

Minutes of Meeting of Beoley Parish Council
held on Tuesday 8th March 2016

At 7.30 pm in Beoley Village Hall

Attendees:

Cllr Bland (Chairman)
Cllr Luck (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Barry
Cllr Joynes
Cllr Merrell
Cllr Morgan
Cllr Brown
Kelly Dawe (Parish Clerk)
Eight members of the public

1. **Apologies**
Received from Cllr Hall.
2. **Declaration of Personal/Prejudicial Interests**

None given.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting**
The following corrections were noted:
 - Cllr Morgan supplied previous budget figures not Cllr Merrell as stated.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
A motion that the Minutes of the previous meeting be approved was proposed by Cllr Merrell seconded by Cllr Brown and duly signed by the Chairman.
5. **County Councillor Report/District Councillor Report**
No report received from the County Councillor nor a response received from the Chairman's most recent letter. Cllr Luck expressed disappointment that Cllr Griffiths did not seem interested in parish meetings and had not addressed issues that have been raised, particularly in response to the Church Hill footpath towards Icknield Street.

6. **Path Warden's report**

The Chairman welcomed the Path Warden to the meeting, and reiterated the concerns raised at the last Parish Council meeting regarding the path from the Old Post Office up to land belonging to Mr Chambers. The Chairman reported that he had met with a local Landscape company (Dick Gardiner) to discuss but concluded there are no simple solutions.

Cllr Morgan asked the Path Warden whether a parish walk would be organised in the near future. **ACTION:** Path Warden to inspect the affected path and report any suggestions, and to arrange a parish walk (provisionally for 7th May). Cllr Barry to pass on details of a number of items on the Path Warden's route that need addressing.

7. **Lengthsman's report**

The Parish Lengthsman has undertaken an asset survey which identified a number of repairs. The Lengthsman had also reported drainage problems at Church Hill to the Highways department at Worcestershire CC.

The Lengthsman had also received a complaint regarding safety on the access to the second bridge on the cut-through pathway to Church Hill. **ACTION:** Footpath Warden to investigate and report back to the council with possible solutions.

8. **Matters Arising**

Parking

Cllr Joynes has identified the title to the lay-by is owned by Aileen Davies. Discussions with the Richard Clewer of the Highways department at Worcestershire CC suggested that the lay-by could be filled in and bollards put in place to prevent parking, but the cost would be borne by the current landowner. However, WCC may be prepared to adopt it thereafter. In the meantime, Mrs Davies had asked Cllr Joynes to approach the owners of the parked car to try and resolve the issue amicably before any further action is taken.

Estimated costs of the work are approximately £1,500. Cllr Joynes suggested that the Parish Council could offer some financial assistance, given the safety concerns for all path users. The Chairman proposed that the council could contribute and that the matter be deferred for a discussion at a later date. **ACTION:** Cllr Joynes to liaise with Mrs Davies and report back at the next meeting.

Beoley Manor

Cllr Brown reported no response received from Bromsgrove DC.

ACTION: Cllr Luck proposed a further letter should be sent to planning, copied to Bromsgrove DC Chief Executive Kevin Dicks. Cllr Brown to action.

Roundabout

The Chairman reported that the work is still not completed but that Carpenters Landscapes will repair the damage and finish the fencing.

Speed Limit

The Chairman has written to Cllr Griffiths and, in the absence of a response, has also written formally to the County Engineer requesting the matter be reviewed and the Parish Council advised what could be done.

Grass triangle

Owing to the drainage works currently being undertaken at Bleachfield Lane and the subsequent further damage to the grass triangle, any repairs will be the responsibility of the drainage contractors who are working on Bleachfield Lane.

Hillside trees

ACTION: Cllr Joynes action carried forward.

Advertising Van parked on bridge over A435

PC Simon Allbutt (through his assistant Wayne Turley) has responded to the Chairman's request to review the van parked on A435 bridge and the "abandoned" vehicle outside Beoley garage. A copy of the police response was passed to Cllr. Morgan who first raised the issue. The Chairman confirm that he had advised the police regarding the upcoming AGM and the Parish Clerk was asked to forward a formal invitation. Bearing in mind the police time involved, it was agreed by all that the AGM Agenda may need to be re-ordered on the evening to accommodate the officer's available timeframe.

Additional Signatory

ACTION: Parish Clerk action carried forward.

Oaklands

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Oakland International Ltd., in light of their planning appeal formally inviting the Parish Council to visit the site. The letter inferred that the invitation had been extended on previous occasions and that the Parish Council had not responded. The letter had also been copied to both the Chief Executive of the District Council and the Chief Planning Officer. Cllr Luck stated that it had previously been the policy of the BPC not to attend unofficial site visits in respect of planning applications.

ACTION: Cllr Joynes and the Chairman to compose a letter to respond. Cllr Joynes noted that the points should be rebutted in the strongest terms as the letter is clearly setting the tone that Beoley Parish Council are refusing to engage with Oaklands, in an effort to support their appeal.

9. Correspondence and consultations

The Parish Clerk provided a brief summary from the CALC updates received since the last meeting. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to request that Cllr Joynes is added to the CALC email distribution list.

Cllr Joynes asked if anyone had noticed or had interest in the current 'Clean for the Queen' campaign; the Chairman noted that two parishioners are anonymous but regular litter pickers and that their efforts should be acknowledged.

