

BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Beckington Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 commencing at 6:00pm in the Beckington Memorial Hall, Bath Road, Beckington, Frome BA11 6SH.

PRESENT: Cllr Paula Fox (Chair), Cllr Kevin Bishop, Cllr Anne Owen, Cllr Simon Milner (arrived 6:21pm), Cllr Clive Winterbourne, Cllr Liz Wright and Cllr Rory Ingleby-MacKenzie.

ALSO PRESENT: The Clerk to the Council.

Public participation: No members of the public were present.

121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Ward Cllrs Bowden and Denton.

122. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The following Declaration of Interest was made:

- Cllr Winterbourne informed Council that he had submitted a parcel of land in his ownership as part of the Neighbourhood Plan Call for Sites as previously declared.

123. MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Winterbourne, seconded by Cllr Ingleby-MacKenzie and **RESOLVED** to formally approve and adopt the minutes of the Beckington Parish Council meetings held on Tuesday 14th January 2025.

124. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- (a) **Neighbourhood Plan Development** – Council noted that the proposal by Brodie Planning to develop the planning policies for the NP had been withdrawn due to personal reasons. The Plan with policies would be drafted by the Clerk and then reviewed by Brodie Planning in March 2025.

It was **AGREED** to contact additional consultants for quotations to help support the drafting of the plan.

(Cllr Milner arrived at 6:21pm)

- (b) **Consultation Budget** – Council **RESOLVED** to allocate a budget for the parishioner consultation on the preferred site allocation following the Call for Sites initiative once quotations on the cost had been received.

Council noted that Cllr Bishop had contacted Highways England to express concern that they had not undertaken any consultation with the Parish Council on the proposed enhancements for the A36 and A361 which would directly

affect the village. If no reply was received then the matter would be raised with the Ward Councillors and local MP.

125. PLANNING, LICENSING & TREE APPLICATIONS:

(a) The following comments were agreed:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Proposal: | Beech - Reduce crown height by approx. 4m- finished height approx. 12m, reshape remainder by up to 3m, carry out 10-15% crown thin & crown lift to approx. 5m Willow - Pollard back to existing pollarded points, remove diseased branches. |
| Location: | 35 Goose Street, Beckington, Somerset BA11 6SS |
| Application Type: | Works/Felling Trees in a CA |
| Application Number: | 2025/0048/TCA |
| Comment: | Submit thanks for being notified of this application and happy to defer to the Tree Officer to determine the application. |

(b) **Planning Application 2024/2309/FUL at Land At Tower Hill Farm** – Council noted that a public meeting to discuss this planning application would be held on 3rd February 2025 at 7pm at the Memorial Hall as previously agreed. The production of a flier at a cost of £45.60 was ratified. This would be distributed in the next few days.

126. NEW WEBSITE

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Fox, seconded by Cllr Owen and **RESOLVED** to appoint Aubergine to develop a new website for the Parish Council at a cost not exceeding £700 + VAT.

127. LAND REGISTRATION

Council noted the estimate received from Wellers Law Group to formally register the Recreation Ground land and clarify the relationship between the Memorial Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council who were the custodian trustees.

It was proposed by Cllr Fox, seconded by Cllr Winterbourne and **RESOLVED**:

- To defer consideration of this item;
- Clarify some of the information contained within the estimate provided;
- Contact the Management Committee to arrange a meeting to discuss the way forward. Cllr Winterbourne and the Clerk would attend.

128. NETWORK MAGAZINE

Council discussed supporting the Network Magazine which had recently been revamped. Cllr Fox had met with the editorial team to discuss the matter.

It was proposed by Cllr Fox, seconded by Cllr Milner and **RESOLVED** to make a contribution of £345 to the Network magazine. The Council agrees that a regular column would be very helpful but could not commit to submitting one every month.

Council received an update on the Baptist Chapel sale. Three quotations had been received and one had been accepted. It was expected that the paperwork would be completed in the next week.

With regard to the burial ground this would be taken over by the Frome Baptist Church who would be responsible for organizing its maintenance. Some discussions were ongoing with St Georges Church to continue to use the burial ground for internments but details needed to be agreed. It was confirmed that the actual management of the area would have to be undertaken locally.

129. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) **Parish Council Priorities** – Council discussed the development of the Parish Council's priorities for the forthcoming year. The following initiatives would be developed:

- Revision of the footpath booklet including revamped maps;
- Provision of two bus shelters along Frome Road (Cllr Milner to lead);
- Review of the LCWIPs proposals;
- Neighbourhood Plan;
- Parish maintenance (Lead Cllr Winterbourne);
- Parish Steward Initiative – identify improvement works within the village and organise delivery.

It was suggested that the following articles could be included in Network:

- Updating the footpath booklet;
- Parish Precept – how Council is going to spend the money.

It was agreed to place the allotment agreement on the next agenda for formal signing.

(b) **Budget 2025/26** – Council reviewed the draft budget in detail and it was agreed to accept it without amendment.

(c) **Precept 2025/26** – It was proposed by Cllr Owen, seconded by Cllr Milner and **RESOLVED** to request a precept of £55,545 from Somerset Council for the 2025/26 financial year.

(d) **Easypcaccounts** – It was proposed by Cllr Fox, seconded by Cllr Owen and **RESOLVED** to take out a subscription for this accounting package at a cost of £9 per month. A free three month trial would be undertaken to ensure the package is fit for purpose.

(e) **Payments** – Council **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

| Supplier | Reason | Net | VAT | Total |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Context Planning* | Planning Advice | £3,000.00 | £600.00 | £3,600.00 |
| Unity Trust Bank* | Service Charge | £6.00 | £0.00 | £6.00 |
| Paul Russell | Expenses Jan 25 | £25.00 | £0.00 | £25.00 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Paul Russell | Salary Jan 25 | £551.25 | £0.00 | £551.25 |
| HMRC Cumbernauld | PAYE Jan 25 | £137.60 | £0.00 | £137.60 |
| Network Magazine | Contribution | £345.00 | £0.00 | £345.00 |
| Ben Richards | NP Website through WIX | £192.00 | £38.40 | £230.40 |
| Beckington Memorial Hall | Room Hire (20/11/24) | £32.00 | £0.00 | £32.00 |
| Beckington Memorial Hall | Room Hire (10/12/24) | £20.00 | £0.00 | £20.00 |
| Beckington Memorial Hall | Room Hire (22/01/25) | £32.00 | £0.00 | £32.00 |
| Cllr Ingleby-MacKenzie | Fliers | £45.60 | £0.00 | £45.60 |
| | | £4,386.45 | £638.40 | £5,024.85 |

It was agreed to investigate access to the footpath west of Beckington.

130. NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next scheduled meeting of Beckington Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 commencing at 7:30pm. Prior to that Councillors would be undertaking a Code of Conduct training session.

The following meeting dates for 2025 were approved:

- Tuesday 11th March
- Tuesday 8th April
- Wednesday 21st May
- Wednesday 11th June
- Wednesday 9th July
- Tuesday 9th September
- Tuesday 14th October
- Tuesday 11th November

There being no other business the Chair thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 8:50pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: