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BEAULIEU PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 19th October 2023

PRESENT

Cllr. P. Fairweather, Cllr. S. Steele, Cllr. C. Knight, Cllr. S. Reece, Cllr. M. Grindrod, Cllr. M. Dolbear

IN ATTENDANCE

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

Minute Ref			Action
2217	APOLOGIES	Cllr. N. Hubbard, Cllr. D. Poole, Mrs. R. Pearson	
2218	CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS	Cllr. Fairweather welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2219	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	None.	
2220	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING	Approval of September Minutes Proposed: Cllr. Steele Seconded: Cllr. Grindrod Cllr. Reece said Minute Ref 2227 should Mr. Parry-Norton Motion carried unanimously.	
2221	REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS	HCC Cllr. Mans said regarding Lodge Lane, a member of HCC will be in touch with us. Said the cost of school transport is being looked at. Use to be £35m a year, now £60m. Huge amount of money, this was when very few people had cars, 5m on road, now 35m. Should be based on parent's salary and distance. Public consultation going on. Said light weight concrete issue in schools has gone away. Only one school in Hampshire affected, and this has now been fixed. Said regarding education, it is being said that a lot of children have been disadvantaged because of Covid, but Hampshire had the highest level of attendance. Re council finances, it is clear that 2025/26 will be tight and we should expect cuts and reductions in services. Cllr. Steele asked as a parish council whether we will be expected to pay for more services like road sweeping etc. Cllr. Mans said we	Cllr. Mans

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		<p>should put the precept up a bit more than expected. Mentioned letter from NFDC to parishes regarding the cost of emptying waste bins. Cllr. Dolbear said we needed to know this was happening a year ahead. Cllr. Mans on board with this issue. Mentioned Safer NF Partnership.</p> <p>New Forest District Council</p> <p>Cllr. Poole sent a report which has been circulated.</p> <p>Police</p> <p>‘Alert’ report received and circulated. Lots more burglaries happening.</p>	
2222	MATTERS ARISING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lodge Lane Cllr. Reece reported that at the top by cottages, there is concrete down, which is good and there are beacons by the bridge. Said road is still breaking away past cemetery from Highwood by Lodge Farm, said the verges are dangerous and will not recover, both sides are an absolute mess. With the amount of traffic using the road, it needs a pull-in which would require a small stretch of verge to be given up. At the top opposite cottages, not sure of the agreement for parking. Parking has expanded outside cottages and opposite when shoot is running, they are using the verge by Lodge Farm for parking, they should not be doing that as its SSSI. Clerk to write to Rachel Pearson to clarify. NFDC Litter Collection Proposal Finance committee discussed the letter which we sent and they haven’t answered our questions. We want to know how the litter and dog waste costs are proposed to be recovered across the District Council to enable us to form a view on whether the proposed 	Clerk

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		<p>£11,403 + VAT cost is reasonable or not. Cllr. Dolbear said it is not our rubbish, its tourists. Asked what is in the bins, if it is takeaways like McDonalds, could we ask them to contribute? NFDC are making no allowance as to the litter picking the Estate do.</p> <p>Arrange meeting with Iain Park, Grounds and Streetscene Manger for 8th or 16th November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casual Vacancy Applications <p>Received 3 applications, now only 2 as one withdrew, but has said “not never, just not now”. Both would be conflicted. We need someone who is useful, able to push forward and do something for the parish. Everyone agreed that Cllr. Steele would speak to the applicant that has withdrawn and say it would be light duties at the moment. Cllr. Grindrod asked if it would be possible to have Planning meetings before main PC meeting, so this would only be one evening and not two. Cllr. Steele felt this would be too long as Planning meetings are often 2 hours. Talked about timings of interviews on 30th October in the Committee room. 6pm George Richford 6.35pm Kasia Lewis. Cllr. Fairweather will sort out two topics for candidates to speak about.</p>	Clerk
2223	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	None.	
2224	FINANCE	<p>Held meeting on 3rd October to discuss draft budget. This is a work in progress. We have two more meetings in November and December and then give council our recommendations. 1) Setting expectation where inflation will be. Cllr. Hubbard originally thought 2½ % but now feels this is low, so increased to 3½%. Is this realistic? Funding will be a problem. 2) Reduced training budget as defib training will be free from St. Johns Ambulance. 3) Review money for training, £2,000 in budget, now £1,300, £700 saving. 4) Room hire was £900, reduced to £776. 5) Final discussion was regarding waste bins which will be determined following our meeting with NFDC If we are aware of extra costs we will have to increase to the precept. Budget needs to be set by end of year. Need to discuss Standing Orders, review GDPR policy, Safeguarding policy done. Agree Clerks salary. Finances are in good order, we are seeing a number of savings against</p>	

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		original budget. Cllr. Hubbard will revise at end of year. Talked about cash levels, what other PC's have and some have surprising amounts of cash. Closing balance increased by about £2,000.	
2225	COMMITTEE & REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS	<p>Planning Update. 23/01097 – Events Field, Beaulieu. SO42 7ZN Replacement toilet block, information point building. BPC recommends permission for the reasons listed below, but would accept the decision reached by the NPA's officer under their delegated powers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) BPC supports the Conservation officers view that the proposal represents a sympathetic replacement for the existing aging toilet facilities in terms of design, scale and appearance. 2) The impact on the conservation area, listed buildings and ancient monuments. 3) The proposals are felt to meet the provision of Policy DP44. <p>Asset Management. None.</p> <p>Speedwatch Cllr. Grindrod said notice speeding is less, normally 40ish cars stopped, 6/7 now. Also been reported in other parts of the forest.</p> <p>Twinning Garden Cllr. Reece said maintenance is ongoing, has made a scarecrow and it will be in the garden soon. Everything going well. Some volunteers giving up. Cllr. Fairweather asked do we need more? Replied fine for now. Cllr. Fairweather thanked everyone for their help.</p>	
2226	FINANCE	<p>Reported above and Monthly report circulated. Motion to approve bank payments. £87.50 Paul Deakin £45.00 Beaulieu Village Hall Trust £275.00 Clerks Salary</p>	

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		<p>£75.00 NFDC – Election Expenses £14.25 Clerk – stamps £60.00 Royal British Legion</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr. Knight Seconded: Cllr. Reece Motion carried unanimously.</p>	
2227	CORRESPONDENCE	<p>Infrastructure Levy – Cllr. Fairweather asked if we wanted to apply for playground equipment. Cllr. Grindrod said if we want to keep improving then we should apply. Cllr. Steele said if we do not replace at all, it will all go at the same time. Cllr. Grindrod said we should select three items and apply for £10,000. Need to ask a company what it would cost to replace, Take pictures and send to them. Cllr. Grindrod to get quote. Cllr. Fairweather said all to try and have a look at the equipment, then we need to apply. Consider fun gym equipment.</p>	Cllr. Grindrod
2228	FUTURE MEETINGS	<p>Cllr. Reece said other parishes have monthly bulletins on email. We have the Beaulieu Estate newsletter. Said the Montagu Arms put a picture on social media of someone petting a donkey, which was not good, as new ruling and fines for petty forest animals. Cllr. Fairweather said if we used social media for PC things, then someone has to reply and someone has to be responsible, that is why PC's do not use it. Said if we did a newsletter, who is going to write it? Feels if put on website a few people will read it and visitors will not, and it's the visitors we need to educate about the forest.</p> <p>Cllr. Fairweather mentioned the Village Hall, he is a Trustee and they are now losing money, revenue has dropped. How do we get revenue up? Need to think about parking for hall users and modernisation of how hall is booked which should be available on-line. A revamp of the deeds is required. We have a facility and we need to ensure it has a vibrant future.</p>	

Meeting closed at 8.20p.m.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 16th November 2023