

**Beckford Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on**  
**20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in Beckford Village Hall**

**Present**

Nettie Mantle (Vice Chairman), Diane Colvin, David Nicholds and Anne Worrall.

**In Attendance**

David Roscoe (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Hardman and District Councillor Darby and 23 members of the public. Representatives from Rooftop. Mr M Ramdehal, A Warner and M Antoni were also present.

**1683 Apologies for absence.**

1683.1 the Parish Council agreed to grant a Leave of Absence to Mr M Spice (Chairman) due to ill health.

**1684 Election of Chairman.**

1684.1 Councillor Mantle was elected Chairman. Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor Worrall. Unanimous.

**1685 Declaration of interest.**

1685.1 None declared.

**1686 Requests for Dispensation.**

1686.1 None submitted.

**1687 To discuss derelict properties in Little Beckford with representatives from Rooftop**

1687.1 Representatives from Rooftop gave a short presentation and members of the public were allowed to pose questions during Public Question Time. Rooftop's representative explained that they are still in discussions with Wychavon DC regarding the terms of a potential planning application. Whilst the development timetable is not yet clear, Rooftop hopes to make an application in the next few months, obtain permission by the Autumn and commence work before the year end. It is a priority for them to secure the site with Heras fencing in the near future.

1687.2 Cllr Nicholds took the opportunity to explain to the audience that the meeting today was taking place because we have a Parish Council. Otherwise, there would be no meeting and any important Parish issues (like planning applications) would be considered solely by Wychavon at Pershore by people unlikely to have any connection to our Parish and unlikely to have the kind of local knowledge possessed by residents. The Council is now very short of numbers and, if we lose another member, we will be down to the minimum at which we can legally function. So, Cllr Nicholds encouraged residents to get involved. The commitment is not onerous (a few hours a month) and, with more members, we will be better able to represent our Community's interests.

**1688 Minutes.**

1688.1 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

**1689 County Councillor's Report**

1689.1 Councillor Hardman gave his report which included:

- the County Council has budgeted money for flood mitigation (£1 million).
- Some progress had been made towards imposing a 40mph speed limit on the A46 coming out of Evesham.

**1690 District Councillor's Report**

- 1690.1 Councillor Darby gave his report (see attached)
- 1690.2 He announced to the meeting that he would not be standing at the next election. The Parish Council recorded their thanks for all the help he had given to the Council and local residents.

**1691 Clerk's Report**

- 1691.1 The clerk's report was reviewed and updated.

**1692 Finance**

- 1692.1 The Bank Reconciliation & Receipts & payments information had been circulated by David Roscoe (RFO) and were accepted. Proposed: Cllr Nicholds, seconded: Cllr Colvin. Unanimous
- 1692.2 **It was resolved that** the following payments be approved. Proposed: Cllr Nicholds seconded Cllr Colvin Unanimous.

Date	Payee	Chq No	Amount incl VAT	VAT	Reason
17/01/2023	BCVH	OB328	28.00	0.00	Hall Hire
12/02/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	517.66	0.00	Clerks Salary
26/01/2023	S Brown (Nov/Dec)	OB329	120.00	0.00	Speed Sign Maintenance
28/01/2023	A E Worrall	OB330	20.00	0.00	Replacement tubs
08/03/2023	NetwiseUK	OB331	396.00	66.00	Web Site Hosting
21/02/2023	NetwiseUK	OB332	24.00	4.00	Domain Renewal
27/02/2023	BCVH	OB333	28.00	0.00	Hall Hire
12/03/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	517.66	0.00	Clerks Salary
08/03/2023	M Wing	OB334	30.00	0.00	Playground Maintenance
21/03/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Expenses)	OB335	160.73	0.00	Clerks Expenses
16/03/2023	Overbury Enterprises	OB336	150.00	25.00	Hedge Cutting
21/03/2023	BCVH	OB337	28.00	0.00	Hall Hire
21/03/2023	BCVH	OB338	190.35	0.00	Jubilee Orchard Trees
21/03/2023	CHT	OB339	16.80	2.80	Defibrillator Pads

- 1692.3 The Clerks Expenses were reviewed and approved. Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor Nicholds. Unanimous.
- 1692.4 The Bank Reconciliation was reviewed and signed
- 1692.5 The budget for 2022/23 was reviewed and accepted.
- 1692.6 The Barclays Personal Details Forms were handed to Councillors Colvin and Mantle for completion and verification at a local branch.

**1693 Planning**

- 1693.1 There following applications were considered.

Appl. Number	Application	Details	Result
W/23/00039/HP	Walnut Tree Cottage Grafton Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AT	Replacement porch, alterations and improvements to Walnut Tree Cottage	No objections
W/23/00167/CU	Home Farm Back Lane Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AF	Change of use of land to extend domestic garden and construction of ancillary outbuilding to replace existing greenhouse	No objections
W/23/00040/LB	Walnut Tree Cottage Grafton Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AT	Replacement porch, alterations and improvements to Walnut Tree Cottage	No objections
W/23/00223/PIP	Back Lane House Back Lane Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AF	Permission in Principle for 9 dwellings.	Objections submitted 22/2/23
W/23/00215/HP	The Old House Main Street Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AD	Extension of existing Border Oak garage outbuilding to provide additional garage bay	No objections.
W/23/00262/HP	Sycamores Main Street Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AD	Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling, erection of new detached hobby room and landscaping as approved by planning permission reference 21/01809/HP - Variation of condition 5.	No objections

