

Beckford Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held online
18th January 2021

Present

Martin Spice (Chairman), Nettie Mantle (Vice Chairman), Diane Colvin, Anne Worrall, Chris Revell and David Nicholds.

In Attendance

D Roscoe (Parish Clerk), Cllr Hardman and Cllr Darby.

1424 Apologies for absence from Parish Councillors.

1424.1 No apologies were received.

1425 Declaration of interest.

1425.1 None declared.

1426 Requests for Dispensation.

1426.1 None submitted.

1427 Minutes

1427.1 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th November 2020 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

1428 County Councillors Report

1428.1 Cllr Hardman's report was distributed (see attached). No decisions were required of the Parish Council.

1428.2 He confirmed that the repairs to the Station Road pavement was still going ahead hopefully in February.

1428.3 He noted the localised flooding in Little Beckford and Beckford Village including Back Lane.

1428.4 Councillor Hardman noted that he was struggling to find out who is responsible for the Parish drain in Grafton and was informed that this was periodically cleaned out by either the County Council or the District Council.

1429 District Councillors Report

1429.1 Cllr Darby's report was distributed (see attached). No decisions were required of the Parish Council.

1430 Clerk's Report

1430.1 The clerk's report was reviewed and updated.

1431 Finance

1431.1 The Bank Reconciliation & Receipts & payments information had been circulated by email by David Roscoe (RFO) and were accepted. Proposed: Cllr Spice, seconded: Cllr Mantle. Unanimous

1431.2 It was resolved that the following payments be approved. Proposed: Cllr Spice, seconded: Cllr Mantle. Unanimous

Date	Payee	Chq No	Amount incl VAT	VAT	Reason
17/11/2020	Brenda Cox	OB205	102.00	0.00	Plants
26/11/2020	Simon Brown (Sep/Oct)	OB206	120.00	0.00	Speed Sign Maintenance
30/11/2020	BCVH	OB207	416.60	0.00	Grass Cutting and Hall Hire
02/12/2020	CPRE	OB208	36.00	0.00	Subs
05/12/2020	WDC	OB209	24.00	0.00	Land Rental
12/01/2021	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	437.49	0.00	Clerks Salary
12/02/2021	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	437.49	0.00	Clerks Salary
04/01/2021	E A Worrall	OB210	38.17	0.00	Repairs
09/01/2021	EON	OB211	23.87	1.14	Electricity
23/12/2020	ICO	DD	35.00	0.00	Data Protection Commissioner
19/01/2021	D Roscoe (Clerks Expenses)	OB212	108.77	8.85	Clerks Expenses

1431.3 The clerk's expenses was approved. Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor Spice. Unanimous

1431.4 The budget 2020/21 was reviewed and approved.

1432 Planning

1432.1 Current planning applications were considered:

Appl Number	Application	Update
20/02624/HP	2 Pimlico CottagesCheltenham RoadBeckfordTewkesburyGL20 7AL	Erection of a two storey side extension and glazed link corridor, No objections

1433 To Review the Risk Register including Little Beckford Playground.

1433.1 The Risk Register was reviewed. No issues to report.

1433.2 **Action:** Councillor Mantle reminded Council that the defibrillators will need regular maintenance and she will let the clerk know maintenance costs in order that this may be incorporated into the budget.

1434 To discuss position regarding the A46.

1434.1 Councillor Nicholds issued his report and agreed to keep a watching brief on the issue.

1434.2 He confirmed that Midlands Connect is talking of an Ashchurch Bypass by 2035 and a Beckford Bypass by 2040. He will put a report into the Parish Magazine.

1435 To update re Smartwater Project

1435.1 Councillor Nicholds confirmed that there were still not enough residents taking up the offer in order to receive free signage. Additional residents should contact Councillor Nicholds if they want to sign up and he will facilitate on their behalf.

1436 To discuss Little Beckford culverts and flood risk

1436.1 Cllr Nicholds reported attending a meeting with another parishioner and Highways England in November to discuss this topic. Cllr Nicholds has, since then, been seeking to understand the issues and rules better with a view to making recommendations to the Council as to ways in which it may be able to assist. He will continue his inquiries pending the next meeting and report further at that time.

1437 To discuss Lengthsman duties and supplementary work

1437.1 **Action:** The clerk should write to the potential applicant detailing the exact scope of work that may be available with suggestions to supplement this work with other Lengthsman opportunities in adjoining parishes. The Clerk will stipulate that any applicant would need to be self-employed and holding appropriate insurance.

1438 To discuss the planting up the tubs for the year.

1438.1 It was agreed that this work may be incorporated into the Lengthsman's duties. Otherwise Councillor Worrall kindly agreed to replant the tubs on a regular basis

1439 To discuss next newsletter.

1439.1 Councillor Mantle requested that Councillors send contributions for the newsletter.

1440 To update progress regarding the provision of a new web site to meet Website Accessibility Regulations.

1440.1 The Clerk informed Council that the Dumbleton Parish Council Website was about to be launched and he would send a link in order that Beckford Councillors could make a judgement on the suitability of the new website.

1441 To agree action regarding Parish Council boxes stored in the roof space of the Village Hall (old minutes etc)

1441.1 Councillor Colvin will distribute a list of contents of the boxes in order that Council may make a decision on what to retain.

1442 Items for Future Agenda

1442.1 Update on the Smartwater Project.

1442.2 Agreement to pay the Chairman's Allowance

Date of Next Online Meeting 15th March 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm

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Beckford Parish Council
18/01/21
County Councillor Adrian Hardman

Firstly, a happy new year to you all, and I am sorry that my first report of the year to you is a rather bleak one, and still has to focus on the pandemic. Confirmed cases in Worcestershire have increased by 26% in the last 7 days compared to the previous 7 days. Cases in all areas of the county are rising or are level.

- As of today, the Worcestershire rate stands at 534 cases per 100,000. The England rate is 551 per 100,000. The West Midlands rate currently stands at 521 per 100,000. Worcester City now has the highest number of cases in Worcestershire. There are currently 702 cases per 100,000 in Worcester. Bromsgrove has 663 cases, Redditch 590, Wyre Forest has 484 cases, Wychavon 534 while Malvern Hills has 362 cases per 100,000.
- The number of cases in people over the age of 60 currently stands at 365 per 100,000. In that age group there are 508 cases in Worcester, Redditch has 483, there are 391 cases in Bromsgrove, 350 in Wyre Forest, 322 cases in Wychavon and 212 cases per 100,000 in Malvern Hills. In the last 7 days there have been 3221 confirmed cases of coronavirus recorded in Worcestershire.
- There are 234 people in the county's hospitals with Covid-19 in Worcestershire. 29 people are in ITU. The NHS escalation level is at the highest level of Covid-19 alert escalation. The number of in-patients within our hospitals who have tested positive for Covid-19 has continued to increase. All face-to-face, non-essential countywide community services out-patient clinics in Worcestershire have been temporarily stood down so that staff can be redeployed into other critical services to support patients.
- 38 care homes in Worcestershire have current outbreaks (more than 2 cases, linked in either time place or person). 14 homes are currently closed to new admissions due to Covid. The daily registered deaths from all causes is just over the 5 year average. We are monitoring this closely.

But the good news is that, The area from Ashton to Defford around the hill has the lowest rate in the County of 116 per 100,000, with 9 new cases in the past 7 days ; all of our GP-led Primary Care Networks (PCNs) have started running Covid-19 vaccine clinics for eligible patients. Vaccinations are underway at local care homes for residents and staff who are being prioritised with people aged 80 and over. Large vaccination sites are planned at The Artrix in Bromsgrove, St Peter's Church in Worcester and the Three Counties Showground in Malvern. Here2Help Worcestershire is open and available to support those who need assistance. We are monitoring the number of calls to the helpline. There is in excess of 3 months stock for all PPE items at current issue rates. In line with lockdown restrictions all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges have moved to remote learning, except for the children of key workers and vulnerable children. Lateral Flow testing in secondary schools is well underway

- The county's libraries remain open for essential computer use to help residents with digital access. All of our Household Recycling Centres remain open.
- Adult Services 38 care homes in Worcestershire have current outbreaks (more than 2 cases, linked in either time place or person). 14 homes are currently closed to new admissions due to Covid.
- 2 homes have temporarily ceased trading (residents moved to other homes owned by the same provider on the same site). We have been in contact with care home-owners with regard to limited and controlled visits to care home residents from their families. These are able to continue if they are in line with the lockdown restrictions. Advice and guidance are being shared to families.

Children's Services

- In line with lockdown restrictions all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges have moved to remote learning, except for the children of key workers and vulnerable children. Early years provision is remaining open to all children.
- Registration Services will continue to be open but by appointment only, with limitations to available services during the national lockdown. Covid Advisors, recruited by Worcestershire Regulatory Services, continue to be deployed and working closely with the Police.

Economy & Infrastructure

- All Household Recycling Centres will remain open during the lockdown Highways maintenance works and our major construction projects continue to operate safely. We currently have 2 highways gangs absent due to the workforce self isolating.
- Major infrastructure project work continues, within current Covid restrictions.
- 7% of Worcestershire employees were furloughed through the job retention scheme at the end of October.
- We are responding to the ongoing winter weather events safely and within the current Covid restrictions.

Local Issues

We had considerable amounts of heavy rain just before Christmas on the 23rd which amounted to 55 MMS in 18 hours and I would be interested to hear of any highway flooding or household flooding issues. Since I know round the Hill many of our roads were

closed and impossible to get through. I intend to write a report which will bring all this together so that we can continue to look for long term solutions. I did report an issue I noticed when driving through the village, but where there any others? The weather outlook is very poor indeed.

We are still going to do some work on the Station rd footway in February, but I don't have a start date.

I would welcome a discussion about the village drain in Grafton with you.

Just a final thought; if you wish to see the up to date statistics for the South of the Hill for COVID-19 if you go to the County Council website and click on the box COVID-19 and go to the box marked dashboard; on Page 3 you will see a more local breakdown of case numbers which includes Eckington, Bredon and Ashton which includes Strensham. And if you look the other grouping around the Hill is Elmley Castle, Wick and Combertons villages.

Yours

Adrian Hardman

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Report of District Councillor Adrian Darby to Beckford Parish Council

Once again I am writing this report under the latest Covid 19 restriction. which for my ward, like the rest of England, means total lockdown. Our county councillor will be reporting on how effective this is proving in relation to Wychavon and Worcestershire

I have attended a number of Zoom meetings since my last report. As always most of these have been concerned with planning.

There have been three meetings of the planning committee and two of the Joint Advisory Panel overseeing the SWDP Review. None of the planning meetings has had an item related to Beckford. The JAP minutes are confidential

The only outstanding planning items are the application for an extension at 2 Pimlico Cottages which is on the Agenda and two applications at Grafton which are not. These are the building at Manor Farm and the installation of a heat pump at Norman Cottage. Cllr Mantle has commented on the former, but obviously not on the latter. There do not seem to be any objections in principle from Grafton and I do not intend to call any of the applications in Beckford to the planning committee, unless the Parish Council has strong views to the contrary.

AMGD.

18 January 2021