

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

**Present**

Nettie Mantle (Chairman), Diane Colvin, David Nicholds (Vice Chairman) and Mike Wing.

**In Attendance**

David Roscoe (Parish Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

**1723 Apologies for absence.**

1723.1 Apologies were received from Anne Worrall.

**1724 Declaration of interest.**

1724.1 None declared.

**1725 Requests for Dispensation.**

1725.1 None submitted.

**1726 Minutes.**

1726.1 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

**1727 County Councillor's Report**

1727.1 No report.

**1728 District Councillor's Report**

1728.1 No report.

**1729 Clerk's Report**

1729.1 The clerk's report was reviewed and updated.

**1730 Finance**

1730.1 The Bank Reconciliation & Receipts & payments information had been circulated by David Roscoe (RFO) and were accepted. Proposed: Cllr Colvin, seconded: Cllr Mantle. Unanimous

1730.2 **It was resolved that** the following payments be approved. Proposed: Cllr Colvin seconded Cllr Mantle Unanimous.

Date	Payee	Chq No	Amount incl VAT	VAT	Reason
12/04/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	517.66	0.00	Clerks Salary
15/04/2023	BCVH	OB342	84.00	0.00	Hall Hire
15/04/2022	Worcs CALC	OB343	428.63	65.09	Subs
24/04/2023	Simply Stone Ltd	OB344	650.00	108.33	Jubilee Stone
25/04/2023	I A Selkirk	OB345	115.00	0.00	Audit Fee
21/04/2023	Npower	OB346	23.55	1.12	Electricity
22/05/2023	BHIB	OB347	1118.37	0.00	Insurance
03/05/2023	Westcotec	OB348	1077.60	179.60	Speed Sign Repairs
30/04/2023	BCVH	OB349	84.00	0.00	Hall Hire (Defib Training)
16/05/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Expenses)	OB350	127.15	0.00	Clerks Expenses

1730.3 The Clerks Expenses were reviewed and approved. Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor Mantle. Unanimous.

1730.4 The Bank Reconciliation was reviewed and signed.

1730.5 The budget for 2023/24 was reviewed and accepted.

- 1730.6 The Annual Governance Statement was reviewed and accepted. Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor Mantle. Unanimous.
- 1730.7 The Annual Accounting Statement was reviewed and accepted. Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor Mantle. Unanimous.
- 1730.8 The Certificate of Exemption was agreed. Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor Mantle. Unanimous.
- 1730.9 The Internal Auditor Report was reviewed and accepted. Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor Mantle. Unanimous.

### 1731 Planning

1731.1 There following applications were considered.

Appl. Number	Application	Details	Result
W/22/01346/HP	Mullberry Cottage Back Lane Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AF	Extension to dwelling and detached garage	Approved
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	Approved
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.	Approved
W/23/00040/LB	Walnut Tree Cottage Grafton Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AT	Replacement porch, alterations and improvements to Walnut Tree Cottage	Approved

### 1732 To discuss an update regarding derelict properties in Little Beckford.

- 1732.1 Cllr Nicholds reminded the meeting that Rooftop had last time presented its proposal to demolish the 4 existing properties and replace them with a mix of 8 houses and bungalows. It was hoping to make a planning application over the Summer, obtain permission in the Autumn and start work before the year end. Residents had been given the opportunity to present various concerns and raise queries with Rooftop.
- 1732.2 Since then, as promised, Rooftop has secured the site by ripping up the roadside hedges and fencing and installing Heras fencing. Cllr Nicholds has asked Rooftop for an update regarding its timetable and its plan for site monitoring in the meantime, noting that residents are doubtless keeping an eye on the area and will anyway let Rooftop know of issues they see. No substantive response had been received by the time of the meeting, although Rooftop had asked whether the Council could give views on the proposal tabled last time and confirmed a wish to use the Village Hall for a public consultation in due course. Cllr Nicholds confirmed that he would respond to Rooftop to explain that we cannot as a Council comment on a proposal, rather we must limit ourselves to consideration of the planning application as and when it is received.

### 1733 To review the Risk Register including Little Beckford Playground

- 1733.1 No issues reported.
- 1733.2 **Action:** Councillor Nicholds will contact Wicksteeds to arrange a RoSPA Inspection. It was agreed to proceed up to a cost of £250. Proposed Councillor Wing, seconded Councillor Colvin. Unanimous.

### 1734 To discuss National Highways' proposal to upgrade the A46 to dual carriageway.

- 1734.1 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/>. There is a recent report there of the debate in Parliament instigated by Laurence Robertson, the Tewkesbury MP. The A46 at Ashchurch and linked areas were the topic, along with the indicative proposals from Glos CC. Cllr Nicholds' view remains that nothing is likely to happen soon and that it appears no substantive action is yet being taken by Worcs CC.

**1735 To discuss Little Beckford Flood Alleviation.**

1735.1 Cllr Nicholds recapped that the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group has developed a woodland management plan for Oxenton Hill which our contact (Jo Leigh) hopes will enable installation of robust leaky dams. Some work has been done, but there is a lot of natural flood management to build on the Hill, so it will be a long-running project. However, ultimately, Little Beckford / Alstone Brook will benefit as part of that. The related point from the last meeting is that volunteers who undertake woodland training (in management techniques and the use of chainsaws and related equipment) will contribute to the effort. We made information about the training available to residents after the last meeting and 3 have expressed interest, with 1 signing up. It was agreed that the Council will look at funding part of the cost of the training and Cllr Nicholds is to liaise with FWAG to confirm costs and present a proposal to the next meeting.

**1736 To discuss traffic calming suggestions. Including the purchase of a 2nd vehicle activated sign and gates at the entrance to Little Beckford.**

1736.1 It was resolved that a second Solar Powered Speed Sign be purchased for Conderton Road at a cost of £3726+ VAT. Proposed Councillor Mantle, seconded Councillor Nicholds. Unanimous. Councillor Colvin will progress the order.

1736.2 The issue of installing Village Gates at the entrance to Little Beckford had been considered before but National Highways would not approve this as there was no speeding issue. Councillor Wing will approach Highways to see if anything more can be done.

**1737 To agree for Ashton Open Gardens to put banner on the Ashton Road junction the week before 10th June.**

1737.1 It was resolved that agreement be given.

**1738 To discuss woodland training.**

1738.1 See Minute notes 1735 above.

**1739 To agree actions regarding the diseased tree at the entrance to Little Beckford.**

1739.1 Action: Councillor Wing will contact Highways.

**1740 To discuss plantings and vegetation management in Little Beckford.**

1740.1 Flower Beds at entrance to Little Beckford. No land in Little Beckford is owned by the Parish Council, so responsibility lies with Worcestershire County Council. Unable to provide approval. Who would manage and maintain.

1740.2 Seeds, plugs etc for entrance and verges – Answer as above.

1740.3 Planting of more trees. The Parish Council are not the landowners. Unable to approve.

1740.4 Raised bed / community garden – The Parish Council are not the landowners, who would manage. Unable to approve.

1740.5 Overgrown hedge opposite Bus Shelter – Already reported to Highways who have responded. Will be cut after August- post bird nesting season.

**1741 To discuss the provision of a skip in Little Beckford.**

1741.1 Unable to approve. Requires safe place to locate, lighting, waste management / control. Waste producers license.

**1742 To discuss the provision of a cupboard to be placed in or near the bus shelter for donated food produce, plants household items (similar to a food bank).**

1742.1 Bus Shelter usage. Who would manage? Concerns over storage of food /perishable products, liability should issues arise. Concerns of facility being misused.

1742.2 Suggest set up of a one-day usage 'pop up' facility for items to be sold / shared between residents. Need to know who will be responsible.

**1743 To discuss church yard grant request.**

1743.1 It was resolved that the grant request from St John the Baptist Church, Beckford be approved at an amount of £900. Proposed Councillor Mantle, seconded Councillor Colvin. Unanimous.

**1744 To discuss funding a one day Regulated Emergency First Aid training course.**

1744.1 It was resolved that the funding be approved at an approximate cost of £270. Proposed Councillor Nicholds, seconded Councillor Colvin. Unanimous.

**1745 To discuss Councillor recruitment and community engagement (to include a presentation from Mosaïque).**

1745.1 It was noted that Cllr Wing had been appointed and, following pleas from various Councillors, 3 other residents had either applied or otherwise expressed an interest in joining the Council. So, the hope is that the immediate recruitment issue will soon be resolved. Cllr Nicholds added that, with a focus on community engagement and a related appreciation of the value of the Council's work, we hope to create a situation in which the Council becomes self sustaining. The Council received a presentation from marketing consultants Mosaïque illustrating how we might develop a plan. We agreed to review this afterwards with a view to deciding at the next meeting whether to proceed.

**1746 To agree items for the next Newsletter.**

1746.1 Items for inclusion in the next newsletter should be sent to Councillor Mantle.

**1747 Items for the next agenda.**

1747.1 No suggestions.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

The date of the next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7:00 PM.