

Minutes of the Meeting of Beechingstoke Parish Council to be held on

Tuesday 4th October at 7.00pm in the Woodborough Parish Room

(Postponed from 20th September)

Present: Councillors Paul Oatway, Rosa Lancaster, David Pritchett and Edd Wright.

Clerk Ruth Kinderman

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Aimee Harman

2. To declare interests

None declared.

3. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2022

Cllr Oatway proposed that these be accepted as an accurate record; seconded by Cllr Wright, all in favour and signed accordingly by Cllr Oatway.

4. To consider matters arising

Cllr Pritchett had attended the Area Board meeting and reported that the group appeared to achieve a lot of good for the benefit of the Pewsey Vale. Clerk will notify councillors of the next Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) meeting, which also works for parishes in the Pewsey Vale; Cllr Oatway noted that some parishes support PCAP financially and that making a donation would be an optional extra to consider when setting the budget.

Clerk to check that entries made by parish councillors on the Register of Interests held by Wiltshire Council are complete.

ACTION:RK

5. To review finance

Clerk had obtained the cheque book and paying in book for the dormant bank account held with Barclays; Clerk to telephone Barclays to obtain the current balance. Former councillor Charles Lucas is willing to complete a cheque to close that account and transfer the balance to any new account this parish council chooses to open.

ACTION:RK

It was agreed that Cllr Wright would enquire in Lloyds, Devizes, about opening an account and obtain paperwork for all three signatories (Cllrs Wright, Lancaster and Pritchett). **ACTION:EW**

Clerk had distributed by email a list of projected expenditure for 2023-2024, showing essential and optional items; hard copies were distributed at the meeting. It was noted that a website would cost approximately £2000.00 and it was therefore agreed to ask Democratic Services

for permission to continue using Wiltshire Council's website to host documents for this parish council for the next financial year in order to avoid an unacceptably large precept.

ACTION:RK

As residents have not paid a precept for some years, it was agreed to advertise the next meeting widely; Cllr Oatway and the Clerk will arrange a flyer to explain the budget setting process and invite residents to attend the meeting at which the precept is agreed.

ACTION:RK/PO

After further discussion about communication with residents, Cllr Wright volunteered to set up a Whats App group for Beechingstoke. The group will not be run by or on behalf of the parish council but will enable residents to share ideas with each other and with councillors about village matters. Clerk advised that the parish council is the legal decision-making body and that ideas must be brought to council rather than decided through the App.

ACTION:EW

6. To note external audit arrangements for 2022/23-2026/27

Clerk explained that all parish councils are legally obliged to appoint an internal auditor each year and that this can be anybody independent of the council considered by councillors to be sufficiently competent to inspect the accounts. Parish councils with both annual expenditure and income below £25,000.00 may exempt themselves from external audit and submit a certificate to the external auditor to that effect; however, parish councils under three years old may not exempt themselves in this way and this parish council will be legally obliged to have an external audit for the next three years. Central Government appoints the external auditor for parish councils, awarding five- year contracts through Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA). PKF Littlejohn's current contract for auditing parish councils in Wiltshire is at an end and the new contract will be announced shortly.

Parish councils may opt-out of the SAAA contract and appoint their own external auditor, taking responsibility for any fees and for meeting all legal requirements; Clerk noted that no parish councils opted out of SAAA arrangements when the contract was last out to tender.

Cllr Wright proposed that this parish council remain opted-in to SAAA arrangements; seconded by Cllr Pritchett, all in favour. No further action required.

7. To review planning applications

No planning applications had been received since the last meeting

8. To consider speed limits in the parish

Cllr Lancaster said that residents had felt for a long time that the speed limits in the village are too high, especially at the eastern end, where residential driveways along Woodborough Road exit into the middle of a straight stretch set at the national speed limit; it is less of a problem near the church, where the road narrows and bends. Councillors felt that due to the increase in traffic volumes, together with the increasing number of cyclists and walkers, the problem is more acute than it was. It was noted that last year a car had rolled onto its roof at the turning to Marden. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Oatway would request a site meeting with Mark Stansby, Senior Highways Engineer, with a view to order a review of the limits through the parish. A short-term solution could be 'Slow Down' signs; it was agreed that the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) in use in neighbouring villages are effective, several of whom share two SIDs on a rota arranged by Colin Gale of Rushall. Clerk said that each member parish pays £300.00 annually towards this cooperative arrangement. It was noted that those SIDs are designed to enforce lower limits whereas the aim of this parish council is to encourage vehicles to travel below the limit. Cllr Oatway will report back to the next meeting with prices for 'SLOW DOWN' flashing warning signs.

ACTION:PO

9. To consider request for dog waste bins

Clerk had received a request from a resident for dog waste bins. Clerk noted that dual purpose waste bins, for both general litter and dog waste bags, are more cost effective as they do not require a special licence for emptying. Clerk noted that Wiltshire Council no longer installs new waste bins and that any bins would need to be purchased by the parish council and a contract for emptying them would be financed by the parish council. It was agreed to review this item at the next meeting, when the budget will be confirmed, and the precept set.

10. To consider complaints about parking and noise at Limberstone

Clerk had received reports of frequent parties, with excessive noise and visitor parking along the road and on the green at Limberstone, preventing visitors and carers for other residents being able to park. Clerk had ascertained that the grassed area belongs to Aster, who will install 'No Parking' signs. The house in question is a private tenancy and not the responsibility of Aster. The police had advised that residents should call 101 in the event of noise at the unsocial hours of 11.00pm until 7.00am.

Councillors were unaware of complaints and had not observed additional parking on the green. It was agreed that the situation should be monitored.

ACTION:ALL

11. To set date of next meeting

The next meeting of the parish council will be held in the Woodborough Parish Room on

Tuesday 29th November 2022 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

DRAFT