10. New Matters

Church footpaths

The Chairman is liaising with the Gardiner Landscapes regarding upgrades to the paths in the graveyard beyond the church, with the proposal that they are engaged to clear existing paths and coat them with Cotswold stone as it binds better. It was also suggested that the banks on Church Hill (B4101) be cleared of brambles and sown with wildflowers and Daffodils. The Chairman suggested that Beoley Parish Council contribute to the work – currently waiting for a quote but the work is expected to be around £2,000.

The Chairman also proposed that the wider, banked verges on the bend before the pub are added to Rudge Landscape's schedule and daffodils planted next year.

Cllr Joynes reported that the road surface down the hill into the village by the school is in very poor condition, despite the

Chairman having requested the Highways Team at WCC to inspect. Cllr Joynes also raised the issue regarding the lack of repairs to the speed indicator sign. Discussions with Highways has inferred that repairs can not longer be covered in the budget.

ACTION: The Chairman to contact the Highways Team again regarding the road condition and speed indicator, copied to Cllr Griffiths and the County Director of Education, and encourage the school to write in support.

Church Hill Footpath: Cllr Brown reported that several parishioners had complained to him regarding the state of the verges on the cut-through footpath to Church Hill due to heavy use by horse riders. Following discussions, it was unclear whether the footpath formed part of an ancient green lane. **ACTION:** Chairman to contact the Countryside Officer at WCC to confirm whether or not it is an official Bridle path, and if not, arrange an appropriate sign.

Ravensbank Industrial Estate: Cllr Luck asked whether any application had been received for the industrial expansion at Ravensbank which is within Beoley Parish. Noted that the ongoing construction noise was significant. **Action:** Parish Clerk to write to Ruth Bamford (Chief Planning Officer) and Environment Services at Bromsgrove DC regarding the noise concerns from Ravensbank Industrial Estate.

Following discussion between members regarding suggestions for various village improvement works to be carried out, the following items were agreed ...

- 1 Settle balance of Final Account for roundabout (£1545.90) **Action:** Parish Clerk
- 2 Improvements to graveyard pathways (£1800.00) **Action:** TCB/Lengthsman
- 3 Improvement works to village verges (£600.00 max) **Action:** TCB/Lengthsman
- 4 Contribution to Village Hall CCTV scheme (£500.00) **Action:** Parish Clerk
- 5 Upgrading of village planters (£1000.00 max) **Action:** Cllr. Mrs. Hall

On a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. Luck, seconded by Cllr. Brown, that the above items be put in hand immediately, the vote in favour was unanimous. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Hall for agreeing to accept responsibility for supervising item 5 above.

11. Finance

Current bank balance: £11,434.21

£41.53	Trevor Bland	Expenses
£170.56	Alan Brown	Lengthsman duties
£226.18	Kelly Dawe	Parish Clerk duties

12. **Planning**

Beoley Manor Gates: no update.

Three Oaks Billesley Lane: neighbours have now written to support application, application still showing as pending.

Brook Farm, Icknield Street: application to convert barns to industrial B1. Cllr Brown had written to planning department due to concerns over the precedence for converting to B8 without permission. Neighbour has also written to object.

Seafeld Pedigrees: regarding a previous application for PV panels which was then withdrawn. Panels have now been installed and retrospective planning sought.

Whitepits House: permission to replace an agricultural barn, no objections raised.

The Chairman then withdrew from the meeting due to a declared interest in the following planning application, with the Vice Chair Cllr Luck taking up the Chairman's duties.

Land to rear of 7 Moss Lane Close: application for two one-bedroom bungalows at the rear of the property with one parking space per unit. Noted an existing derelict building located at the rear and that the land is not green belt but a garden development within green belt land. Concern that precedence may have already been set at Otters Holt. Access would be an issue, even if via Moss Lane which has a sign stating it is not suitable for motor vehicles – this has not been addressed in the application. It was also noted that there are several errors in the application itself. The proposed properties are designed for retirement – however it is unclear whether the guidelines regarding retirement properties have been addressed. All present agreed that further clarification is required and that the Parish Council should object on the grounds of access, setting a future precedent, inappropriate development, and that an existing retirement property is located nearby which hasn't sold, and therefore is there a specific housing need.

Cllr Luck reported that she had today received an anonymous note through her door regarding the development with details of how to object. Cllr Luck asked it be recorded that such canvassing activities are ill advised, the note contained incorrect information and that members of the council cannot partake in such actions and that legal advice had been sought.

ACTION: Cllr Joynes to liaise with Cllr Brown regarding the objection, with Cllr Luck to review prior to submitting.

The Chairman then returned to the meeting.

The Chairman reported that he had been informed of the objection note and that the planning applicant had sought legal advice. The Chairman also raised concerns over speculation around his involvement in the application and that his integrity had been questioned. At this stage, the Chairman (temporary Chair) asked the councillors to take a vote of confidence in the Chairman - proposed by Cllr Brown seconded by Cllr Luck and unanimously supported by all members of the council.

13. **Items of Parochial Interest**

Jazz night 23rd March
Film night 29th March Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
Black Country Night forthcoming in Saturday 7th May.

Defibrillator campaign: it was reported that sufficient money had now been raised for the first defibrillator and fundraising for a second was underway.

Friday 15th April fundraising event organised by the school PTA
Friday 29th April (evening) defibrillator training event

Both events to be held at the village hall.

The Chairman was aware of a number of anonymous personal contributions to the fund and asked that the minutes show the council's thanks.

14. **Date of next meeting – 12th April 2016**

Signed  **(Chairman)**

Dated:.....12/4/2016.....