

BEAULIEU PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21st JANUARY 2016
AT BEAULIEU VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

P.C. Eastwood

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr. K. Thornber, Cllr. M. Harris, Mr. J. Beaumont, Mrs. N. Deering (Clerk)

1177. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1174. Cllr. Steele said that regarding the Marine and Coastal Path, the minutes need altering to read "Said Bucklers Hard to Beaulieu stretch is fine and the other side of the river from Factory Field to the end of Dock Lane is OK". The problem.. Proposed: Cllr. Knight Seconded: Cllr. Fairweather

1178. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Norris said regarding Operation Clean Sweep with NFDC that one of our disabled parishioners got a parking ticket, but due to the efforts of the PC in writing to the parking officer and Cllr. Harris endorsing our remarks, I am pleased to report that the ticket has been quashed. Also had another Clean Sweep.

1179. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Norris and Cllr. Fairweather –Montagu Arms Planning Application.

1180. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Beaumont mentioned the 3 wreaths by the memorial were on the ground and feels this is dreadful. Cllr. Norris said he felt that and that it was the responsibility of the PC as Beaulieu British Legion is no longer attending the memorial. Said we have been awarded money from the Common God Trust to put a bench in. Said we will site the bench and get better fixings for the wreaths. Cllr. Steele asked if we have taken over the courtyard? Cllr. Knight thought the Horticultural Society looked after it. Cllr. Steele said she would ask Mark to look at it and make the wreaths more secure. Cllr. Shanks said the slabs are uneven. Cllr. Steele said she would look at it. Cllr. Norris asked if she would take charge of this. Mr. Beaumont also mentioned that the Agamemnon Yard is moving to Hythe and that Beaulieu River have a new Harbour Master.

1181. POLICE LIAISON

PC Eastwood sent his apologies, but emailed to say there have been 11 garages broken into in Lyndhurst, so please be aware. Cllr. Grindrod said that when PC Eastwood did his Beat Surgery he was concerned about speeding vehicles up the High Street and felt we should put a speed monitor in. Cllr. Norris said we can but it will cost £180 and last time we voted against it. Cllr. Shanks said it just takes an average, so a waste of time. Cllr. Thornber said if 85% of cars and vehicles are travelling below or at the speed limit, then there is no need to reduce the speed limit and it is called the 85th percentile and you have to have quite

exceptional speeds and frequency to have a chance of reducing the speed limit. Said the police cannot police it, so what we are left with is random surveys that are carried out. Said he did purchase with his Members budget a SLR which was shared between yourselves, Boldre and East Boldre Parish Council and it does have an effect. Said believes the SLR was destroyed. Says he applauds the enthusiasm of the young police constable and we should do nothing to temper that, but would urge caution. Said recently carried out a survey along Sway Road, Brockenhurst and am quite sure the residents will be disappointed by the 85th percentile rule. Cllr. Norris said we will not dissuade him. Cllr. Grindrod said he would talk to PC Eastwood. Cllr. Norris said he felt something was better than nothing. Cllr. Grindrod mentioned robberies and said in Dibden Purlieu the police are going round house to house to tell people to be more security conscious. Said people are going into back gates and seeing what is open and then robbing them, said he just wanted everyone to be aware.

1182. **HAMPHIRE COUNTY COUNCILS REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Cllr. Thornber thanked the Chairman of the PC for writing a letter of support re: Local Government Boundary Commission. Said he had the task of chairing a meeting of the whole of the counties 78 division and the proposal is that the NF lose one county councilor and Eastleigh should gain one. We have opposed that as strongly as we can. If the NF only have 10 councilors, my division would stretch from the Dorset coast up to the outskirts of Southampton and Fordingbridge/Lyndhurst and all the way up to Southampton. Have areas of 150 sq miles. Said he would have 12 parishes, 4 more than have now. Said that the Commission Guide says 'a constituency should not be so large that it is difficult for a councilor to service it'. They have ignored their own criteria. Said the magical figure is 13,843 per division. Said if the BC gets it way the average for the NF will be 1,000 more, so you can see the difficulties. Said in terms of council tax this year, the grant from government for 16/17 yr, we have had good intelligence and would have reduced by £19m until the spending review then the £19m reduction is now £48m reduction and so the government is allowing councils to increase their council tax by 2% earmarked for social care and up to 2%/1.99% for general purposes. That's just under 4%. 1% increase in council tax raises £5m so 4% will raise £20m. Said he was speaking in anticipation of the CC decision, but cannot quite believe they will turn aside from raising the council tax by 4% and that would mean that Band D properties would increase to just over £41 or 79p a week and Bands E & F, which would be Beaulieu, would increase by more, but thinks probably by around £1 a week. Said we are in the middle of saving £98m already to add to the £130m we raised while I was Leader. Borrowing £50m from reserves for this year along and even allowing for the £98m saving we will in 3 years times have a budget deficit of £130m. These figures begin to be colossal and we have seen savings of around £500/600m. The outlook is not as healthy as we would wish, but the CC has taken the decision to increase council tax. Cllr. Norris asked "in addition to this increase is there going to be an increase from NFDC and fire service as well". Cllr. Thornber said they are allowed up to 2% and HCC are allowed up to 4%, because we have social services and government have said to

authorities, and there are 150 of them, with social services they can raise 2% but this must be ring fenced to social services. Said they are consulting on mobile libraries and said he has received a letter from a constituent and ex councilor in Brockenhurst saying she would regret the withdrawal of the mobile library. Cllr. Norris felt that service was discontinued here some time ago. Cllr. Thornber said they will not withdraw services without consultation. Said Operation Resilience is undertaking drain clearance works in the High Street, date given was the 3rd February, but Beaulieu will be 29th January. Cllr. Norris said we have had Operation Clean Sweep by NFDC, now ready for the gully gulper.

Cllr. Thornber updated us on Broadband by saying the national target is to reach 90% coverage by 2016 and 95% coverage by the end of 2017. The Hampshire programme has reached the 90% target already and will reach 96% coverage by September 2018. Our delivery partner, BY Openreach, has upgraded 345 roadside cabinets serving more than 77,000 premises with fibre broadband bringing the percentage of premises able to access superfast broadband (24Mbps) up from 80% to 90%. We will be building on this coverage and extending coverage further in Wave 2 which started in January 2016. This part of the programme will upgrade connections to a further 48,000 premises by September 2018 bringing coverage to over 96% of premises in the country. Said not all premises in the listed areas will be fully covered, but superfast broadband will be available to the majority of premises served by the cabinet. On average premises with a line length of 1200 metres from the cabinet will be able to connect to superfast broadband. As a result, some premises might be served by a cabinet, but might be too far away to access superfast speeds. Mentioned universal service commitment for properties with access to less than 2Mbps. Hampshire has been the pilot scheme for the Government's Universal Service Commitment scheme. Residents experiencing under 2Mbps of broadband can apply for a subsidy code towards the cost of installation of a satellite. There are roughly 5,000 properties (less than 1%) in Hampshire that are unable to access 2Mbps. This scheme is designed to help them and to provide an interim satellite solution capable of providing speeds of around 20Mbps. The subsidy scheme covers the cost of installing the satellite dish and router, to a value of up to £350. Yearly costs for the service are the responsibility of the resident and start at around £400 for a basic service. We have emailed over 1500 residents who have registered with us in eligible areas and we have issued 70 subsidy codes to date.

Car parking in the High Street, said as Highways Authority we are responsible for highway congestion and safety. I have met Lord Montagu and we are beginning to reach for a solution. Said traders are taking up a lot of spaces as per the survey Cllr. Steele carried out. Lord Montagu and his Estate team will be looking at 2/3 pockets of land lying parallel to the High Street. Said the pocket of land to the north of the High Street which ones sees on approach from Lymington area is not up for agreement by the landowner, on the grounds that a car park would spoil the approach to Beaulieu. Cllr. Norris said we would not want that either. Cllr. Fairweather felt it was the south end, talking about opposite the Garden Centre. Cllr. Norris said that is a great shame. Cllr. Thornber said there are various pockets, one of them in the vicinity of the Montagu Arms, which will be

investigated. Said some years ago the NFDC as a car parking authority looked at increasing the car park we have here and it was dropped, I think because of cost/benefit ratio, but time has moved on, so could make contact with the appropriate officer and ask him to get the file out and to have another look at what could be done. Would have thought that the cost/benefit ratio would be better. Said you arrive at the car park and it is full, you know that the High Street will be full, so turn around and go elsewhere and that is our problem, so making some tentative progress, but if all else fails could introduce a residents car parking scheme, including traders, that would bring with it lots of signs and so on, and we would do so only very reluctantly and everyone wants to keep signage to an absolute minimum. Unless we can reach some solution, that I am afraid could be the ultimate step, so putting a lot of credence on these small parcels of land and of the car park and residents and traders also take a long look at the number of spaces they are now taking. Cllr. Gibbs asked if one of the parcels of land was near his home. Cllr. Thornber said it was in the precincts of the Montagu Arms and Fire Station and Lord Montagu is the owner of that land. Cllr. Steele asked for a rough idea of how many parking spaces this would provide. Cllr. Thornber said regrettably cannot, but talking in terms of half a dozen, so maybe = 12. Said 38% of car parking spaces are taken up by 4 organisations. Said we will discuss this further when we have more facts. Cllr. Fairweather asked if there is a county policy about parking for parents bringing their children to school. Cllr. Thornber said indeed part of this 38% is 2/3 teachers permanently parking on the High Street. Said we have policies and we do apply them, for example take Brockenhurst Primary School, have applied double yellow lines. Said could bring an officer down and he will immediately say we could introduce a 'walking bus'. A 'walking bus' is a group of children, suitably supervised who have been dropped off at 'A' and they would walk into school at 'B', thus reducing some parking. This has been reasonably successful in areas of the county. The short answer is we cannot prohibit parking even for a few minutes without sufficient evidence as to the congestion and the danger of parental use of the Queens highway. We need to do a study and then bring forward some suggestions. Have to say parental parking is a problem around most of our schools. But there are certain things we can do and the first thing I think we might do with your approval is to ask the officer concerned to come and talk to the Head of school and yourself about what we might do, but do know she is very keen on a 'walking buses'. Cllr. Fairweather said the reason he mentioned this is he accommodates approx. 20/25 cars at the school drop off, which we compensate by having some cars on the High Street belonging to employees and have told Lord Montagu that there is an informal agreement we have with the school which are comfortable with at the moment, but if more pressure was put on us we might be forced to change that. I believe this would cause chaos in the High Street and have raised this with Lord Montagu and think his plans at the moment do not go far enough were we put in that position. Cllr. Thornber said presumably the children come out from your car park and go on the pavement all the way to the school and it is not that far, so do not require a walking bus in that sense. Said he had not realized there was a quid pro quo. Cllr. Fairweather just wanted to mention it if you were

going to bring someone in. Cllr. Steele said the other problem is if we make more parking in the High Street, then one of the dangers is that it does get filled up with walkers going to Bucklers Hard and we really must try and organise something that allows people to stop in the High Street and walk and get their papers and milk, so shops will benefit. At the moment there is a risk that the paper shop will go out of business, so is there any possibility of having some sort of limited waiting area in the centre of the High Street. Cllr. Thornber said there would need to be a proliferation of signs for 'waiting limited to 30 minutes'. Then at that point we would have to have a debate as to whether we want to deface the High Street and maybe in terms of the benefit that is a cost the village would be prepared to pay. Cllr. Steele says local businesses are suffering and the more we clutter the High Street with residents/traders etc cars, this turns away potential customers, then the worse off we are as a village and it will kill the village. Mr. Beaumont said all it needs is painting on the road as outside the Abbey Stores. Cllr. Steele asked what authority is needed to do that? Cllr. Thornber said with the greatest respect to Mr. Beaumont and a good suggestion, I can almost guarantee my engineers would say 'there are regulations required'. However what we could do and should be is ask officers to arrange a traffic survey which includes parking in particular. We did this when we introduced resident car parking scheme in Brockenhurst and it was quite a lengthy process, but must start with a study first that establishes the facts and then see what the results are and then say to our officers, could you not paint the road rather than signs and have a real discussion on that. Cllr. Norris said the PC endorse that. Cllr. Thornber to make arrangements. Cllr. Norris thanked Cllr. Thornber very much, and wanted also to make everyone aware he has been contacted by NE and said the English Coastal Path is going to be discussed and they will give a presentation at our next meeting, prior to the following month when they will have a drop in day in the village hall.

1183. NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCILS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Cllr. Harris apologized for arriving late to the meeting. Has asked Cllr. Heron if he will attend our meeting in April. They have been finalizing budget for 4 years and deficit of £4m, but confident balance this year 16/17. First council tax increase for 6 years, of up to 2%. Said chief executive has been putting management team changes in place and has a really good team now. £600,000 saving per annum and working on next layers down of management. Said regarding Boundary changes, Exbury/Lepe will be moved from Brockenhurst into south Waterside and said he has written quite strongly about this, says it is ridiculous putting forest parishes in with urban parishes as it is in complete contrast. Said he is looking forward to his defib training and very kindly presented the PC with a cheque for £100. Cllr. Steele asked Cllr. Harris about the lighting in the car park. The Cooke-Hurle's are saying it is too bright and there are no dimmers or baffles. They have been in touch with the Contractor SSE who have been saying they are going to do it. Cllr. Harris said the best route is to talk to Cllr. Thornber.

1184. PLANNING

Montagu Arms Hotel – 15/01009 and 15/01010 – one for listed building.

Conversion of barn to create two guest accommodation suites.

Cllr. Norris and Cllr. Fairweather declared an interest and Cllr. Knight asked to take the chair. Cllr. Norris, Cllr. Shanks and Cllr. Steele did a site visit and said it is an old barn behind the hotel, back of gardens and this would provide 2 guests suites, with a ground floor sitting room and upstairs bedroom. Double doors removed and new glazed one put in, one new window to match. Back of barn not changing. It is not a listed building and get the impression from NFNPA they are quite happy. Said if it is not converted the barn will fall down. BPC happy with conversion on the basis that 2 extra car parking spaces are provided.

Chestnut Cottage – 15/00975

High Street Internal and external alterations and LB consent.

Feels this is a very good plan to make it into live able accommodation

The Log House – 15/00993

Sowley Lane Amendments to position and layout of swimming pool + other minor alterations.

BPC supports this application

1185. **DECISIONS**

Out of Town Centre – 15/00821

Installation of Biomass Boiler – granted

Tree Decisions

Boundary House – CONS/15/1233

Furzey Lane – Raise no objections

1186. **CCTV FOR THE VILLAGE**

Cllr. Fairweather reported that he has the forms ready to apply for planning permission and LB consent. Said it is quite an undertaking and beyond his skills set, says he will need help. Says John Leach has been very supportive. He is in the same mindset as Lord Montagu that the camera looks very discreet. Says he will pull strings of support together. Cllr. Norris will also chase support. Said they want CCTV inside the hotel and needs LB consent. Cllr. Norris said he would contact Mr. Leach and see what he says, and ask if we can use what Greenclose have done re heritage info for our planning application.

1187. **LIFE SAVING FLOTATION AID**

Cllr. Steele said Lord Montagu has seen the picture and approved. Cllr. Norris asked Cllr. Steele to go ahead and order it. It will be sited on the picket fence by sluice gate. They will send invoice. Cllr. Norris thanked Cllr. Steele for her work on this.

1188. **QUADRANT MEETING**

Cllr. Norris said he will attend the Quadrant Meeting on Wed. 3rd February at Exbury. On the agenda is ‘parking in forest villages’.

1189. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr. Norris said he has received a copy letter that Ian Norris has written to the Planning officer re the Royal Oak. Said the people running the Royal Oak are putting in a retrospective planning application and are keen to engage with the

local community and put things right and keen to obey the rules.

Correspondence from John Treswell, Range Manager, English Coastal Paths. Said he has invited him to attend our February meeting to give a presentation. Said landowners have not received a letter, but will inform residents as soon as possible.

New Forest Disability thanking us for grant.

Correspondence from East Boldre PC thanking us for their portion of SLR money.

CPRE – Membership renewal

Clerks and Councils Direct

Community First NF – Jan ebulletin

NFDC

Forward Plan of Key Decisions – Feb

Info Bulletin – Dec 2015

1190. **CHEQUE SIGNING**

Beaulieu Village Hall Trust - £36.00

Proposed: Cllr. Knight

Seconded: Cllr. Steele

1190. **QUESTION TIME**

Cllr. Steele mentioned the potholes in North Lane. Cllr. Knight said a lot have been reported and will not get repaired until the weather improves. Also massive hole on path towards Bucklers Hard, Curtle Meadow Farm. Let the Estate know.

Cllr. Grindrod said Father John would like to attend the defib training. Cllr.

Knight said he would put Cllr. Steele in touch with Andrew Kitcher. Have to schedule the training when school can attend.

Cllr. Shanks mentioned flooding in Lyndhurst Road, water pouring off field and only one small pipe, which is not working. Cllr. Knight said it is the Estates responsibility.

Meeting closed at 8.30p.m.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 18th February 2016, 6.30p.m. in the Main Hall of the Village Hall.