

BEAULIEU PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING ON THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018  
AT BEAULIEU VILLAGE HALL

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr. P. Fairweather (Vice Chairman), Cllr. S. Gibbs,

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr. K. Mans, Cllr. M. Harris, Mr. A. Mills, Residents from Palace Lane, Mrs. N. Deering (Clerk)

1498. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Proposed: Cllr. Blastock      Seconded: Cllr. Steele

1499. **MATTERS ARISING**

1496. Cllr. Norris said he attended a meeting with Mr. Steve Green and Mrs. Pearson re village hall drains. Said further investigations will be carried out to find out where the foul water is going. Reasonably optimistic that it is going where it should be going.

Cllr. Norris said that Cllr. Steele looked after the damage to the bus shelter, which is PC property and fence in the playground by school. Said glad everything repaired, which is excellent and thanked Cllr. Steele very much.

1500. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Knight declared an interest in traffic in Palace Lane.

1501. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1498. Mr. Mills mentioned the marquee for the village and as chairman of the Residents Association made decision we would help support funding for that and just wanted you to know that we are getting on with this. Cllr. Norris said we have to think of the Fete committee and their chairman is in New Zealand at present and they have quite a big part to play in this. Said the PC is supportive to this project and feels we would be prepared to help financially, as it is for the good and better of the community. Cllr. Steele said Cllr. Gibbs had been in touch about approaching a local charity to see if we can get some funding from there. Said there is a possibility we could make an application to a local foundation who support local activities. Said awaiting on Cllr. Gibbs to email me to say would I give him a hand to do the letter. Cllr. Norris said this all seems to be heading in the right direction. Cllr. Norris thanked Mr. Mills.

1502. **POLICE LIAISON**

Cllr. Norris said last month PC Jason Eastwood and PSCO Sam Harrington were present and they were very complimentary about the CCTV and it has certainly helped them with a couple of incidents and wish other parishes would do the same.

1503. **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Cllr. Mans said they are setting their council tax precept the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February. Likely to be 3% and 3% care of the elderly. Putting it up by amount allowed.

Pleased to hear Carillion problems are not really affecting the county at all. None of our schools have anything to do with them. We are in a better position than some councils. Said been speaking to Glen Peacey about broadband and he knows my views, which I have expressed quite force ably. Feels we all battle on. Said any comments you want to make to me about the lack of it, please let me have them as it might help to speed up the process. Thinks we are going to arrive in another year or two with a situation where there are going to be a fair number of properties, particularly outside the village, like Denny Wood where we are going to have to find other ways than land lines. There are other ways of getting a reasonable speed. Said high speed broadband is more important for rural/isolated areas than urban, as increasing number of government organisations want you to fill in info on line. If you live in an urban area and you cannot get broadband, there are a number of ways that you can. Much harder in rural areas. Have made this point to 3-4 MP's, its really important that the government understands, and if go down the digital route, you need more thought in ensuring rural areas have broadband. Do not think this problem will go away tomorrow. As time goes on we will need faster and faster speeds and therefore have to keep up the pressure. Cllr. Norris asked how the scoping exercise was going on in Beaulieu village. If you go on website – Superfast Hants Broadband, they defer any information for another 3 months as say as we have exchange only lines in Beaulieu, it is a problem. They are re-scoping it and give a 6 month time window. Cllr. Mans said he has no further info on that. Said one of the criticisms he has is they use to indicate when they would do a particular area and those directly to the exchange and not via boxes, were unlikely to be done. They said if you were more than 1km away from a box you would get it, when in fact in a village like Beaulieu, where small number of people initially took a phone line many years ago they got it directly to the exchange. Cllr. Norris said he would be grateful if Cllr. Mans could stay for Item 10 on the Agenda.

**1504. NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCILS REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Cllr. Harris said NFDC have no connections with Carillion whatsoever. Precept is probably set at maximum allowed. Congratulated Cllr. Norris on Vounteer Award, which I believe in whole heartedly and proud you got an award. Hoping these awards will be repeated next year, great way of singing the praises of unsung hero's. Said if you know of anyone who deserves an award, please let me know. Said in Minutes of last meeting it said my new portfolio was that I was in charge of broadband. Said please correct that. My portfolio is Local Economic Development, Property & Innovation, which has broadband well within it. Mentioned property and said the council have been criticized for their property investments, as we have purchased the Health Centre in New Milton for £2m, saying we are using tax payers money. We haven't, it is entirely out of our own reserves. Cash in the bank was earning slightly under 1%, now earning slightly under 6%. Said there is a car park next door to the property, so capital value should increase over time. Said broadband is on my list and hoping to do a number of things. No one solution, just small things, lots of lobbying, asking, meetings, demands of people. Do our best to raise our profile in the NF. Mentioned NF Clean-Up, 2-4<sup>th</sup> March. Local groups get together, going out in

highvis jackets and picking up litter in the forest, making us feel proud of the NF. Said regarding parking issues, have one or two things needs to chase up. Hopefully something will be happening. Said change of personnel in NPA, which may help us. Will chase Mrs Pearson and ask where are we. Cllr. Norris said it would appear the car park can go ahead.

1505. **PLANNING**

17/00957 – 3D Farming Partnership.

Construction of sedimentation pond and wetland.

Cllr. Norris said this is at Leygreen farm and needed to deal with water run off from the yard, to reduce nitrate and phosphate deposits into the Beaulieu River. Sludge tank that everything goes into and hopefully heavier particles settle on the bottom and emptied and clean overflow water goes into artificial marsh and pond and from there flows into ditch system. Cllr. Steele said this is all on the left hand side and does the eventual run off go under the road? Cllr. Norris said talk of a culvert. Said the ditch is full of nitrate and phosphate, you can tell by the high level of vegetation. This is part of the Living Waters Project and funded partly by Our Past, Our Future, Heritage Lottery fund/NPA. Conservation dept. have given the green light. All councilors agreed to permit permission, No. 1.

Cllr. Norris said there is an application on the website for Little Hatchett, marked as Beaulieu parish, but feel it is EB.

1506. **TRAFFIC AND PALACE LANE**

Cllr. Norris said this item been put on the agenda regarding traffic in Palace Lane and is a result of a letter from a parishioner, Mr. Mark Norman and further letters from Mr. Ewin, Mr. & Mrs. Forsythe, Mrs. Whitaker, Mrs. Markby and Mr. & Mrs. Patel. Mr. Norman said he wrote and included photos of the most recent damage to property, just before Xmas. Said around 11.30pm a 3" bolder from vehicle leaving the village penetrated two panes of a double glazed unit. Spent £600 over last two years repairing damage as a result of excessive speed and projectiles. Said having lived here 12 years the situation is getting worse. Been significant calming measures put into the forest and believe because of that, coming through Beaulieu is the fastest route. The movement of the 40mph boundary to the entrance by the OOTC was good in principal, but has had a detrimental effect. Now no physical limit coming out of village by bend at Ropeways, until you are by the OOTC and people presume the speed limit is 40mph and now do 50mph. Only one 30mph limit sign on the road. Said he lives in the 'new house' in Beaulieu, brand new modern house, the foundations are very deep and surrounded by material specifically designed to remove road vibration. This morning I was shaken awake in my bed by a truck leaving the village at massively excessive speed. It shook the entire house. Also suffered about £200 of glazing damage through stones or pressure actually breaking double glazing. Had to replace entire set of fencing which snapped off by force of wind. Said we live within the NP and live in the highest animal fatality area, and has impact on humans. Said both my wife and myself in last 3 months have been clipped by cars outside Mill House. Also young lady trying to take diversion through Mill Pond. Do not believe you cannot avoid a cyclist at 30mph, and end in the position she did. Very lucky. If you look at the photo, this damage was a

1<sup>st</sup> floor window, roughly 6' from the ground. If a person had been between that stone and the window, and it hit them, I think it would be potentially life threatening. To be able to break two panes of a modern sealed double glazed unit, the force that stone was thrown, could cause significant injury to someone. We are lucky enough to have the PC try and limit speeds, rotation use of speed limit sign and discussions with Cllr. Mans, it was good the speed of traffic leaving the village was monitored, not just into the village. Said has seen 57mph recorded on the sign. I believe at night speeds are in excess of this. In an attempt to give some suggestions as to what possibly the PC, NFDC and HCC could do is: Lack of speed signage needs addressing from Ropeway to 40mph zone. In particular at night we need eye level signage and ideally reminder of their speed, as research shows this does reduce speed. I do not believe that in itself will stop the problem. We should consider speed calming devices on that stretch of road. Ideally in a NP setting within a rural village we should be considering what can be done to drop the speed limit generally. As been proven in urban areas, a 20mph speed limit drops accidents and injuries significantly. Do not think it is inappropriate here. The Verderer's and Commoner's Association are pressing people to reduce their speed and most people here today would like a 20mph zone within the village boundary. Cllr. Norris asked for clarification on village boundary. Mr. Norman said 30mph zone should drop to 20mph, certainly from the OOTC through the village. This would help with the safety of children to the OOTC and children walking to school. Cllr. Norris mentioned cyclists, particularly in the High Street. Mr. Bigazzi said every night around 11pm a car comes through the village, very loud and over 60mph. We have chips in our windows. Cllr. Steele asked if it was a commercial vehicle. Mr. Bigazzi said it was cars. Mr. Norman said the issue is with both cars and HGV's. Said the damage when you have a speeding truck and wind pressure is considerably greater and of course their stopping distances. Said when his dogs were younger and use to walk them through the village at 5.30am and literally took your life in your hands when crossing from church boundary to the river, it is very dangerous. Waste lorries from the IOW, speeding. Can understand if you are a lorry driver there is a desire to put your foot down, as quite a big hill. They are trying to get their speed up to get up the hill, but by doing so, are breaking the speed limit. Cllr. Steele said if you are saying the new 30mph is having no affect and is worse, would 20mph have no affect and be worse. Mr. Norman said research shows where they have 20mph zones, there is a 80% decrease in accidents. Mr. Ewin from Monkswell said he has noticed no difference since the new sign has been there. Said last week my daughter was walking at 6.30pm to the village and was clipped on her hip and has bad bruising. Car did not stop and I now will not let her walk down there at night. Said he was following two double decker school buses from Brockenhurst and they were doing in excess of 40mph. Said we are looking at two problems, cars that are definitely speeding and hill doesn't help and definitely Beaulieu rush hour, where people are trying to get to work from Hythe – Lymington, and roaring through village. Now traffic calming on Ashurst/Lyndhurst Road, think now seeing dramatic increase in very large lorries and stones throwing up and causing serious

