

**Beckford Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held online**  
**15<sup>th</sup> March 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.

**1447 Apologies for absence from Parish Councillors.**

1447.1 No apologies were received.

**1448 Declaration of interest.**

1448.1 None declared.

**1449 Requests for Dispensation.**

1449.1 None submitted.

**1450 Minutes**

1450.1 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

**1451 County Councillors Report**

1451.1 Cllr Hardman's report was distributed (see attached). No decisions were required of the Parish Council.

1451.2 Councillor Worrall asked for a speed sign on the A46 but Councillor Hardman confirmed it was not WCC Highways responsibility and it was down to Highways England. He did promise to inform Highways England and the clerk would also send an email.

**1452 District Councillors Report**

1452.1 Cllr Darby's report was distributed (see attached). No decisions were required of the Parish Council.

1452.2 Councillor Darby will inspect the issues with regard to the post on the bridge over the River Carrant as it has been confirmed that it is Wychavon's responsibility.

**1453 Clerk's Report**

1453.1 The clerk's report was reviewed and updated.

**1454 Finance**

1454.1 The Bank Reconciliation & Receipts & payments information had been circulated by email by David Roscoe (RFO) and were accepted. Proposed: Cllr Colvin, seconded: Cllr Worrall. Unanimous

1454.2 It was resolved that the following payments be approved. Proposed: Cllr Colvin, seconded: Cllr Worrall. Unanimous

Date	Payee	Chq No	Amount incl VAT	VAT	Reason
20/01/2021	Simon Brown (Nov/Dec)	OB213	120.00	0.00	Speed Sign Maintenance
22/01/2021	Overbury Estates	OB214	132.00	22.00	Grass and Hedge Cutting
22/01/2021	Communicorp	OB215	12.00	0.00	Publications
12/03/2021	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	437.49	0.00	Clerks Salary
31/01/2021	1&1 Internet	DD	54.00	9.00	Web Hosting
05/02/2021	BCVH	OB216	9584.00	0.00	Grant
16/03/2021	D Roscoe (Clerks Expenses)	OB217	79.52	1.00	Clerks Expenses
16/03/2021	NetWise UK	OB218	899.00	0.00	Web Site Development
18/03/2021	Simon Brown (Jan/Feb)	OB219	120.00	0.00	Speed Sign Maintenance

1454.3 The clerk's expenses was approved. Proposed Councillor Spice, seconded Councillor Mantle. Unanimous

1454.4 The budget 2020/21 was reviewed and approved.

1454.5 **It was resolved that** Iain Selkirk be appointed as internal auditor for the year 2020/21 at a fee of £105. Proposed Councillor Spice, seconded Councillor Colvin. Unanimous.

## 1455 Planning

### 1455.1 Current planning applications were considered:

Appl Number	Application	Update
20/02452/FUL	Building at (OS 9875 3719)Manor Farm Grafton Beckford	Erection of replacement dwelling. Permit
20/02624/HP	2 Pimlico Cottages Cheltenham RoadBeckfordTewkesburyGL20 7AL	Erection of a two storey side extension and glazed link corridor. Permit
21/00010/HP	Norman CottageGraftonBeckfordTewkesburyGL20 7AT	Installation of Air Source Heat Pump. No objections
20/02797/HP	2 Back Lane Cottages Back LaneBeckfordTewkesburyGL20 7AF	Proposed loft conversion and two storey rear extension. Comments submitted
20/02136/LB	Old Walnut Cottage Grafton Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AT	Replacement of 3 windows. Installation of single glazed panel to top half of stable door. No objections
21/00077/CLE	Byre Cottage Blacksmiths Lane Beckford GL20 7AH	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of the annex as a separate residential dwelling. No comments

### 1456 To Review the Risk Register including Little Beckford Playground.

1456.1 The Risk Register was reviewed.

1456.2 Sewage was still an issue in Grafton and Highways were unable to identify its source despite a survey.  
**Action:** Councillor Mantle will send her letter addressed to the Environment Agency for forwarding on by the Parish Council.

1456.3 It was also reported that the telephone box in Grafton needed to be repainted due to the damage caused by sewage and it was recommended that this be sealed off in the meantime

### 1457 To discuss position regarding the A46.

1457.1 Councillor Nichold's report on the current A46 situation will be available in the Parish Council March Newsletter.

### 1458 To discuss approach from Bredon Hill Conservation Group regarding the Ashchurch Bridge

1458.1 Further discussions would be deferred until more information was made available.

### 1459 To update re Smartwater Project

1459.1 Councillor Nicholds confirmed that there were still not enough residents taking up the offer in order to receive free signage. It was suggested that, when permitted, further house-to-house canvassing may be required.

### 1460 To discuss Little Beckford culverts and flood risk and the request for support regarding the flooding alleviation.

1460.1 Cllr Nicholds distributed his reports which were accepted by the Council.

1460.2 **Action:** Councillor Nicholds agreed to contact [REDACTED] regarding the alleviation pond.

### 1461 To discuss use of tradesman for village maintenance work

1461.1 **It was resolved that** the Parish Council would offer an initial contribution of up to £75 (or lower) towards insurance costs. Proposed Councillor Worrall, seconded Councillor Spice. Unanimous.

### 1462 To discuss next newsletter.

1462.1 Councillor Mantle confirmed that the newsletter would be issued in the next few days.

### 1463 To update progress regarding the provision of a new web site to meet Website Accessibility Regulations.

1463.1 **It was agreed that** the development of the new website proceed at a cost of £599 for initial development (one-off cost) and £300 per annum for maintenance. Proposed Councillor Spice, seconded Councillor Colvin. Unanimous

### 1464 To discuss the Container in the village hall car park.

1464.1 The comment regarding use of the car park rental for the container was noted.

**1465 To make a decision on the planting and maintaining of the flower tubs opposite the shop.**

1465.1 It was agreed that Councillor Worrall be approved a budget of £100 twice a year (i.e. £200 per annum) for the planting of the tubs.

**1466 To consider progress Beckford Village Community Hall (BCVH) joint working party.**

1466.1 The report from [REDACTED] regarding an update of the Village Hall maintenance and repairs was circulated. Council expressed their gratitude to [REDACTED] for this detailed report.

**1467 To readopt the Standing Orders**

1467.1 It was resolved that the Standing Orders for 2021/2 to be adopted. Proposed Councillor Spice, seconded Councillor Nicholds. Unanimous.

**1468 To readopt Financial Regulations**

1468.1 It was resolved that the Financial Regulations for 2021/2 to be adopted. Proposed Councillor Spice, seconded Councillor Nicholds. Unanimous.

**1469 Items for Future Agenda**

1469.1 Agreement to pay the Chairman's Allowance

**Date of Next Online Meeting 3/5/21 commencing 7.30pm. This will also be the AGM and Annual Parish Meeting**  
**The meeting closed at 8.48 pm**

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**Report by District Councillor Adrian Darby to Beckford Parish Council**

Since I last reported all council activity has been carried out remotely. I have attended the following meetings all on ZOOM, two planning committee, one executive board and one council.

The executive board and council dealt with the following items which had been carried forward from the January JAP meeting and which were approved for public consultation. These two consultations are separate but both run from 1 March to 19 April.

**South Worcestershire Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations DPD- Preferred Options: Regulation 18 Consultation.** This showed the Wychavon would be short of 2 sites over the plan period if all these allocations were adopted. It did not mention the Kemerton Road Bredon site.

**SWDP Review Preferred Options Further Regulation 18 (iii) Sustainability Appraisal Consultation.** This is extremely long (423 pages) and assesses the sustainability of all the sites put forward at the Preferred Options stage. You are invited to consult on it. It doesn't include any later sites which may have been considered for inclusion in the final version of the plan and which will be presented in the autumn.

The executive board and council also considered a number of other matters, the most important of which were the council tax and the budget. Once again the Wychavon element of the Council Tax was frozen and this time this was supported by the Liberal Democrat group on the grounds that this was a truly exceptional year. We wanted to go further and earmark £1million of the council's reserve for exceptional help to those suffering particularly severely from Covid but we were unable to persuade the Conservative majority to do this.

The February meeting of JAP was cancelled and the next meeting is scheduled for 24 March.

The planning meetings were both rather short having only five applications between them, none of which were relevant to Beckford. However that on 4th March contained the proposed Elmley Castle Conservation Area review which I thought was very well done.

Pending Applications: I note the current applications for Beckford. Only that for 2 Back Lane Cottages seems at all controversial and I have been in touch with the case officer about it.

I have seen Councillor Colvin's report to Highways about the bridge over the Carrant but will do nothing till I hear Councillor Hardman's views on Monday when I look forward to seeing you all.

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**Beckford Parish Council meeting**  
**10/03/2021**  
**County Councillor Adrian Hardman**

Dear all,

A slightly shorter and more positive report this month because the vaccine rollout and the continuing lockdown is having a considerable effect on the pandemic. The numbers in our hospital have declined to 80 and the numbers in intensive care are down to 8 and in the last seven days we have only had six admissions for Covid. The really good news is that in the last seven days we have had no reported case of Covid 19 in the four Wards which make up Bredon Hill, which meant that the return to school had the fairest of winds.

The district rate remains quite high at 47 but this is down 26% and comparable to the England rate and the good news is that the vaccine roll out is now starting to be given to the over 55's but the bad news is that we will have to go to the three counties show ground for it. The take up rate in the over 70s is a staggering 99.7% and we have now managed to vaccinate 52% of the district population. I have some concerns about the reopening of care homes to visitors while we are still seeing in 27 Care homes infections of more than two residents but since they had been vaccinated the outcomes are no longer a fatal one.

The County Council set its budget in the middle of February which I'm afraid means a 2 1/2% rise in council tax but it does mean a considerable boost to adult social care and mental health spending as well as so more money directed at mitigating flooding on the highway and improving public rights of way. The lockdown has caused rights away around the County to be used more than ever and this has led to a big increase in reports of defects. As part of the County Council's commitment to protect the environment, we have officially signed the Tree Charter, a campaign led by the Woodland Trust which helps people understand the values of trees and what they can do to help them. The Tree Charter launched in November 2017 and since then, Woodland Trust have partnered up with other organisations and community groups to help demonstrate the important roles that trees play in society.

By signing up to the Tree Charter, we're agreeing to carry out certain environmental commitments for the county such as, promoting public accessibility to woodlands, protecting irreplaceable trees, planning greener landscapes, helping to sustain wildlife, and planting more trees. In recent years, we have carried out all of these commitments and continue to reinforce this by pledging to plant 150,000 trees over the next five years. In December 2020, we teamed up with Woodland Trust to kickstart our tree-planting pledge by creating a new woodland area and plant 3,000 trees.

The Natural Networks Programme is still available to organisations and businesses across the county. The team are there to support those who want to use their land to create welcoming haven for wildlife and visitors. The team's ultimate goal is to create a network of nature across Worcestershire.

Advice and financial support will be available at a webinar which will guide organisations and businesses with their wildlife next step. If you know of any landowners, that may be able to benefit from applying to the scheme, please encourage them to follow this link to register for more information:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-webinar-creating-a-welcoming-space-for-humans-and-wildlife-tickets-139845103469>

As we headed into the end of the financial and Municipal year I was Delighted to see the amount of work that the highways Department as done in the parish when I came out and had a look last Friday, I am so pleased that after all these years of lobbying by yourselves and I we got there with the Station rd. resurfacing and rebuild of the footway. I went on Sunday and had a socially distanced chat with Mr Lowe over the Culvert 1, and he seemed pleased with the work we had done

I look forward to seeing you all tonight

Adrian

DRAFT MINUTES