

BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Beckington Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th June 2024 commencing 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 Cllr Denton, the Vice Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, one member of the public and the Parish Clerk.

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No Declarations of Interest were made.

19. MINUTES

Council **RESOLVED** to formally approve and adopt the minutes of the Beckington Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2024.

20. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Council received the following update report:

- The analysis of the recent survey was currently being undertaken. A 40% response had been achieved with around 33% online and the remainder in hard copy.
- Other matters of concern that did not impact on the Neighbourhood Plan included litter, dog waste and the poor state of footpaths and highways. It was suggested that some of these could be addressed through community/voluntary action;
- A summary of the survey results would be produced. It was intended that the main highlights would be included in a leaflet and distributed to all households in the village;
- It was hoped that the survey analysis would be complete by the end of June. It would also be submitted to Network Magazine for inclusion;
- A Housing Needs Assessment had also been undertaken by Locality and was currently being reviewed;
- A Design Code was being developed also through Locality and this would be assessed as well;
- The Steering Group was also hoping to undertake a Landscape Assessment either using consultants or volunteers;
- An application was being prepared for the next tranche of funding;
- A further village event was being planned and held in September. This would be aimed at local businesses and community activity.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow the Public Session. Matters raised included various planning matters, the Neighbourhood Plan and highway issues.

Cllr Denton provided a Somerset Council update.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

21. PLANNING, LICENSING & TREE APPLICATIONS:

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

Proposal: Erection of conservatory and installation of treatment plant.
Location: The Bungalow Staffords Mead Rudge Lane Beckington
Application: 2024/0831/HSE
Comment: In principle Council has no objection provided that planning and building regulations are complied with. Clearly a new treatment plant is needed. Please note that the Council is of the view that discharge to the ditch running alongside Rudge Lane would be more appropriate than a soak away due to the underlying sandy/clay soil. If the Planning Officer is minded to approve the application then Beckington Parish Council requests that this be included as a condition of that permission.

Proposal: Installation of 15 x solar panels to Garden Barn
Location: The Old Manor Rudge Lane Rudge Frome
Application: 2024/0839/LBC
Comment: Council wishes to support this application for the following reasons:

- The harm done to the barn is outweighed by the potential benefits in terms of electricity generation.
- We are in a time of climate emergency.
- The impact on the street scene is minimal, and there are already three other properties in the hamlet with solar panels clearly visible from Rudge Lane.

Proposal: Prior notification of agricultural development: Excavation of 4no. attenuation ponds across the farm to collect and intercept rain and flow pathways for natural flood management purposes.
Location: Ivy House Farm Berkley Lane Beckington Frome
Application: 2024/0850/AGE
Comment: Council appreciates this application being sent to it as a matter of courtesy. Council is most pleased that action is being taken to improve the drainage at Ivy House Farm and to prevent flooding on local roads.

Proposal: Application for prior notification of agricultural development for the re-siting of an existing steel portal frame agricultural building for storage of fodder and machinery.
Location: Eden Vale Farm Mill Lane Beckington Frome
Application: 2024/0866/AGB

Comment: The Council appreciates that this application has been sent to it as a matter of courtesy. Council has no specific comment to make on the application.

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

Application: 2023/2183/FUL

Comment: Council **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to Cllrs Wright and Ingleby-MacKenzie to draft an appropriate response based on previous comments submitted,

22. RISK ASSESSMENT

Council reviewed the Council Risk Assessment and agreed to adopt it.

23. PARISH COUNCIL ASSETS LIST

Council reviewed the Asset Register and agreed to adopt it subject to the agreed amendment to include the litter pickers on it that had been donated.

24. END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

Council considered the adoption of the end of year accounts

(a) Council **RESOLVED** to accept and approval of Internal Auditors Report for End of Financial Year Accounts 2023-24

(b) Council **RESOLVED** to accept and approval the Annual Governance Statement and to authorise Chair to sign on behalf of Council.

(c) Council **RESOLVED** to accept and approval Accounting Statements and to authorise Chair and RFO to sign on behalf of Council (Section 2)

(d) Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the dates for publication of the Notice Period for the Exercise of Public Rights which would take place between Monday 17th June to Friday 26th July 2024.

25. BAPTIST CHAPEL

Council discussed the potential future of this building. It was understood that it was not yet on the market. Council agreed to contact the Baptist Church and request an opportunity to discuss the future of the building and to make some additional enquiries related to trying to secure the building.

26. S106 FUNDS

Council noted that the S106 funding had not yet been transferred from Somerset Council to the Parish Council. It was agreed to follow this up and request that the payment be made.

27. ALLOTMENTS

Council noted that an enquiry had been received from the Solicitors regarding the allotments. It was agreed that Cllr Bishop reply to the Solicitors.

28. 20 MPH SCHEME

Council noted that the original cheque sent to Somerset Council had not cleared. It was agreed to follow this up and establish what had happened to the payment.

29. SALC

Following discussion, Council **RESOLVED** to rejoin the Somerset Association of Local Councils. Membership entitled the Council to access advice and to make use of document templates such as Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

30. CLLR TRAINING

Council discussed training options for Councillors. It was agreed to review the training available from SALC in the first instance and to contact the Somerset Monitoring Officer to find out whether additional training could be secured.

31. BECKINGTON LOOP

Council considered the Beckington Loop which was currently available under permissive use. Following discussion it was agreed to make further enquiries about registering this popular route and having it formally adopted as an official footpath.

32. REFURBISHMENT OF FINGERPOSTS

Following consideration Council **RESOLVED** to refurbish the two fingerpost signs at a cost of £600. This cost included all labour and materials.

33. ADOPTION OF STATEMENT

Council considered adopting the Without Title Guarantee Statement. Following discussion it was agreed to amend the draft and forward it to the Memorial Hall Committee for consideration.

34. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) **Insurance Cover** – Council noted that the quotation received from Zurich Insurance had been accepted. Cover commenced on 1st June 2024.
- (b) **Grants** – Council agreed to defer the consideration of the grant application from the Beckington Memorial Hall.
- (c) **Wooden Bus Shelters** – Following consideration Council agreed to renovate the wooden bus shelters as outlined by Cllr Winterbourne. It was agreed to allocate a sum of £300-£600 towards this works plus any additional funding for materials.
- (d) **Payments** – Council **RESOLVED** to approve the payments outlined below:

Supplier	Reason	Net	VAT	Total
Paul Russell	Salary June 24	£666.73	£0.00	£666.73
Paul Russell	Expenses June 24	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00
Zurich T&P Insurer Trust Account	Insurance Policy	£494.08	£0.00	£494.08
Beckington Memorial Hall	Hall Hire	£144.00	£0.00	£144.00
Ben Richards	SmartSurvey NDP May-Jun	£45.00	£9.00	£54.00
CHRGs	Internal Audit	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00
J M Fencing	Grass cutting, Sue's Walk	£160.00	£32.00	£192.00
		£1,684.81	£41.00	£1,725.81

(e) **Banking** – Council noted that the application had been finalised and a cheque sent to open the account. A further update would be sought from Unity Trust regarding timescales.

(f) **Additional Items** – Council noted the following additional information:

- An email regarding the five-year land supply had been sent round to all members;
- It was agreed to send out the survey that had been undertaken to all Members for information.
- A sample of the new Beckington History book had been received. It was agreed that a digital copy be forwarded to all Members.

35. NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next meeting of Beckington Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 9th July 2024 commencing at 7pm.

There being no other business the Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:30pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: