

**Beckford Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on**  
**18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Beckford Village Hall**

**Present**

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

**In Attendance**

David Roscoe (Parish Clerk, via Skype) Councillor B Hardman and 7 members of the public.

**1835 Apologies for absence.**

1835.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Mike Wing.

**1836 Declaration of interest.**

1836.1 None declared.

**1837 Requests for Dispensation.**

1837.1 None submitted.

**1838 Minutes.**

1838.1 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

**1839 County Councillor's Report**

1839.1 The report from Councillor A Hardman was circulated. No decisions were required of the Parish Council.

**1840 District Councillor's Report**

1840.1 Councillor Beverley Hardman gave her report. No decisions were required of the Parish Council.

1840.2 Councillor B Hardman agreed to contact a local police representative to see if they could attend our next Annual Parish Meeting in order to discuss speeding issues within the village.

**1841 Clerk's Report**

1841.1 The clerk's report was reviewed and updated.

**1842 Finance**

1842.1 The Bank Reconciliation & Receipts & payments information had been circulated by David Roscoe (RFO) and were accepted. Proposed: Cllr Colvin, seconded: Cllr Worrall. Unanimous

1842.2 **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
22/12/2023	ICO	DD	35.00	0.00	Information Commissioner
21/01/2024	Geosphere Parish Online	OB398	64.80	10.80	Parish Mapping
12/01/2024	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	553.41	0.00	Clerks Salary
12/02/2024	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	553.41	0.00	Clerks Salary
07/02/2024	CHT	OB399	207.54	34.59	Defibrillator
23/02/2024	Redlynch Ltd	OB400	579.60	96.60	Playground Repairs
11/03/2024	Netwise Ltd	OB401	396.00	66.00	Web Hosting
24/02/2024	Netwise Ltd	OB402	24.00	4.00	Web Hosting
12/03/2024	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	553.41	0.00	Clerks Salary
11/03/2024	M P Wing	OB403	135.76	0.00	Lengthsman
11/03/2024	M P Wing	OB404	152.00	0.00	LB Playarea Maintenance
11/03/2024	Overbury Estates	OB405	72.00	12.00	Hedge Cutting
20/03/2024	BCVH	OB406	28.00	0.00	Hall Hire
19/03/2024	D Roscoe (Clerks Expenses)	OB407	130.26	0.00	Clerks Expenses

- 1842.3 The Clerks Expenses were reviewed and approved. Proposed Councillor Cort, seconded Councillor Worrall. Unanimous.
- 1842.4 The Bank Reconciliation was reviewed and signed.
- 1842.5 The budget for 2023/24 was reviewed and accepted.
- 1842.6 **It was agreed that** Councillor Worrall and Councillor Cort be added as bank signatories. Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor Nicholds. Unanimous.

### 1843 Planning

1843.1 The following applications were considered.

Appl. Number	Application	Details	Result
W/24/00205/FUL	Beckford Silk Ashton Road Tewkesbury GL20 7AU	Proposed extension providing additional space for the existing Tea Room and associated works.	No objections
W/22/02256/PIP	Land At (Os 9795 3584)Station RoadBeckford	Permission in Principle for the construction of one self build detached house.	Refused

### 1844 To review the Risk Register including Little Beckford Playground

1844.1 No issues were reported.

### 1845 To discuss Little Beckford Flood Alleviation.

1845.1 Cllr Nicholds reported that he had corresponded with Wychavon DC's Engineering Department regarding the idea of running a drain off the end of Blacksmith's Lane and finishing at the Carrant Brook. WDC had advised that the next steps should be: (a) prepare evidence of flooding suffered by local residents; (b) obtain an expert's report on the idea to confirm by modelling that the likely benefit of diverting rainwater via a new drain would have the desired effect, ie to reduce the flow into the Alstone Brook to such an extent that it prevents properties around the Alstone Brook from flooding. It was agreed that Cllrs Nicholds and Cort would speak to affected residents with a view to gathering evidence of flooding.

### 1846 To update the position regarding the A46.

1846.1 Cllr Nicholds referred as usual to the Teddington and Alstone Advisory Group's website (<https://taagroup.co.uk>) and noted their December 2023 update which confirms that the earliest a scheme could be considered by National Highways now is 2030-35, but this is dependant on a business case being submitted by Glos CC to the Department for Transport and to the DfT approving it. In short, nothing is happening in the near future.

### 1847 To discuss parking on the footpath in Sweden Lane/Blacksmiths Lane.

- 1847.1 It was reported that contractors' vehicles are causing the problem of parking on the footpath but it was observed that if they did not park on the footpath then the alternative was to block the highway.
- 1847.2 Rooftop had undertaken to carry out repairs to the rutted edges of The Green at the end of the building project.
- 1847.3 Councillor B Hardman will inform Wychavon that Rooftop are causing damage to their land (The Green) and to inform them of resultant environmental issues.

### 1848 To discuss vehicle damage to The Cross Beckford

- 1848.1 It was reported that the grass and curbing at the Cross had been damaged.
- 1848.2 **It was agreed** that Councillor Wing would be asked to repair the damage and install posts at each corner to prevent vehicle incursion.
- 1848.3 **it was agreed that** a cost of up to £200 would be allocated. Proposed Councillor mantle, seconded Councillor Colvin. Unanimous.

### 1849 To discuss possible Community Speedwatch Group.

1849.1 Following an enquiry from local residents, the Clerk would provide information on the Community Speedwatch Groups and the cost of a Speed Gun (£276).

- 1849.2 In addition Councillor B Hardman would ask a local police representative to arrange a speed awareness presentation and to attend our Annual Parish Council meeting in May.
- 1850 To agree the grazing license for the field in Little Beckford.**
- 1850.1 It was agreed that the grazing license with the current tenants be renewed at £80 for the period 2023/24.
- 1850.2 The Parish Council would review the agreement and the cost of rental before the next renewal.
- 1850.3 Councillor Worrall would investigate rental cost per acre.
- 1851 To discuss Beckford Open Village.**
- 1851.1 It was agreed that the organisers should submit a funding proposal to the Parish Council for consideration at the May Parish Council meeting.
- 1852 To discuss next steps with Community Engagement.**
- 1852.1 In order to improve awareness of the activities and role of the Parish Council, Councillor Cort would investigate taking up a table at the Open Village event.
- 1852.2 In addition it was suggested that central distribution points be organised where Parish Council Newsletters could be collected.
- 1853 To discuss and agree Parish Council logo design.**
- 1853.1 It was agreed that Logo Design 1 provided by Councillor Wing was the preferred option of those he prepared. However there would be a need to include reference to Little Beckford and Grafton within the design.
- 1853.2 It was further agreed that a brief be prepared for Mosaique to offer a design and logo for consideration by Council.
- 1854 To discuss updating the web site and refresh.**
- 1854.1 The Clerk confirmed that amendments or updates to the website could be made on receipt of content from the Parish Councillors.
- 1855 To establish location of the grit spreaders.**
- 1855.1 It was established that the grit spreaders were located at the Old Blacksmiths in Little Beckford.
- 1856 To discuss New Community Orchard and Mini Forest Funding.**
- 1856.1 No action to be taken.
- 1857 To consider the Travelling Music bus for the parish.**
- 1857.1 Although the Parish Council felt that there would not be enough interest in this item, it was suggested that the Open Village group may pursue the matter.
- 1858 To discuss potential councillor vacancy.**
- 1858.1 Action: the Clerk will source promotional material for posting on the notice boards and the website.
- 1858.2 It was suggested that a short leaflet be prepared to distribute at the Open Village event.
- 1859 To agree items for the next Newsletter.**
- 1859.1 The next newsletter is expected to be issued shortly.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

The date of the next meeting 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7:00 PM. This will also be the AGM and Annual Parish Meeting.

**Beckford Parish Council**  
**March Meeting.**

In view of tonight's Panorama programme my brief report focuses on the money.

Worcestershire County Council continues to navigate a challenging financial landscape into the financial year 2024/25. Despite sustained efforts to manage costs, we face significant demand and cost pressures in key service areas: Children's Social Care Placements, Home-to-School Transport, and Adult Social Care. These pressures are compounded by the council's fixed cash budget and limited income generation capabilities due to national restrictions on council tax, business rates, and trading income. In the Current Financial Year (2023/24): The council anticipates a significant overspend, albeit mitigated by additional business rates income, further adult social care grants, and the one-off use of reserves.

The Budget for 2024/25: Despite an increase in public health-related grants and business rates pool funding (rising by £27.9 million), we are not keeping pace with the escalating demand pressures. The budget proposals aim to address these ongoing financial strains, projecting into the 2024/25 fiscal year to manage the structural deficit effectively.

In February 2024, the government acknowledged WCC's financial position, awarding an additional £5 million in grants for social care. Additionally, a 2.99% increase in council tax, coupled with a 2% uplift in the adult social care levy, has been approved through Full Council. These measures, alongside targeted investments in children's and adult social care, enable the council to uphold its capital commitments across critical areas such as the economy, environment, highways, and education.

The council undertook extensive consultations on its draft budget, engaging with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including scrutiny panels, the school's forum, trade unions, business representatives, parish and town councils, and staff. This collaborative approach ensures that our financial strategies align with the broader community needs and expectations.

Our Corporate Plan underscores our dedication to championing business, supporting children and families, protecting the environment, and promoting health and well-being. Despite the financial challenges, we remain committed to these pillars, ensuring that Worcestershire County continues to thrive.

Worcestershire County Council is at a challenging point, facing significant financial pressures yet bolstered by strategic planning and external support. As we move into 2024/25 financial year, our focus will remain on delivering essential services, managing resources effectively, and advocating for additional government funding to mitigate these pressures further.

The promotion of Health and Wellbeing remains a key priority of Worcestershire County Council. As part of my cabinet role as the member with overall responsibility for Adult Social Care, and I sit on the Health and Wellbeing Board. Your health and well-being are of paramount importance. Worcestershire County Council are working closely with healthcare providers and community organisations to ensure access to healthcare services and promote healthy lifestyles for all our residents with Prevention being at the heart of all we do.

To more local issues,

1826 To discuss blocked/broken/collapsed land drain in Grafton.

I have been out and Barry has been out as well, but the issue is tricky and the solution is to stop the water getting on to the highway in the first place.

1827 To discuss standing water near Roadside Cottages in Ashton Road.

We will be submitting a capital bid to raise the road, but it needs work at to whether it would work! Trying to defeat geography is pointless.

1829 To discuss the state of the footpath in Back Lane from Main Street.

Having been out and had a good look there are areas which might need repair. It would be of help to me if the Parish would ask Highways for a formal inspection, and a complete resurfacing.

Just two other points, I am still at a loss as to why we have not done the lorry sign, and I did attend the verge issue at the top of Grafton, but wonder if it is a wise use of resource to pursue it.

In closing, I would just like to leave you with this one key statistic: 72 1/2% of the budget at Worcestershire County Council is currently spent on 2 1/2% of the population and these are the most vulnerable in society. It is important that we continue to protect this cohort of our population. These are the most vulnerable, and the County Council are committed to ensuring these members of our community are supported and protected.

Thank you for your time and support.

Adrian