issues in the village. Said we have drawn a short straw with other parishes traffic calming causing a dramatic increase in vehicles. Cllr. Norris said he favours some sort of traffic calming, which does not have to be enforced. Would like to ask HCC and NFDC and mindful of people getting injured, it is a serious problem. Said heard about budget cuts etc and understand Cllr. Humby from HCC issued a statement saying it is reactive not proactive. Asked Cllr. Mans what can happen. He replied, first write to me with copy to Cllr. Humby with these remarks, with Mr. Norman's letter and photos, so that I have the information and focus on the safety angle. Certainly mention all the evidence you have got, pedestrians being clipped, which is rather an understated way of describing it. It is an assault by the driver on the pedestrian. Said there is still money around for safety, whether that goes as far as traffic calming, I do not know. If you want traffic calming you have to ensure you have reasonable support for it in the village. Said he would support it, partly because I do agree with this discussion and 26 years ago I got the traffic calming bill in my name into the Lords, traffic calming act into parliament. Some people love traffic calming, some hate it. Said I favour it as long as it is the right sort of device. There will be complaints, but feel we should make the point that if lorries do not slow down, there is going to be traffic calming, so drivers know there is every chance they will have to drive over speed humps etc. Cllr. Norris asked how do we do that? Cllr. Mans said it would be good if you could get reg numbers of vehicles speeding. Said some villages have speed watch groups, but no good at night and they list vehicles going over the speed limit. If you cannot do that, then bring your evidence to HCC, so we are aware of it. If you want traffic calming say the PC is willing to make a contribution to the cost. Cllr. Steele said if we had traffic calming, where would it start? Cllr. Mans said it would depend what sort you want, either studs or speed tables, or cobbles. Cllr. Steele said we have cobbles at beginning of High Street and people still speed. Cllr. Mans said we will leave it up to the traffic experts, but has a book on traffic calming, which I will bring in. Cllr. Steele said to stop cars speeding down the hill, would there be a possibility of having a fixed speed camera, you could make a fortune. Cllr. Mans said they will not put permanent ones up. Said to also put this in your note, as it shows you are quite concerned and something really needs to be done. Said not surprised about extra traffic, because every time you get something new on the coast i.e new supermarket, you get extra sets of lorries, either come via Burley or go through Beaulieu or Lyndhurst. Thinks if this issue is causing this amount of damage it needs to be addressed. Cllr. Shanks said is it the Verderer's we speak to about the blue signs saying it is a high risk area? Cllr. Norris thinks it is a forest speed watch group who are putting those up, but Verderer's are involved. Cllr. Shanks wonders if it would be helpful to have one before the bend, anything that might help is worth trying. Cllr. Norris said we have to try everything. Feels something in the road that will slow everyone up is a solution. Cllr. Blastock said when the sun is at a certain level in Palace Lane you cannot see the speed signs. Cllr. Mans said when speed watch cameras are operating, most of the speeders are locals. Cllr. Norris asked how successful is speed watch. Cllr. Mans said think patchy, has been effective in village areas, but worth trying. Mr. Norman said he looked at

community speed watch and there is no funding and cost £4,500 for funding and training. Said police road safety van has been parked in Palace Lane. Cllr. Norris said feels this has been because we have lobbied the police ourselves. Cllr. Harris said he defers to Cllr. Mans, however we could write letters to people who bring waste from IOW, bus company in Brockenhurst and said small things we can do. Cllr. Mans supported this. Said write and say PC are looking seriously at getting a suitable traffic calming device in the village and HCC are supporting that if they do not slow down, so that they know. Might find that helps. Cllr. Harris said he strongly recommends we write to Dr. Julian Lewis our M.P. and I will talk to him when I see him. Cllr. Norris said the PC will write to Cllr. Mans and Cllr. Humby outlining our concerns in Palace Lane and generally in our parish. Cllr. Mans said include Mr. Norman's letter, photographs and make it clear a number of people within the village have been hit by wing mirrors. Lorries have caused physical damage, costing hundreds if not thousands of pounds. We need evidence in black and white. Cllr. Norris asked if the residents can write to Dr. J. Lewis and reiterate what has been said tonight. Mr. Norman agreed. Cllr. Shanks said it would be helpful if Mr. Ewin could write and say what happened to his daughter. Put all these incidents in writing as very serious.

1507. **PARKING/COASTAL PATH**

Cllr. Norris said we have mentioned parking. Has anyone got an update on the coastal path. Cllr. Steele said nothing, just know nothing happening till mid/late February.

1508. **CCTV**

Cllr. Norris said Cllr. Fairweather not present, but stickers were distributed in the village last Friday, saying 'CCTV surveillance is being undertaken in the village and being conducted by the PC to keep Beaulieu safe'. Put one on village notice board. Nothing further to report. Mr. Mills said we have CCTV, can't we use that to get reg numbers of vehicles speeding. Cllr. Norris said we need to check data protection. We have automatic number recognition on it, so can record and see the lorries etc. Need to take advice, but very good point and very useful. Cllr. Shanks said the problem is, where the cameras are they are not doing the high speeds, only further up, so no way can it tie in. Cllr. Norris agreed, but it would help if we need to identify George Jenkins lorries or whoever. Cllr. Steele said any accidents by the Montagu Arms will be recorded.

1509. **BROADBAND**

Cllr. Norris said nothing further to report, just wait and see what develops with principal authorities.

1510. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Lloyds Bank – Balance 20<sup>th</sup> December - £15,026.15

Letter from Jelly Tots Playgroup thanking us for our donation, spent it on soft play area and asking for help with new equipment. Also funding for their Out and About Programme.

1511. **SIGNING OF PRECEPT**

Proposed : Cllr. Shanks

Seconded : Cllr. Blastock

**1512. CHEQUE SIGNING**

BVHT - £36.00

Lee Marcer - £840 – Cllr. Norris said the firm came out very quickly and repaired all damage to playground caused by storm on 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. Very grateful to Cllr. Steele for organising this. Cllr. Shanks asked if we are putting in an insurance claim? Cllr. Norris said not only have we put in the claim, but they have agreed to pay it. Cllr. Steele put in claim for £840, £125 excess, so receiving £715 back and gave them our bank details. Cllr. Steele said the bus shelter tiles have been repaired by the Estate.

E. Young - £82.50

Proposed: Cllr. Shanks            Seconded: Cllr. Steele

**1513. QUESTION TIME**

Cllr. Shanks said Cllr. Gibbs raked the chippings in the playground and did an incredible job. Said we do need to say a big thank you to Cllr. Gibbs for working so hard and it does show we do not need to keep buying chippings to fill the holes, it just needs raking and that should see us through for the year. Cllr. Norris asked the Clerk to send email to Cllr. Gibbs, saying it was brought up at the meeting that all councilors are very grateful for the work he did.

Cllr. Steele said she noticed outside in the courtyard someone has done a cutting back job and just dumped the cuttings on the ground and it looks incredibly untidy. Said do not think it can be Mark, as last week he weeded the playground, cleaned up matting. Playground looking good. Said Estate sometimes have a go at the creepers. Will talk to Mark and ask him to clear it up. Also need to get on with the Twinning Garden ready for the French visit. Need to look at flagpole. Said maybe a couple of us could look at garden and decide what to do with the gravel, top dressing etc. Cllr. Norris feels it needs to look smart, as feels this exchange is quite important, because moves afoot that things may change within the Twinning Association, mostly French side. Cllr. Shanks and Cllr. Steele agreed to meet.

Cllr. Grindrod said any letter we write about speeding, we have a duty of care to the whole village, not just Palace Lane. Also any injuries to people is criminal damage and surely this should be reported to the police. Maybe we should be asking residents if they have reported incidents, we need to report these. Said Cllr. Harris mentioned a couple of months ago there is some help for local businesses, not just regarding parking, but helping them in general. How to promote their business. Cllr. Harris said part of his portfolio, launched in March is a development plan for retailers. We recognise that shoppers are using internet more and do not use local shops, so we have to find other ways to encourage people to visit our villages. Encourage villages to have more events, so people come to that and while out do shopping etc in that place. This will not solve the problem, but helps to solve journey, improve journey. So trying to introduce more initiatives.

Cllr. Blastock mentioned Lodge Lane where road is coming apart, thinks this has been put on the back burner. Cllr. Norris thinks the whole thing and top of High Street have been delayed. Cllr. Blastock said my concern is Cripplegate and how bad that is. Cllr. Norris said they have marked the potholes, Cllr. Blastock said

that was done a while ago. Cllr. Norris said it is getting worse at top of Cripplegate, lot of tarmac is disappearing and not certain where edge of road is. Cllr. Blastock said they have also been driving over the triangle. Cllr. Norris asked the Clerk to reiterate our concerns, as it has already been reported. Cllr. Steels asked about the road surface at the top of the High Street. Cllr. Norris said this has been rescheduled.

Meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 6.30p.m. in the Main Hall of the Village Hall.