

BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Date of Publication: Wednesday 6th March 2024

To: Cllr Paula Fox (Chair), Cllr Clive Winterbourne, Cllr Liz Wright, Cllr Kevin Bishop and Cllr Rory Ingleby-MacKenzie.

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend the Full Council meeting of Beckington Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.00pm in the Beckington Memorial Hall, Bath Road, Beckington, Frome BA11 6SHp



Paul Russell
Locum Clerk

Public Participation and Somerset Councillors Reports

Prior to the start of the meeting fifteen minutes will be allowed for questions or comments from members of the public. Any resident wishing to address the Council will have about 3 minutes.

Questions may not be answered at the meeting; a written reply maybe be given within 7 days.

Once the meeting has started members of the public are reminded that they have no right to speak.

The Somerset Councillors are invited to make a report to the Parish Council in this time as well.

AGENDA

160. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence and resolve to accept the reasons.

161. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members to declare any 'Pecuniary' or 'Other' interests under the council's code of conduct. Members are reminded of their responsibility to register their interests with Somerset Council and to keep that register up to date.

162. MINUTES

To formally approve and adopt the minutes of the Beckington Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 20th February 2024 (attached)

163. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

To receive an update on progress. A ten minute slot will be allocated to this item.

164. PLANNING, LICENSING & TREE APPLICATIONS:

To receive an update from Cllr Wright. The following applications will be considered:

Proposal: Construction & operation of a solar photovoltaic farm with battery storage & associated infrastructure, including inverters, security cameras, fencing, access tracks & landscaping. (Revised information received 29/02/2024)

Location: Land To The South East Of Bradford Road Rode Frome Somerset

Application: 2023/2183/FUL

165. BECKINGTON LOOP

To consider applying for the Beckington Loop to be recorded/upgraded on the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way (the legal record) under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Please see the relevant link on Somerset Council's website: [Protect land from new rights of way and town and village green claims \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/protect-land-from-new-rights-of-way-and-town-and-village-green-claims)

166. SECTION 106 SUBMISSION

To receive an update on the receipt of funding.

167. BECKINGTON CRICKET CLUB

To receive an update on this matter following, consider what the next steps should be and allocate adequate funding of approximately £2,000 if required.

168. HIGHWAYS SERVICES DEVOLUTION

To note that an Expression of Interest has been submitted to Somerset Council. A further update will be provided if available.

169. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) **Payments** – To approve the payments outlined below:

Supplier	Service	Net	VAT	Total
Paul Russell	Locum Clerk – March 24	£750.00	£0.00	£750.00
A Richards/Wix.com	NP Website/Domain	£179.62	£33.60	£213.22
Beckington Memorial Hall	NP Hire	£96.00	£0.00	£96.00
Stuart Todd	NP Consultancy	£770.70	£154.14	£924.84
P Fox	NP Costs	£23.09	£4.63	£27.72
Fossil Design	Email update/Annual Fee	£85.00	£0.00	£85.00
TOTAL		£1,904.41	£192.37	£2,096.78

- (b) **Banking** – To receive an update on the progress of changing banks to Unity Trust.
- (c) **Council IT Provision and Purchase of a Council Laptop** – To review the quotation received from MicroshadeVSM to provide an IT cloud solution and to consider the purchase of a new laptop. Please see the attached report outlining the proposal.
- (d) **Insurance** – To confirm that the Council wishes to continue insuring with Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd.

170. NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of Beckington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 9th April 2024.

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FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Beckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 7.00pm in the Beckington Memorial Hall, Bath Road, Beckington, Frome BA11 6SH.

PRESENT: Cllr Paula Fox (Chair), Cllr Kevin Bishop, Cllr Clive Winterbourne, Cllr Liz Wright and Cllr Rory Ingleby-MacKenzie.

ALSO PRESENT: Ward Councillor Adam Boyden, two members of the Neighbourhood Plan Streeting Group and the Parish Clerk.

Prior to the start of the meeting fifteen minutes was allowed for questions and comments from members of the public.

Cllr Boyden presented the Ward Councillor Report, which was noted. The budget had been agreed and Somerset Council had avoided declaring bankruptcy.

145. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies. Ward Cllr Denton had submitted her apologies for not being able to attend.

146. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No Declarations of Interests were made.

147. MINUTES

Council considered the minutes and **RESOLVED** to formally approve and adopt the minutes of the Council meetings held on Tuesday 23rd January 2024.

48. PLANNING, LICENSING & TREE APPLICATIONS

Council noted that no planning applications had been received.

149. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Council received an update on progress from the Steering Group representatives:

- There were 12 members on the Steering Group representing a broad range of interests and backgrounds;
- The project plan was in place;
- The declarations of interest was in place;
- Support for a Housing Needs Survey and the development of design guidelines had been secured;
- A launch event was planned to take place on 14th March 2024;
- A survey of the village had been developed and would be launched on 14th March 2024.

Council agreed to approve the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group subject to the minor amendments agreed.

150. HGV SIGNAGE

Council considered the two options put forward. Members agreed to opt for Somerset Council to provide the signage as part of its highway improvement plan.

151. HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY PROJECT

Council considered the information presented regarding the Hedgehogs R Us project. Following discussion, it was agreed not to pursue this initiative at present due to the logistical challenges making the items available to the public.

152. SECTION 106 SUBMISSION

Council received an update on the S106 application and agreed to formally sign the agreement and submit it to Somerset Council. Funding would then be transferred to the Parish Council to deliver the project agreed.

153. SOMERSET COUNCIL

Council noted the current financial situation at Somerset Council following the update provided by Cllr Boyden.

154. BECKINGTON CRICKET CLUB

Council considered the re-registration of the Recreation Ground having exhausted all other enquiries. The Parish Council was the Custodian Trustees of the land.

Following discussion, it was agreed to contact a specialist solicitor for further advice and to contact Land Registry to find out if there was a more cost-effective way of re-registering the land. The matter would be reconsidered at the next meeting.

155. BECKINGTON ALLOTMENTS

Following discussion, Council agreed to adopt the emended agreement and forward it to the Allotment Association for signing.

156. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) **Payments** – Council **RESOLVED** to approve the payment below:

Supplier	Service	Net	VAT	Total
Paul Russell	Locum Clerk – Feb 24	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00
A Richards/Wix.com	NP Website	£168.00	£33.60	£201.60
RYJ Retailing Ltd	NP Printing	£350.00	£0.00	£350.00
TOTAL		£1,118.00	£33.60	£1,151.60

(b) **Banking** – Following discussion, Council **RESOLVED** to consider transferring the Council's bank accounts from Nat West to Unity Trust Bank. The Parish Clerk was asked to commence the process.

157. COUNCIL IT PROVISION

Council considered the quotation received from MicroshadeVSM to provide an IT cloud solution plus hosted email boxes for Councillors. Following discussion, it was agreed to defer this matter until the next meeting so that Members could consider the proposal in more detail.

158. STAFFING

Council received the staffing report and considered it. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Appoint Mr Russell as Clerk to the Council on NCP Scale 34;
- Allocate £25 per month for the Parish Clerk's work from home expenses;
- Agree membership to the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) for the Parish Clerk at a cost of £148 plus a £10 joining fee.

That the Clerk would formally commence the role on 1st April 2024.

It was agreed to defer consideration of the purchase of a new laptop until quotations had been obtained and

159. NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of Beckington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 12th March 2024.

There being no other business the Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:08pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: