

BEAULIEU PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON THURSDAY 17th MARCH 2016
AT BEAULIEU VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Cllr. M. Harris will join the meeting later

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr. K. Thornber, Cllr. M. Harris, Mr. J. Beaumont, Mr. A. Mills, Ms. Sara Wallis, Mrs. N. Deering (Clerk)

1207. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Proposed: Cllr. Knight Seconded: Cllr. Grindrod

1208. MATTERS ARISING

1201. Cllr. Steele asked who was responsible for the uneven paving slabs in the village hall courtyard. Clerk said Steve Green was going to sort this. Cllr. Norris mentioned the improvements the Estate have done to the notice board. Says it looks immaculate and a credit to the parish. Clerk to write to Estate and thank them for promptly getting this refurbished.

1183. Cllr. Shanks said the Cooke-Hurle's mentioned the lights in the car park. Cllr. Norris said he had emailed customer care at Hampshire PFI and said there is dissatisfaction with the lights. Cllr. Shanks said they are very bright white lights with no baffles or dimmers. Said there is a softer yellow light in the High Street. Cllr. Thornber said PFI is Private Finance Initiative, whereby they are replacing 160,000 lights across the country. The vast majority are white lights, which are energy efficient. Cllr. Thornber says he has alerted his officers and sees no reason why we cannot have a yellow light. Cllr. Steele said can we please have dimmers and baffles. Cllr. Norris said if we have that done to the present light we might not get the yellow light. Cllr. Shanks asked Cllr. Thornber if he can take the yellow light further. Cllr. Shanks/Cllr. Steele will tell the Cooke-Hurle's about this conversation.

1206. Cllr. Steele mentioned the defib and the minutes as it gives the impression that we do not check the defib. Said it is checked every week and we are now going to keep a record book.

1209. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

1210. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sara Wallis said when she parks in the car park to collect her children from school, she sees quite a few cars going round the wrong way as there are no in/out signs. Cllr. Thornber said we can have surface markings on the road and he will take this up with DC and CC or both.

Mr. Beaumont mentioned Browns lane and said 'right of way' is nearing approval, waiting for reactions and closes today or tomorrow, then goes to Bristol planners. Said Thorns Beach appeals have both been turned down.

1211. **POLICE LIAISON**

PC Eastwood not present.

1212. **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Cllr. Thornber reported on Operation Resilience, surface dressing treatments. They will be trying this on Furzey Lane. The purpose of the treatment is to seal the road structure from water ingress, which arrests the formation of potholes. The process of surface dressing involves spraying a finely calibrated amount of bitumen on to the existing, cleansed, road surface, followed by feeding a calibrated amount of aggregate on to the film of bitumen. The treatment is briefly rolled to begin the embedment process which is completed by the action of vehicles moving over the treatment slowly.

Cllr. Thornber said the vice chairman of the CC hopes to have a concert in Beaulieu, in the Domus, and has choirs from Romsey Abbey and CC, may have an ensemble of country youth orchestra, to be held in late Autumn or next year and would like the PC's support. Cllr. Norris asked is it fund raising or cultural. Cllr. Thornber replied it is cultural. Cllr. Norris said it would be better to hold it in the Abbey Church. Cllr. Steele suggesting looking at Music at Beaulieu Abbey timetable. Cllr. Norris said January better and the sooner you book the better and PC happy to support. Cllr. Thornber will email the vice chairman and tell him the suggestions the PC have made. Mr. Beaumont said you could talk to Sir Anthony Evans as he has taken over Music at Beaulieu Abbey, but Cllr. Norris felt it was more a Beaulieu PCC initiative.

Cllr. Thornber said we are being pushed by George Osbourne to agree a Southern power house, as an image of the Northern power house, which would have been Hants and IOW. Said such offers always come accompanied by conditions – one of the conditions was for the 15 authorities that are within Hants, that we would have an elected mayor. The mayor would have considerable powers which would diminish the roles of the CC and the District and Borough Councils and indeed the IOW. There was tremendous rush to get an agreement so George Osbourne could announce it today. Looked as though certainly Hants and IOW as a unit were not going to sign the agreement, and so it transpired. In the meantime, approach was made to the Solent area, and the Solent combined authority was approached by government to see if they would agree the full evolution. They agreed and it was the reversal of the decision made before and the CC and the other six authorities did approach government and say we are just being pushed far too quickly, and do not believe we can consult with people and neither can we have a debate with each of the 14 authorities till we decide. Under tremendous pressure and finally the announcement was deleted from George Osbourne's announcement. Said there are a number of strings attached to devolution which really need thinking through. For example for the princely sum of £30m year, which is the same as authorities, such as Somerset and Bristol, and they were offered £30m a year for 30 years and yet Hants and IOW, three times the size and the Solent is twice the size. £30m is 80% for road infrastructure. Said in lanes leading to the M27 the cost of £45m, so it really was not attractive. The mayor would have responsibilities and authority over planning matter and number of houses. The number of houses which the government is demanding is double

the number. 28,000 in our case in the next 10 years. Instead it will be 24,000, making it 52,00 and would have to give up certain of our planning and responsibilities and skills, businesses and enterprises. So to cut a long story short, what we were saying is please do not rush headlong into this, we are not sure Hants would want an elected mayor for the whole of its 2m population and IOW and we have got to negotiate more than £30m per year, compared with Somerset and Bristol. Our population is three times as large. Devolution will come into perception more and more and it is clearly wanting a southern power house and Hants was the favorite, but it has fallen down now. An elected mayor takes lots of the authority away from District and CC and will be quite a lot learned about devolution. I think we should approach this carefully and not be pushed as we have been, now being told we must make up our minds by June, so fundamental to Hants and all of its districts and borough councils. While it might be nice to be the first power house, nevertheless we are saying let's be very clear at what this entails.

Cllr. Steele asked Cllr. Thornber if he can throw some light on the funding and maintenance of coastal path. How/who is picking up the bill? Been told by NE that 2/3rds of paths will be existing rights of way and maintenance by CC. Cllr. Steele asked if you are making allowances for greater use of paths and car parking, as it will potentially cost a lot of money. Cllr. Thornber said certainly as the Rights of Way Authority 2/3rds will fall upon CC at a time when we have lost £480m of revenue funding. Said he thought DEFRA through NE would fund some of the cost. As for car parking, I think that's subject to some debate, but those are my initial reactions. Cllr. Steele feels it will be tough on CC, Cllr. Thornber replied that the CC has a Rights of Way officer, Andrew Smith and he will write to him and copy the clerk in and will ask those questions. Feels this has crept up on the CC and knew nothing until the last meeting of BPC. Cllr. Steele said it is quite obvious that these sort of questions they just don't answer. Said it was particularly relevant in Hampshire, where certain parts of the coast are established coastal walks. Said this is probably the first area where there are not many existing paths. Said waiting to see if the coastal path falls within the NP and if it does then we have another statutory body to consult. Cllr. Norris felt it would do and said we have the Solent Mitigation Committee on migratory birds, so there will be 4/5 statutory bodies and quite a round of consultation. Cllr. Norris said while talking about statutory bodies and consultation, any news of broadband. Said on the website it says 'a matter of weeks'. Cllr. Thornber said the officer concerned came and looked at BI, which is on the triangle as you drive down to EB and there is an existing cabinet and we were prepared to mitigate, because NE said we must, .6 of a sq.m. to be returned to the forest, there is a bus stop there and a piece of tarmac and prepared to do that to mitigate. However we have identified near to that cabinet, the frontage of a house and I believe the householder has agreed and if we are able to site it there then we can extend where EB and BI meant to go. Said I have some hesitation in my voice as we have 11 cabinets presently held up either by statutory bodies and their insistence of our finding land in mitigation. A cabinet is .6 sq.m., 11 held up = 70 sq.m. that we have to find. Having said that I have been informed that the CC for

many years has owned land off Gazar Avenue, EB and have asked officers to look at it. Look for sufficient land for whole of needs of NF and give that to NE and Verderers etc, so very hopeful. Feels we are making a way forward and a solution to this.

1213. **NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCILS REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Cllr. Harris not present yet.

1214. **PLANNING**

None

1215. **DECISIONS**

None

1216. **SEATING IN THE VILLAGE HALL COURTYARD**

Cllr. Steele said she has found an excellent bench at Fairweathers, traditional, well made, same price, solid teak, £500 normally, special deal of £379.00 and no transport costs. Suggest we go ahead and will fit the spot beautifully.

Vote : decided some of the money from the CGT go towards improvements of courtyard area, which we have started to take responsibility for. Is it the wish we purchase the bench from Fairweathers for £379.00. All councilors approved.

Cllr. Steele asked if Cllr. Knight could organise the fixing and leave at Fairweathers until we can fix it. Said we could buy the fixings, but asked Cllr. Knight what he thought, he replied angle iron, and said it would not take long.

Cllr. Norris asked if he was doing this out of the kindness of his heart and Cllr. Knight agreed, but said will need to purchase some concrete post mix. Cllr.

Steele feels we need 4/5 new shrubs and can we use the balance from CGT? All councilors agreed. Said Mark had cleared it up and cut back. Asked Cllr. Fairweather to advise on best shrubs. Cllr. Steele thinks we need to spend approx.

£100, Cllr. Fairweather thought more like £50. Cllr. Norris said took advice and removed the wreaths, as it is quite in order to remove them after Christmas.

Asked Cllr. Knight if he could put a proper hook there.

1217. **NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCILS REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Reported that he had chaired a meeting re broadband. Said we had presentations in the past from Open Reach and CC, so met officers about an initiative being launched at NF Show for local solutions/local answers to broadband, based on parish of Hyde, who have come up with their own community based solution to lack of broadband. So NFDC have looked at this and produced a tool kit to guide local groups, who have decided they want to raise their own funds. Asking for figures to be produced. Open Reach say it will be 5%, but larger number in NF, 5 – 10%, either way it is unacceptable. Going to write to MP and PM and to everyone I can think of and say it has to be unacceptable. You have water, gas, electricity and not have broadband is unacceptable, given that so much is done on the internet. This has to change and having 7 authorities to consult is ridiculous, so encouraging everyone to write and protest whenever you have the opportunity. Would like to report on another project I have been involved with – “screen tourism”. The effects of seeing programmes on the television ie Doc Martin, then people are interested in visiting these villages. Filming has a very strong economic benefit to the community. Said approx £20,000 is spent each day by production, a sizeable amount of money. Creating England offer a

partnership agreement and local authorities buy into bronze, silver or gold package and you find out where crews are working, locations being used and tourism is a primary benefit. Said when Tom Cruise was filming "Mission Impossible" the crew stayed a fortnight at the Chewton Glen and the spend must have been considerable. So NFDC have now approved that and Mary Montagu-Scott attended the meeting as she is interested, as Beaulieu River was used for filming last year. Said an awful lot can be and is being done to encourage the use of the NF. Said the 1991 film "Robin Hood" 80% of Sherwood Forest was actually filmed in the NF. Cllr. Norris thanked Cllr. Harris and said I believe you chair the NF Business Partnership and Mr. Climpson was in the Lymington Times two months ago saying there would be help for NF villages regarding tourism and developing for retailers and there would be workshops and also parking in forest villages was going to be thought about. Has anything happened since then? Cllr. Harris said four workshops have been set up and open to anyone. Said he knows we have specific issues here and said Cllr. Heron would like to come and talk to the PC and could come next meeting. Cllr. Norris said it would be a very good if he could attend and perhaps you could ask him.

1218 **CCTV**

Cllr. Fairweather said he has been trying to get the advice of Steve Avery and taken three weeks to get replies to email/telephone calls, but now have a time when he will ring me next Wednesday with advice on how to approach the planning application on the listed building of the Montagu Arms. I will have clear guidance then and we can proceed. In the meantime there have been three requests for pictures from the existing cameras, one from Cllr. Shanks and two requests from the Montagu Arms, but not getting anywhere with Central Southern Security, who need to do more work for us to be able to dial in through a modem to get the pictures and I believe the only way forward is we actually pay them for the work they have done on the understanding that the camera do not remain there and we will relocate them to other places in the village. It is very frustrating and people do not understand the situation of the cameras. They see them and think they are working and would like evidence of my car being damaged for example. We have this equipment we have not paid for and now asking them to do more things and explaining we still have not applied for planning permission and I feel we need to give them a commitment that somehow those cameras will be used somewhere. Cllr. Norris agreed and said we need to take advice on people asking the PC they would like to look at the camera records, are we able to do that. Cllr. Fairweather says we need advice. Cllr. Norris said shall we wait till we receive feed back from Steve Avery. Cllr. Norris asked if councilors are happy we pay for the camera. Said we agreed to pay for it over three years and then keep it. Feels like Cllr. Fairweather that we need to sort this. Cllr. Steele asked if we can ring them and ask how much we owe them to date. Cllr. Fairweather said we would wait for advice and move forward accordingly. Cllr. Shanks said it seemed a shame that we cannot access the data, but Cllr. Norris said that was our fault, but the cameras might have deterred some burglars.

1219. **FLOATION AID**

Cllr. Steele reported that it has arrived and gone to the Estate office and they are

going to put it on oak posts and have paid the invoice.

1220. **COASTAL PATH**

Cllr. Norris reported we have a full presentation by NE and invited interested local residents and it was a good turn out and a further meeting here this month, which I believe was well attended. This was a further presentation by NE because of the concern of a lot of residents. Said us as a PC do not own any land, so in some ways we are not involved in that respect, but for the good of our community we obviously have an interest. We will be consulted and we will be able to object to something we disagree with within our parish. Said the NE website is very good and explains a lot and there is a map of where they intend to run the path or areas they are considering. It does run right the way down one side of the Beaulieu River and Beaulieu village and down the other side of the river. Cllr. Steele thinks where we do have an interest as a PC is on the parking front. It is quite clear from the meeting that it is something they think they have no responsibility for, so basically washed their hands of it and think in our patch parking will be a major issue. We already have a problem with people parking in the High Street and walking to Bucklers Hard, so if a whole area is opened up and more people will be here, it will be a nightmare and think the other area that is going to be badly hit is Sowley with its small lanes i.e Browns Lane to the foreshore. Feels we as a PC should at this stage of the negotiations with NE write to them and put down our concerns and say we feel this is something that as an area/village could be very detrimental to us. Cllr. Norris said we could do that or wait until they have made a decision. Cllr. Steele feels doing it at this stage is that at the meeting we mentioned parking and they did say in some areas if parking was a serious problem they might have to reconsider the route, so we make them well aware of the small lanes in Sowley and that the High Street is already a serious parking issue. Cllr. Norris said shall we draft a letter and everyone looks at it and comments and we then send off voicing our early concerns. Cllr. Steele said our area is different, not like Cornwall where they already have these walks and existing car parks, which we do not have here. Cllr. Norris asked Cllr. Fairweather what he thought as he lives at the other end of our parish and he replied he was very worried and if people start parking on forest land that is going to ruin the verges and it is already packed around Sowley and the access to Browns Lane is already blocked and no one is meant to have access, it also affects road quality and do not know where people are going to park. They will just leave their cars anywhere, ie Gins Yacht Club. Agree with Cllr. Steele that we need to flag this up now and it should be a consideration when they think about the route. Cllr. Knight said he is worried about parking in Dock Lane and Cllr. Steele said they will park wherever they can and there will be chaos. Cllr. Grindrod said they have another meeting on the 31st March, which Cllr. Steele said was for Dock Lane/Hummicks residents. Cllr. Norris said we had an info meeting so everyone could come and find things out, what we need to be careful with is if a massive human cry gets drummed up in the parish, that the PC does not get dragged along with it, but if everyone feels we ought to flag it up, as we see it as a problem, at least we have been discussing Browns Lane for two years, this council and the council before. One of the problems was that it gets blocked

with traffic when a stingray appears in the solent, so we know what is probably going to happen. Cllr. Steele said it is a very reasonable thing as a PC to flag up, but cannot be seen to be taking sides with big property owners, who are going to be disadvantaged by it, but it is our business to safe guard locals from disruption and inability to park in the High Street. Cllr. Norris said there is a big issue as the parish is choked. All councilors in agreement to send letter.

1221. **PARKING**

Cllr. Norris said we have talked about this in the coastal path. Said the situation in the village does not improve. Said Cllr. Fairweather and himself will be attending a meeting with Beaulieu Estate next week. Cllr. Thornber will be attending, but uncertain whether Lord Montagu will be present and asked councilors if there was anything they want him to tell Lord Montagu. Cllr. Steele asked if she should update the report to cover the car park and numbers etc. Cllr. Norris agreed and said he will report back after the meeting. Cllr. Shanks said she thought Lord Montagu was against using the field at the top of the High Street for parking, but to my mind it is the most obvious and wondering if we could press on him how well they have landscaped the parking at the Motor Museum and surely as this is a very low field and with the right amount of landscaping, which possibly the PC could pay for, then it might not be such an awful vision as he thinks. Cllr. Norris thinks what we are going to be offered is not going to be satisfactory for us. Cllr. Grindrod suggested the community field. Cllr. Norris said he did look at this and what did occur to him was if you doubled the width of the gravel road, moved the fence over into field, and have a chevron type car park. Put nose of car in and park all down that road and gates open and gates into gravel yard behind Warners Cottage/Jasmine Cottage, which is under used. That would make 12/15 spaces. Cllr. Grindrod said would it be best to keep enclosed just for resident. Cllr. Norris felt he was right, but if enclose it and put gates on to keep out ponies then human nature says they will not get out and open the gate. Cllr. Norris said residents could be asked to park there as part of their tenancy agreement, that might be one way of approaching it. Cllr. Grindrod said if you leave it open then anyone coming to use coastal path will use it. Cllr. Norris asked about parking clocks in the car park and said if we ban parking clocks then they will all move out to the High Street, but what about allowing 2/3 hour ones, but not 24 hour. Cllr. Shanks said RWD, they have made the Mill beautiful, and are being very caring and buying all staff parking clocks and we are turning round and saying 'don't'. Cllr. Steele says when the Estate organise commercial lets they really most organise car parking to go with the property. Cllr. Norris said it was also the Montagu Arms. Also parking along the wall in Church Meadow could be considered. Cllr. Norris said the NP is not helping as driving more and more people to do the Beaulieu to Bucklers Hard walk and also the coastal path, and they have to pay at Bucklers Hard. Cllr. Fairweather asked if the school had made any representations to the Estate about car parking pressure. Ms. Wallis said not that she knows of. Cllr. Fairweather said it would be useful and one point raised is that he is comfortable accommodating the parents dropping off, but the pressure on our car park in the afternoon now is not good, as today it was full and there can be up to 20 parents cars and if we put an end to that the High Street will

become clogged with cars parked illegally. Said unsafe for parents to drop and collect their children that way. Feels another aspect on the pressure on the way that Lord Montagu need to be aware of . Cllr. Norris said this is on going and we hope we get a result.

1222. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Discussed email from Ian Norris re: The Royal Oak and thanked Cllr. Harris for his help in speaking to Gary Worsley. This was a complaint about the lights at the Royal Oak. In fact there is nothing illegal with them, nothing wrong. However the manager has angled the lighting down further and the officer from NFDC is trying to arrange a meeting with the main complainant and the manager. Map of 30/40mph signs moved at Hilltop – happening soon. Inspectors report on Thorns Beach – appeal and decision. Coastal access – Exbury PC are quite concerned about the path, particularly in Beaulieu and written to Lord Montagu, which can only strengthen our case.

General

HALC – Feb e-update

HMRC – BACS remittance VAT - £287.97

Clerks and Councils Direct

Oakhaven Hospice Colour Run and Quack Races

Tower Mint – Commemorative Medal

Community First BF - Nightstop

Rural Services Network – Weekly Email Digest and Rural Transport

NFNP

Planning Workshops – Listed buildings, design and conservation

Planning policy and local plan review

Trees and the planning process

Planning applications and enforcement

Being run over the course of the year at Lyndhurst Community Centre 2-4pm, clerk to book places.

Also Cllr. Norris and Cllr. Knight were attending a talk on enclosures on 22nd March, but Cllr. Norris now cannot attend.

1223. **CHEQUE SIGNING**

Glasdon – Floation Aid - £201.70

Clerks Salary - £761.50

Beaulieu Village Hall Trust - £36.00

E. Young - £112.50

NFNPA – Course Fees – Traditional Building Skills - £30.00

C. Fairweather – Bench - £379.00

Proposed: Cllr. Grindrod Seconded: Cllr. Steele

1224. **QUESTION TIME**

Finger sign at Ashenwood, Lodge Lane, broken. Clerk to report

Meeting closed at 8.15p.m.

Date of Next Meeting + Annual Assembly – Thursday 21st April 2016 at 6.30p.m. in the Main Hall of the Village Hall.