used for social services, says the 3% covers some of HCC extra costs for social care, but not all. Cllr Mans raised the issue of the litter bin collection. Cllr. Hubbard said had meeting with 4 officers today and it was a constructive meeting. New Forest District Council Cllr. Poole had sent a report which has been circulated.	

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		<p>Police 'Alert' report received and circulated.</p>	
2234	MATTERS ARISING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodge Lane. The problems at and damage to Lodge Lane we discussed in detail. Cllr Knight advised that this area is included in the SSSI and so is protected by law; infringements could be subject to fines. Cllr. Knight said the landlord is responsible to maintain and protect the verges at a SSSI and suggested a passing place on the side of the valley. Cllr. Fairweather said that may be easier said than done. Agreed Clerk to arrange a meeting with Mrs. Pearson (on behalf of the freeholder) and ourselves in the first instance, together with HCC Highways (optional). • NFDC Litter. Cllr. Fairweather reported that a meeting had been had with HCC officials earlier in the day at which we put our case. We also listened to their arguments. NFDC had not made a more affordable proposal at the meeting and it was left that they would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review their proposal and also consider timescales given it is now too late to go out to tender; b) Provide key data on current usage of the bins, which has been requested on repeated occasions: and c) Provide the financial information requested on a number of occasions relating to litter bin recovery charges across the District so we can assess fairness in their approach. • Infrastructure Levy/Playground Equipment. Cllr. Fairweather said this was to consider the potential piece of playground equipment that we might consider applying to for this funding. That was a very detailed discussion, resulting in an agreement that there is no pressing need at present to replace any of the playground equipment, and hence no immediate reason to apply for a grant, which would likely be a resource consuming 	Clerk

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		process. It was noted by council that all of the equipment will have a finite life and so we do need to have a medium term plan to address the requirements of future playground equipment, when they should be replaced and how that should be funded.	
2235	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	None.	
2236	CASUAL VACANCY	Closed session.	
2237	COMMITTEE & REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS	<p>Finance & General Purposes Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. Fairweather reported that the finance report is looking positive compared to our original budget. We should be able to retain quite a lot of cost savings we have made on asset management, training and election costs. We have not used any of our contingency. The resultant closing reserves are £21,459 and this will improve when we receive the agreed CCTV grant. • General update on last Finance & GP Committee meeting, did not make any amendments to 2024/25 draft budget, pending our discussion with NFDC. Discussed some of the governance documents that need to be produced or updated including Standing Orders, Financial Regulations. GDPR etc. Work is progressing on these. • Cllr. Fairweather reported that the Beaulieu Common Good Trust (BCGT) is progressing in its registration with the Charity Commissioners. There was a general discussion on BPC approaching charities for funding and concluded that this was unlikely to be done in the future. Whilst BPC may contribute a grant towards future community fundraising projects, it is unlikely that the council would in future run such a project. It was noted that we have received a letter inviting us to apply for a grant from the BCGT. Agreed we would not apply and also indicate this is likely to be the case for the foreseeable future. 	

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2225		<p>Planning Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23/01319 LBC White Hall, High Street, Beaulieu. SO42 7YA <p>Replace 1st floor bathroom door (frame remains), create new door opening into 1st floor bedroom BPC recommends permission for the reasons below but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The plans are considered sensitive and will have a minimal detrimental impact on the property's listed fabric. 2) The proposal improves an important High Street listed property by enabling accommodation for a carer when needed by the applicant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23/01265 VAR Fairweather's Garden Centre, High Street, Beaulieu. SO42 7YB <p>Application to vary condition 2 of planning permission 22/00614 for protection canopy (removal of existing canopy. BPC recommends permission for the reasons below but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) BPC supports the view of the Conservation Officer that the proposal will have little impact on the street scene, character and appearance of the Conservation Area as the PV solar panels will not be visible from the High Street. 2) The proposal makes an important local business more viable and sustainable in the long term. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23/91434 CAC National Motor Museum, Beaulieu. SO42 7ZN <p>Removal of Monorail South Station. BPC recommends permission for the reason listed below but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers:</p>	

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		<p>1) Removal of the monorail south station will benefit the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and the setting of any listed buildings in the vicinity.</p> <p>Asset Management. None.</p> <p>Speedwatch Cllr. Grindrod said he was unable to attend this time, but a few were happening.</p> <p>Twinning Garden Cllr. Reece said she goes up there most weeks. Looking really well. Ground elder still there. Said she entered the scarecrow competition. Cllr. Hubbard said it was very good. Cllr. Reece reported that the scarecrow has been turned into Father Christmas. Ann Scott said the school children have loved it and visitors to the High Street are having their photographs taken with it, so really delighted. Cllr. Hubbard recorded council's thanks and said it looked fantastic. Cllr. Reece said she was very grateful to Mrs. Pearson for giving her permission. Said they will be getting more shrubs for the garden. Said bad weather and less volunteers at present, some leaving, but all still happening. Cllr. Steele said the Christmas tree looks good.</p>	
2238	FINANCE	<p>Reported above.</p> <p>Motion to approve bank payments.</p> <p>£75.00 Beaulieu Village Hall Trust</p> <p>£275.00 Clerk's Salary</p> <p>£69.58 Ashdown Software</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr. Fairweather Seconded: Cllr. Reece</p> <p>Motion carried unanimously.</p>	

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2239	CORRESPONDENCE	<p>Cllr. Fairweather said the proposed increase in the cost of parking clocks could have an impact on the car park. £140 - £220, over 30% increase. RWD purchase clocks for their staff. Cllr. Steele said they account for about half of the cars in the car park. If they decide not to buy the clocks, the amount of more cars in the High Street would be noticeable, and as a PC should we write and raise concern that the proposed increase could have a detrimental impact on the ability for people to park and go to the shops. Agreed to write to NALC not support this significant increase.</p> <p>Cllr. Hubbard recorded council's thanks to Cllr. Reece being voted onto the CDA committee.</p>	
2240	FOR FUTURE MEETINGS	Cllr. Hubbard reported he hoped he has found someone to help with the Beaulieu Business website and will report back in due course.	

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 21st December 2023