W/23/00233/PIP	Beckford Poultry Farm Ashton Road Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AU	Permission in Principle for the change of use of the land to residential and the construction of three to five self-build houses.	Objections submitted
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- 1694 To review the Risk Register including Little Beckford Playground**  
1694.1 No issues reported.
- 1695 To discuss National Highways' proposal to upgrade the A46 to dual carriageway.**  
1695.1 Nothing further to report. As usual, residents are referred to the Teddington & Alstone Advisory Group for information on the activities of Glos CC and comments thereon. See <https://taagroup.co.uk/>
- 1696 To discuss Little Beckford Flood Alleviation.**  
1696.1 Cllr Nicholds has not received a substantive update from The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group since Nov-22. As he reported then FWAG advised that it was making progress with natural flood management measures on Oxenton Hill (the source of the Alstone Brook). They need more trained personnel and are offering training in woodland management skills, including chainsaw use. Cllr Nicholds has now obtained more information about this and will arrange for it to be posted on Parish noticeboards and in the newsletter.
- 1697 To discuss Speed Sign Issue.**  
1697.1 It was resolved that the speed sign be repaired at a cost of £792.00 + VAT. Also there is an initial assessment charge of £39.50 + VAT, a redelivery fee of £27.50 + VAT and then fitting charge of £39.50 + VAT. Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor Worrall. Unanimous.
- 1698 To consider possibility of making Back Lane 'local traffic only.**  
1698.1 Councillor Hardman insisted that this was impossible to implement.  
1698.2 It was agreed that the speed would be monitored once the speed sign had been installed along Back Lane.
- 1699 To discuss contribution towards trees at the Village Hall.**  
1699.1 It was resolved that a contribution of £190.35 be made to the village hall with respect to the planting of trees as part of the Jubilee Orchard project. Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor Nicholds. Unanimous.
- 1700 To discuss areas to be mowed and how often but considering the impact upon wildlife.**  
1700.1 Mike Wing would seek advice from local residents and use his discretion whilst mowing to protect wildlife.
- 1701 To discuss Coronation Funding offer.**  
1701.1 No further action would be taken.
- 1702 To discuss Trees Call to Action.**  
1702.1 No further action would be taken.
- 1703 To discuss the Parish Games.**  
1703.1 No further action would be taken. However Mike Wing may take this forward if interested.
- 1704 To discuss Councillor Recruitment.**  
1704.1 It was agreed that Councillor Nicholds will refresh the original proposal to engage an outside PR consultancy to raise awareness amongst parishioners of the work of the Parish Council in the hope this will encourage engagement and applications to help fill the current Councillor vacancies.

**1705 To discuss May Elections.**

1705.1 It was confirmed that Nomination Forms are required to be handed personally to Wychavon District Council no later than the 4/4/23.

**1706 To agree items for the next Newsletter.**

1706.1 Items for inclusion in the next newsletter were discussed and agreed.

**1707 Items for the next agenda.**

1707.1 To discuss Councillor recruitment.

1707.2 To agree actions regarding the diseased tree at the entrance to Little Beckford.

1707.3 To discuss the purchase of a 2<sup>nd</sup> vehicle activated sign.

1707.4 To discuss National Highways' proposal to upgrade the A46 to dual carriageway.

1707.5 To discuss Little Beckford flood alleviation

**The meeting closed at 8.55 pm**

**The date of the next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7:00 PM. This will also be the AGM and Annual Parish Council meetings**

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

**SWDP Review**

As I reported last time there were a very large number of responses to the consultation, and officers still seem to be working through them. I have not heard when the independent examination by an inspector will start. It was originally scheduled to do so in February and to last until May, but it is obviously now going to be much later than that. The only substantive thing in it so far as Beckford is concerned is the elimination of your two significant gaps down Back Lane.

**Wychavon Meetings**

I attended the Council Meeting on 22 February which agreed not to raise Wychavon's element of the council tax. I also attended the planning committee on 2 March which had only four planning applications, the last one of which was by my son, so I left before the end while this was discussed. One of these was a Planning in Principle application. It was made clear by officers that the grounds for objection at this first stage were extremely narrow and limited to location and access. This will be relevant for the two current Beckford PiP applications. The other substantive agenda item was a report on Wychavon's five year housing land supply, which showed that, at December 2022, Wychavon has only 3.68 years. This means that the housing policies in the existing South Worcestershire Development Plan are out of date so far as Wychavon is concerned. We will not be safe from speculative planning applications outside the village development boundary until the new SWDP Review is adopted which will certainly take up to a year.

**Beckford Planning**

There are a number of Beckford applications on the agenda today. The only two to which the Parish Council has objected are the two Permission in Principle Applications. I have not at this stage agreed to these being delegated to officers but must struggle to find a planning justification to take them to committee because of the narrowness of the issues that can be addressed – see above.

**Wychavon Design Code**

I don't know whether you have responded to this consultation which closes on 31 March. You can do this on [www.wychavon.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/consultations).

I am looking forward to seeing you this evening, which will be my last PC meeting as your councillor as I am standing down at the coming election. You should note that you will be required to produce a photo id to vote at that election.

AMGD

20 March 2023