



BECKINGTON, RUDGE & STANDERWICK

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017 MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held in the **Memorial Hall, Beckington** on **Tuesday May 16th 2017** between 7:00pm – 7:30pm

Cllr James Rider, as the caller of the meeting and former Parish Council Vice-Chairman facilitated the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council Chairman Cllr Mark Wilson, who had only just been appointed to office.

- I. Apologies for Absence** – District Councillor, Clive Mockford
- II. Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 17th May 2016** – Approved by the meeting
- III. Matters Arising** – No matters arising.
- IV. Parish Council Chairman's Report** (Copied in full below)

Welcome everyone to our Annual Parish meeting. Your Council has again been extremely active in covering a wide variety of issues and topics over the past 12 months. The Council has also supported local organisations, charities, the Church of St George and the Baptist Chapel.

Website: the BPC website was visited over 1000 times in the last year indicating that it has become a source of information for residents taking an interest in village and parish matters. There are plans to improve the site by making it even more informative for our parishioners' use.

Planning: in the past year your Council has responded to 3 Applications where there were wider implications. Refusal objections were posted for Redrow II, a change of use at Trees Farm, Standerwick and The Full Moon, Rudge. Mendip DC Planning Office have refused Redrow II, but approved Trees Farm and the Public Inquiry Inspector decided to approve planning at The Full Moon. New housing developments commenced in 2017 by DWH and QDOS.

Shannon Brooke continues to do an excellent job as Planning Officer and I am very grateful for all her hard work.

Bettering Beckington

The "Bettering Beckington" project was undertaken and following parishioners' consultation, the outputs were analysed and the action planned which will be delivered in due course.

S106 monies and projects include: delivered – Tennis Club's new practise hitting wall and the Cricket Club practise nets. To come - contributing to the kitchen refurbishment at the Memorial Hall and the installation of two new bus shelters on Bath Rd. There are more projects planned for 2018 as further funding from the new housing developments are released

Foul water and surface water issues within the village

Foul and surface water issues - Wessex Water has now undertaken a full survey and has a works plan scheduled for 2018/9. Somerset CC Highways and Mendip DC have yet to formulate their remedial works actions plans, but Somerset Flood Risk Management have recently begun a review of the drainage issues

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in Beckington and the Parish Council would like to thank MDC's Land Drainage Consultant, Caroline Murray for initiating this.

Traffic

New legally compliant 20 mph speed signs on Frome Rd for the school area of the village were installed. H-bar white line extensions were completed in Feb 2017 to reduce traffic blockage in the centre of the village on Bath Rd

High speed Broadband

High-speed fibre broadband was delivered to village by Feb 2017 and high-speed wireless introduced for the rural area of the Parish in April 2017

Allotments and car parking

Allotments – DWH has provided a plot of land within their Warminster Rd site and this will become available as the development nears completion.

Councillors and Acknowledgements:

Councillors – James Rider joined in June, Ruth Squires resigned in Sept, Judith Beresford and Mark Wilson joined in November 2016; Steve Cundy resigned as Chairman in April. I would like to thank Steve for his outstanding contribution as Chairman – he achieved an extraordinary number of tasks in the year. He is greatly missed.

Change of Parish Clerks – Joy Book left us in November, but still provides invaluable back-up. Nichola Duke was in office from Dec to Feb and from 1 March - Simon Pritchard

We are seeking two new Parish Council members including a Chairman in the near future.

I would also like to thank our County Councillor, Linda Oliver and our District Councillor, Clive Mockford for their invaluable support.

James Rider - Vice Chairman - Beckington Parish Council

v. District Councillor's Report - None received

vi. County Councillor's Report (Coppied in full below)

The job of being a District or County councillor is not rocket science, but it can be very time consuming and a lot of work. But the starting point is at meetings like this, where I can find out, and get to understand what is going on, or more precisely what's going wrong or could be improved.

The issues that take up most time of course relate to planning (if I've got my District hat on) or highways (if I've got my County hat on), and although I am not your District Councillor I have worked closely together with the PC over the last few years to assist in planning matters and represent the PC at the planning board. Where necessary I have assisted in areas that fall under the responsibility of Somerset County Council, this is nearly always linked to Highways issues.

I have had a good relationship with the Highways traffic management and County roads teams, which helps significantly in getting things done.


I now have regular meetings with highways officers where we work through the issues and actions and check progress of every issue raised. We then agree outcomes of the meeting and use the meeting notes as the on-going working document. They are all very familiar with my County Division, if any of them were not before. I enjoy working with them and have a great deal of respect for the work they do.

The frustration for many is that despite successful outcomes, things take time to implement. The perception is that things take too long but much of the work is subject to feasibility studies,, statutory requirements for notices and consultations and repairs are then rated to certain criteria so the important, safety issue repairs are undertaken first etc.

The important thing is that we work together, agree priorities, get our facts right so you can talk sensibly and rationally. This gets the best results. That process starts here, at PC meetings.

Linda Oliver

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VII. Open Public Forum (Residents are invited to discuss any matter affecting the Parish)

- **David Wilson homes development: why are the traffic lights still up, given that the signage stated there would be a 2 week installation of the lights?**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would ask this question.

- **Redrow 2: would they appeal the planning application refusal?**

CLlr Brooke advised that this may be the case, but we would have to wait and see.


- **Why was the parish precept put up by 44%?**

CLlr Rider replied that the extra money would allow delivery of the Bettering Beckington projects . CLlr Brooke added that it also gave the Parish Council scope to employ professional consultants if needed to challenge planning applications.

VIII. Close of meeting – The meeting was closed at 19:23

Signed _____ Date _____

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