

BEAULIEU PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2016
AT BEAULIEU VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Cllr. F. Norris (Chairman), Cllr. L. Shanks, Cllr. S. Steele, Cllr. C. Knight, Cllr. M. Grindrod, Cllr. S. Gibbs

APOLOGIES

Cllr. P. Fairweather. Cllr. M. Harris will join the meeting later

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr. K. Thornber, Cllr. M. Harris, Mrs. R. Pearson, PC Eastwood, Mrs. N. Deering (Clerk), Beaulieu Residents

1191. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Proposed: Cllr. Steele Seconded: Cllr. Shanks

1192. **MATTERS ARISING**

1183. Cllr. Steele mentioned the lighting in the village car park, said the Cooke-Hurle's had written but with limited success. Feels we need help from someone to get this sorted. Cllr. Norris thanked Cllr. Thornber for Operation Resilience. Said the High Street is extra clean after 2 Clean-Sweeps from NFDC and now drains cleared by HCC.

1188. Cllr. Norris said he attended the Quadrant Meeting and Village Hall Meeting

1193. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Norris – Planning Application – Montagu Arms Hotel

1194. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

1195. **POLICE LIAISON**

Cllr. Norris said he was pleased that PC Eastwood could attend the meeting. PC Eastwood reported that all was good. Had a spate of burglaries – Hythe culprit has been caught and locked up and have identified the Brockenhurst/Sway one, but not caught. Regarding speeding in the High Street, said he is happy to support it. Said he will take the gun out when he can. Said he needs a visual safe spot and help to do this, but will arrange. Said if residents see vehicles speeding, please take their reg. number and he will follow it up verbally.

Said Beat Surgery is very good and going to start them early 8.30am on every 4th Saturday. Said it would be himself or James. Said they are more than happy to talk to anyone. Cllr. Norris thanked him for all his support.

Cllr. Norris said he was grateful for Cllr. Thornber for giving way to Natural England.

1196. **INTRODUCTION OF THE COASTAL PATH THROUGH OUR PARISH**

Talk by Natural England. Cllr. Norris welcomed John Truswell who introduced his team – Tim Hall and John Taylor. John said he was the Lead Advisor for the design of the coastal path. Said 1,300 letters have gone out and everyone is welcome to telephone or email him. Said his stretch goes from Highcliffe to Calshot, but many other stretches starting soon, or next year, details on the website. Said the first thing is to gather information and make contact with

stakeholders, householders, businesses etc. Said he is working on the coast line and those properties who maybe affected run along very near to the coast line, it does not say that they will be, means we will need to talk, as lots of things that can happen to guide the direction of the path. We want to be transparent, and answer every question and those we cannot answer we will do some research, we want to allay fears. What we are not going to do is turn up on your front garden with a gang and go straight through it. That is not going to happen. We will adopt a public right of way if no public right of way exists and look to follow the permissive path or de-facto walked line, or create a fresh 'line', but will talk to people. Everything seaward of that line become coastal margin, bar 'excepted land'. We also look at NE's discretion to extend coastal room inland (guided by the Scheme). Have processes to follow. Will look at Coastal Access Book, available on the website. Said it is a 5 stage process.

Stage 1 Prepare – said coming to end of this stage, getting familiar with the land and any sensitive areas.

Stage 2 Develop – Contact owners of relevant land, do alignment checks on the ground, share our initial thinking with owners and occupiers and offer to 'walk the course' with them if they wish. Plan protection of key sensitive features, talk further to key interests as necessary, reality check our developed proposals. Take advice from responsible officers, RSPB and Wildlife Trust.

Stage 3 Propose – Finalise our proposals and associated maps, publish them in a statutory report to the Secretary of State. Invite any representations on our report from anyone who wishes to comment. Invite any objections to our report from owners or occupiers of affected land.

Benefits – Secure continuous clearly way-marked well managed route. National Trail brand and funding. Tourists with spending money. Reconnecting people with the local coast. Reduced liability on coastal access land. A straightforward way to deal with coastal change (roll back).

Excepted Land Categories in full – Buildings, their curtilage, parks and gardens, land used for the purpose of a railway, racecourse or aerodrome. Land used for statutory undertaking, although not flood defences. School playing fields or associated land. Land in use for mineral extraction. MOD land subject to byelaw.

Excepted Land Categories – Excepted, but legislation allows for a route (only) to be proposed: arable land, golf course, a regulated caravan or camping site and burial ground.

The inclusion of environmentally sensitive land is considered through an Access and Sensitive Features Assessment.

Next Steps – Continuing our Access and Sensitive Features Appraisals with NE's internal experts. Start stage 2 – write to all owners potentially affected and talk to interest groups. Run drop in events – Fawley 8th March, Beaulieu 10th March, Milford on Sea 15th March, Lymington 17th March, New Milton, 21st April. Said if the public have any questions or concerns we can talk to you in more depth at the drop in's or at your home. Said those people who possibly will be affected will get letters and then when we realise they will not be affected they will get another letter.

Cllr. Norris said he was now prepared to open this up to take questions.

Mr. Gaynor said he did not understand the words 'reduced liability'. They said the land owner has liability potentially and on public rights of way there is also a reduced liability to do certain things. On open access there is a reduced liability where the land owner has the lowest level of liability, which means they would have to do something pretty negligent or deliberate for someone to evoke a civil action, ie deliberately chopping a tree down or placing something dangerous on their land. On public rights of way there is a duty to make sure the passage is safe. It is a very complex area.

Cllr. Steele said regarding this locality, one of the chief concerns will be the treatment of the nature reserves. This is a big problem in this area which stretches from Lymington to the mouth of the Beaulieu River and think there are some concerns and confusion as to whether you as an organization don't have some sort of conflict of interest, as understand you as an organisation, who looks towards conservation and safeguards wildlife and habitat, so some surprise when it was said that it would be NE who will determine the direction of the path. Asked if you are really able to reassure and guarantee that these important areas are going to be left undisturbed as they should be and also tell us how you will deal with conflicts of interest within your organization, so we can have some confidence that the side of your organization that should be supporting wildlife and doing the right thing actually gets their voice heard. John said part of the process is access to the sensitive features, which John is working on and that is working with experts and responsible officers once we have looked at those areas, so we don't do anything without going through them. Cllr. Steele said 'can the public see their reports'. Replied that when dealing with sensitive areas we look at this with the highest level. The whole process will be fully transparent and reports will have full details. Fully aware that a lot of our site officers have years and years of interest and expertise in these areas and they are as concerned as anybody else is on the impacts. They are pushing as hard as anybody else that the document will be transparent and we are aware if we don't do this, then the likes of the RSPB will be following us, so it is 'done by the book'. Said he is keen to see the path opened up as it is such a wonderful opportunity for people to see such wonderful places, but we do need to manage it in a way that it does not have a negative impact. Such a wonderful opportunity that we have to create this path, people will be able to see beautiful parts of our coast. We will be working with RSPB and Wildlife Trust along the way and not just give them a report at the end and a few weeks to make a decision. When we write the rest of the report we want people to be happy with the content and have no objections, as we would be back to the drawing board again.

Was asked if the route goes along the edge of the nature reserve, what do you propose to do to stop walkers from trespassing. Tim said it was difficult to say, you might have to create a fence, there might be existing access around the nature reserve and if people want to trespass they will. Said if we are going to go very close to a sensitive area, we will look at the potential of people spreading to those areas and keep them out. If we cannot keep them out, then we will have to look at a potentially different route. So we will consider everything. When we look at

any particular site, it is really important to deal with everything and each site is so different and until John and John have been out on site and walked the particular section then very difficult to give a firm answer.

Cllr. Thornber asked about the role of the adjudicator and whether his/her role is semi legal or legal and where that individual would stand and NE in the event of a judicial review. Tim said is that for any person or NE? Cllr. Thornber said in terms of coastal paths and any individual can ask for a judicial review, but what is the legal standing of your independent adjudicator. Tim said the Sec. of State as the planning inspectorate will have the report and after the consultation, anyone can have an objection and the planning inspectorate will then look at the report and deal with any objections raised. Mrs. Marling-Roberts said you might use the existing route and on the other hand you said everything seaward of the line is coastal margin means that people have access to the coast from the coastal path. That is quite a distance. Do you have a distance that you will allow people to use. Replied that it was about accepted land and depends what land is between that place and the trail. Mrs. Marling-Roberts so if it is arable land they could walk all over the fields? Replied that if it is accepted land then they would not be able to, but until we look and talk it through then we will not know. Then asked, but if accepted land falls in those areas, what about land that is being used for shooting? Replied there are specific guidelines for that. Mrs. Marling-Roberts asked what are they? Replied that he cannot list them all off now, but will tell you that there are specific guidelines and we can talk this through with you. Cllr. Norris said perhaps a subject for the 10th March. Tim said the closer we can get to the coast then the better. Asked how far from the coast would you allow – 2 miles? Replied that if we have gone that far inland then we would struggle. Said if right of way was the Solent Way then we would use that, we do not want to go far inland, then it is not a coastal path and we have failed in our roles. We need to keep as close to the coast as possible.

Peter – Chairman of Exbury PC asked about roll back and if it could be explained. Replied that when there is potential coastal erosion and public right of way washed away and lost and no more a public right of way, then roll back allows us to automatically roll back the trail, without having to submit another report to the Sec. of State. Roll back is included in the report. It works differently in different areas. Try to think of paths that will be there for 15-20 years, if erosion is quicker than that then we may well route alternatively or not put the path along there. We do not have the hours or funds to put anything in place to manage that .

Mr. Mills said when a path is highly established, does the site of the actual path become owned by a statutory body or is it owned by the existing landlord and subject to rights? Replied that it is still the landowners in terms of maintenance. It is a national trial so NE are responsible for helping to manage national trials. In terms of ongoing maintenance there can be funding to help, certainly for infrastructure and start of the trail, getting it running. Mr. Mills said in relation to insurance? Replied that it was public liability and that is a rather complex area. If it goes over an existing public right of way, then it is different.

Cllr. Steele asked now many people are going to use this route as one of our major problems here is parking and we already have many problems in the village with people parking in the High Street and walking to Bucklers Hard. So if this route become very popular whose duty is it to provide parking. Replied there was nothing they do about parking, they do not deal with the issue. Cllr. Steele said this could be a major issue particularly near the sensitive nature reserves. We are talking about very small lanes, so if suddenly there is access down to the coast, and at weekends it could get a lot of cars, then could cause major problems. Replied that outside this meeting that will be an interesting topic. Said there were other litigation projects going on and looking at how we channel people and organising getting to and from places. Said it is a journey we have to go on to get in our minds what is happening there. Cllr. Steele said the areas you have opened up are fairly established and paths are already there. Talking about an area from Lymington to the mouth of the Beaulieu River which is not open up, it is very quiet .

Mr. Gaynor said I think the first thing most of us would think about is where is it going to go. Can I ask what are we having , stiles, gates, bridges? Are you going to be laying all weather surfaces, what are we expecting to walk on when it is commissioned. Replied that it was a bit difficult to say in the individual needs of each place, there are national trial standards and we push to achieve those standards. Given the individual circumstances, bridges are a possibility depending on planning permission needed. The preference is kissing gates as opposed to stiles for easier access, but until we get to walk the land, meet landowners, then really hard to say. We try to keep the natural feel as much as possible. Said it could just be a mown strip with clear head room. Said the NT standard whilst it has helped, its focused on looking at the individual environment and the terrain and try to fit in with that as much as possible. So could be a 4' wide path, it could be cobbled, could be a trodden path.

Mr. Gaynor said if you were to go through a bigger piece of marsh land, are the walkers not going to need wellingtons. Replied that we would look at it and talk to the land owners, said it could be a walk way, but needs to look carefully at it at the beginning to see if it would work and get it right first time. Said at Salt Marsh there is quick sand, so need to get alignment right in the first place and look at what we will have to put in place. Said we have to balance the needs of the public, needs of businesses and owners and those interested people and try to get the balance right.

Cllr. Norris thanked the team from NE for coming tonight and thanked the ladies and gentlemen who have attended.

1197. **HAMPHIRE COUNTY COUNCILS REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Cllr. Thornber reported that they have approved council tax for 16/17 and will recollect anticipating losing £19m this year, from revenue supply, was in fact £48m, deficit of £50m, plugged gap with equalisation reserve from government years ago. Government anticipating local authorities will increase their council tax after years of it being frozen. Hants frozen for 7 years. Now increasing by 2% ring fenced for social care, 1.99% general use. Therefore increase in council tax from 1st April by 3.99%, yielding £20m - £10m for social care. Impact on Band

D properties = £49 per year, 79p per week. Said he had been preparing his PC's for the inevitable and today the inevitable arrived. Said animal accidents in the forest are down on 2014 – 73 accidents recorded, 68 ponies/donkeys, 2/3rds or more were deaths, down from 84. In 2013 it was 93/94. Said looking back over the last 20/30 years when it was the 200 mark, so it is showing progress. School results – GCSE results, in Hants 60% of pupils achieved A* - C grades, compared to national average of 57%, so Hants is ahead. A Levels achieved A* - A grades, the all state funded England average was 9.2%, Hants was 10.2% and others were 8.8%. Said we will not rest on our laurels, a lot of work is going on to improving educational standards we achieve.

Broadband - reported that tomorrow an officer coming down to look at B1 and EE 2. Beaulieu 1 is at Hatchet Pond by telephone kiosk, there is a cabinet there, but looking to site another one. Will be looking carefully if HCC can offer land in mitigation. Cabinets are ½ sq. m each. Said there are 11 delayed cabinets in the forest, so need to find 6 ½ /7 sq m. of forest land. Said EE is a very long village and looking at 2 possible sites, reported that he had done a reccy and maybe one on EB Trust land could be sited, but great difficulties. Said the 11 delayed cabinets are costing far more and if it comes to the point where it is double the cost (these are public funds) we ask ourselves is that value for money. Said beginning to make some progress. Said at EBPC meeting he was 'savaged', they are very frustrated.

Cllr. Thornber emphasised there cannot be an private arrangements re parking – quid pro quo, as everyone has a right to park on the High Street. Might have to introduce traders/residents parking scheme, might have to be on a first come, first served basis. Needs a meeting with landowner, HCC and PC. Said reasoning at DC if increase the size of the car park, then cost benefit ratio and this idea was ditched last time, but this may have changed. Did ask the appropriate officer 5 weeks ago, but with his workload this is proving more difficult than thought.

Cllr. Norris said regarding broadband, he had looked at the website for Beaulieu village and had a delivery date of April. Thought Beaulieu delivery had been held up by B1, EE1 and 2. Cllr. Thornber agreed. Cllr. Gibbs asked why has it been delayed. Cllr. Thornber said the Verderers and NE are unable to agree with CC on the location of cabinets. Contended by statutory bodies that BT Open Reach are the problem. Statutory bodies saying if you site 'x' there then you must provide land in mitigation and of course the Act of 1860 ish which of course gives Verderers their rights. Cllr. Gibbs asked who has to provide the land in mitigation, is it BT. Cllr. Thornber said it was CC. Asked Cllr. Thornber why is BT the problem. Cllr. Thornber said what they tend to do is say if there is a dispute in 'x', well off we go to some other part of the county to work and that leaves 'cabinet x' in the forest delayed. Verderers claim it is BT and BT say you could not give us permission to go ahead with these areas because of NE and Verderers cannot agree. Said he meet Phil Murphy years ago and since then has kept in close contact and maybe again will ask him as Director of BT Open Reach to come to the CC. Asked him if BT Open Reach have the capacity ie human resources to install BB and answer was yes. There is nothing in the contract that would deny this. Cllr. Norris said a lot of MP's seem to be getting involved now.

Maria Miller had meeting and MP for Fareham had meeting regarding delivery in their constituency. Assume they are equally frustrated. Cllr. Gibbs said he did not see the problem as being BT Open Reach, I see the issue as around the two statutory bodies not being able to finalise where the cabinets should be. Cllr. Gibbs asked if Dominic has been pulled into this. Cllr. Thornber said he does not want to be drawn further. Cllr. Norris agreed and in view of what has happened at a previous meeting, I think we let sleeping dogs lie. Cllr. Thornber said I will say I hope to have in confidence a conversation with Dominic through an intermediary that is well known to Dominic and well known to the NF. Said there is great sensitivity now with the Verderers and NE and some sensitivity with BT Open Reach with CC in the middle. Said I am hopeful after the meeting we can make progress. The time has come for BT Open Reach and CC to have a heart to heart and time has come to have a heart to heart with statutory bodies. Cllr. Norris thanked Cllr. Thornber and said we were very grateful for him letting NE speak first at the meeting.

1198. NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCILS REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Cllr. Harris reported that agreeing council tax of 1.7% increase for forthcoming year. Said it was a difficult year and getting tougher. Regarding the Royal Oak, said he has had an exchange of emails re the light pollution affecting some parishioners. Said DL PC passed the application. Has a meeting with NP on Monday and said they have put in retrospective planning. Said he would look at it and if contrary to what is allowed, they will be told.

1199. PLANNING

Green Close, Montagu Arms – 16/00039 and 16/00040 LBC

External and internal alterations to provide an extension to the existing hotel Kitchen including demolition of part of Listed Building.

Site visit took place. Cllr. Norris declared an interest and asked Cllr. Knight to take the chair. 7% of total space, very marginal, replacing existing PVC windows with wood, as other windows. Small impact on LB. Conservation officer visited and has no concerns. Said barn conversion has been turned down and withdrawn. Cllrs. agreed there is nothing to cause concern and all in agreement to recommend permission.

Log House, Sowley Lane – 16/00090

Postpone until next meeting

Cllr. Norris reported that he has chatted to Steve Avery about the camera on the Montagu Arms. Need to make a heritage statement, which is madness. Said there must be a way around it, waiting to hear. Said he has heard nothing about Thorns Beach.

Tree Works – Anchor Cottage, 55 High Street – CONS/16/0049

Prune 1 x Silver Birch Tree

1200. DECISIONS

Site of Log House, Sowley Lane – 15/00993

Application to vary condition 2 of appeal decision. – GRANT

Chestnut Cottage, High Street – 150975/LBC

Internal and external alterations – GRANT

Green Close, Montagu Arms – 15/01009 and 15/01010LBC

Conversion of barn to create two guest suites – WITHDRAWN

1201. **SEATING IN VILLAGE HALL COURTYARD**

Cllr. Norris said he took advice re the wreaths and you are able to remove them after Christmas, so picked up and removed. Suspect they are years old and it looks disrespectful leaving them on the ground, its normal procedure to remove them. Cllr. Steele said we had a grant of £500 from the Common Good Trust and has looked at bench suppliers and very expensive. Looked at website of Joe Alexander and they have memorial benches for £395 in teak, solid construction, but out of stock till 15th April. Asked if we should secure it. Cllr. Knight said you just need angle iron and two screws. PC quite prepared to pay. Cllr. Norris said the notice board has warped and needs taking down and the back board renewed and needs varnishing again. Mrs. Pearson said she would organise. Cllr. Steele said some of the paving slabs are uneven, but who is responsible. Clerk to contact Steve Green and ask. Mrs. Pearson felt it was the Estate, but will wait for clarification. Also gate needs repairing.

1202. **CCTV**

Cllr. Norris said Cllr. Fairweather not present so will ask him to report at the next meeting. Would like to get closure on this.

1203. **FLOATION AID**

Cllr. Steele reported that she feels the picket fence that we want to attach the aid to is not strong enough. Could have a post in front. Mrs. Pearson said they would work it out. Cllr. Steele will order. Mrs. Pearson also mentioned the run off from Shepherds Mead, said the pipe too small and needs a non returnable valve and will talk to Hampshire Highways.

1204. **CORRESPONDENCE**

General

Wickstead Playgrounds

TVC – The Conservation Volunteers – Solent Way Project & Calendar

Lloyds Bank – Balance 22nd January - £16,573.26 and changes to your business account

Rural Services Network – Weekly Email Digest and Rural Transport

Glasdon brochure

Solent News – Winter 2015/16

NFNP

Our Past, our Future – 2 courses £15 in Village Hall on Traditional Building Skills. Cllr. Norris said this should be quite interesting.

NFDC

Cllr. Norris reported he has made an application for Precept, same as last year.

Waste site shutting – Cllr. Norris said if this happens there could be more fly tipping. Cllr. Harris said now not closing, it is on hold and he will look into it.

1205. **CHEQUE SIGNING**

Beaulieu Village Hall Trust - £36.00

Mark Young - £75.00

Proposed: Cllr. Steele Seconded: Cllr. Knight

1206. **QUESTION TIME**

Cllr. Steele said Martin Dolbear will be able to do the defib training. 24th March at 2.00p.m. Andrew Kitcher has checked our defib as we have owned it for a year and he thinks yearly checks should be done. Suggests looking at it every week recording it in a book. Cllr. Steele will do this and Cllr. Grindrod will double up. Leave book in defib cabinet.

Cllr. Shanks mentioned the flooding on Lyndhurst Road, water running off field and only one small pipe which is blocked and not working. Mrs. Pearson will look into this.

Meeting closed at 8.30p.m.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 17th March 2016 at 6.30p.m. in the Main Hall of the Village Hall.