

BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

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: