

Beckford Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
15th July 2024 in Beckford Village Hall

Present

Diane Colvin (Chairman), Alison Cort (Vice Chairman), Mike Wing and Anne Worrall.

In Attendance

David Roscoe (Parish Clerk) Councillor B Hardman, Councillor A Hardman and 8 members of the public.

1898 Apologies for absence.

1898.1 No apologies were received.

1899 Declaration of interest.

1899.1 None declared.

1900 Requests for Dispensation.

1900.1 None submitted.

1901 Minutes.

1901.1 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th May 2024 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

1902 To appoint new councillors

1902.1 **It was resolved that** the following applicants be appointed to become members of the Parish Council.

- Jo Bell
- Robert McCarthy
- Pam Bailey

Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor Cort. Unanimous. The new councillors were welcomed and invited to join the Parish Council.

1903 County Councillor's Report

1903.1 The report from Councillor A Hardman was circulated (See Attached). No decisions were required of the Parish Council.

1904 District Councillor's Report

1904.1 Councillor Beverley Hardman gave her report. No decisions were required of the Parish Council.

1904.2 She recommended that everyone joins the Neighbourhood Matters Website and receive regular updates.

1904.3 Councillor B Hardman confirmed that the Sweden Lane development was being put to the Planning Committee with particular attention being given to the parking and width of road.

1904.4 With regard to the land at Sweden Lane, this was being referred to Parks for advice on a maintenance programme and Councillor Hardman will report back to the Parish Council.

1905 Clerk's Report

1905.1 The clerk's report was reviewed and updated.

1906 Finance

1906.1 The Bank Reconciliation & Receipts & payments information had been circulated by David Roscoe (RFO) and were accepted. Proposed: Cllr Cort, seconded: Cllr Wing. Unanimous

1906.2 **It was resolved that** the following payments be approved. Proposed: Cllr Cort seconded Cllr Wing. Unanimous.

Date	Payee	Chq No	Amount incl VAT	VAT	Reason
16/05/2024	Westcotec	OB420	109.80	18.30	Battery for Speed Sign
12/06/2024	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	553.41	0.00	Clerks Salary
28/05/2024	Diane Colvin	OB421	71.50	0.00	Office Expenses
28/05/2024	Beckford Church Committee	OB422	1000.00	0.00	Grant
31/05/2024	MW Property & Garden Maintenance	OB423	462.50	0.00	Grass Cutting
31/05/2024	MW Property & Garden Maintenance	OB424	60.00	0.00	Speed Sign (Lengthsman)
31/05/2024	MW Property & Garden Maintenance	OB425	300.00	0.00	Maintenance + Lengthsman
03/06/2024	BCVH	OB426	12.00	0.00	Hall Hire
25/06/2024	BCVH	OB427	42.00	0.00	Hall Hire
25/06/2024	BCVH	OB428	2.00	0.00	Hall Hire
12/07/2024	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	553.41	0.00	Clerks Salary
03/07/2024	MW Property & Garden Maintenance	OB429	60.00	0.00	Speed Sign (Lengthsman)
03/07/2024	MW Property & Garden Maintenance	OB430	95.00	0.00	Verge Cutting (Lengthsman)
03/07/2024	MW Property & Garden Maintenance	OB431	144.00	0.00	Grass Cutting
03/07/2024	MW Property & Garden Maintenance	OB432	75.00	0.00	Little Beckford Play Area
05/07/2024	NPower	OB433	48.22	2.30	Electric
10/07/2024	Wicksteeds	OB434	158.40	28.40	Playground Inspection
16/07/2024	D Roscoe (Clerks Expenses)	OB435	106.99	0.00	Clerks Expenses

1906.3 The Clerks Expenses were reviewed and approved. Proposed Councillor Wing, seconded Councillor McCarthy. Unanimous.

1906.4 The budget for 2024/25 was reviewed and accepted.

1906.5 **It was agreed that** the remaining Barclays Bank Mandate Forms will be forwarded to the Clerk for processing.

1907 Planning

1907.1 The following applications were considered.

Appl. Number	Application	Details	Result
W/23/02038/FUL	Home Farm Back Lane Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AF	Replacement dwelling	Permit
W/23/02453/HP	Greford House Grafton Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AT	Part demolition of existing two-storey extension and erection of proposed two-storey extension	Approved
W/24/01206/TDC5	Land At (Os 9795 3584) Station Road Beckford	Technical Details Consent application for the construction of a single detached self-build dwelling following approval of a Permission in Principle application reference W/22/00080/PIP.	No Objections
W/24/00205/FUL	Beckford Silk Ashton Road Tewkesbury GL20 7AU	Proposed extension providing additional space for the existing Tea Room and associated works.	Approved
W/23/01725/FUL	Properties 1 to 4 Sweden Lane Beckford	Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 8 dwellings with access to parking, landscaping and associated works.	Planning Committee

1908 To review the Risk Register including Little Beckford Playground

1908.1 The Risk Register was updated with responsible persons. No issues were reported.

1909 To discuss Little Beckford Flood Alleviation.

1909.1 Cllr Cort reported that former Councillor David Nicholds, acting as a volunteer advisor on this issue, has received updated engineer quotes for producing a report on flood alleviation at Little Beckford.

Investigation with Wychavon found that no information exists from the last time this issue was looked at (it has been 8 years, and the project was not pursued). There has been no change to the quoted report costs.

- 1909.2 As the two quotes are priced quite widely apart, David Nicholds and Cllr Cort will engage with both firms to establish whether there are significant differences in proposed service levels offered.
- 1909.3 Cllr Cort and David Nicholds will research funding opportunities to help support the cost of the report. Cllr Cort will send District Cllr Hardman copies of the quotes. Proposed Councillor Worrall, seconded Councillor Bailey. Unanimous.
- 1910 To update the position regarding the A46.**
- 1910.1 Cllr Cort reported that there have been no major updates on this issue. A Freedom of Information request published on the Teddington and Alstone Advisory Group (TAAG) website reveals that there has been almost £12 million spent on the A46 project to date with an additional £3 million earmarked for further study, including a non-statutory consultation.
- 1910.2 As ever, residents interested in this issue are advised to check the TAAG website regularly for updates .
- 1911 To discuss supporting the SafeAvon initiative (a short talk from Geoff Sallis) and for pollution testing of the Carrant Brook.**
- 1911.1 Geoff Sallis gave a presentation regarding pollution in the River Avon using Pollution and Open Water Sources. He confirmed that specific points have been tested weekly for pollution and was now looking at the tributaries.
- 1911.2 He was looking to set up local environmental groups and have obtained one volunteer from Beckford.
- 1911.3 The cost of joining the group would be £280 covering two years and all information would be shared with the Parish Council.
- 1911.4 Councillor B Hardman would send details of how Wychavon could help fund the project as she confirmed the budget had been set aside.
- 1911.5 The role of the Parish Council is to receive the data and make it available through awareness campaigns.
- 1911.6 **It was resolved that** Councillor Worrall would lead the project on behalf of the Parish Council and that the £280 fee over two years would be approved under Section 137. Proposed Councillor Worrall, seconded Councillor Wing. Unanimous.
- 1912 To discuss the request for a large traffic mirror at the end of Blacksmiths Lane.**
- 1912.1 Councillor A Hardman confirmed that the County Council is against installing mirrors because of the risk that they pose to pedestrians and cyclists who tend not to be noticed by drivers in mirrors. See his further report below
- 1912.2 It was suggested that instead of a mirror, white dividing lines down the road. He agreed he would mention this to Barry Barnes during his visit.
- 1913 To agree action regarding the overgrown verge at the junction of the A46 and Back Lane.**
- 1913.1 **Action:** Councillor Wing will take a look at the location.
- 1914 To agreed Community Charter Priorities.**
- 1914.1 **Action:** The clerk will reply that Speeding is our overriding priority and asked for help in forming a Speed watch Group.
- 1915 To discuss possible Community Speedwatch Group.**
- 1915.1 See minute note 1 914.1 above.
- 1915.2 **Action:** The clerk will reply to Claire Dougherty Pershore Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team, to progress matters urgently.
- 1916 To discuss the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review: Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey Update**

- 1916.1 Councillor Cort confirmed that she had submitted the VERTS response forms for Beckford, Little Beckford and Grafton. She was now awaiting the outcome.
- 1917 To discuss the renewal of the Little Beckford Play Area lease with WDC**
- 1917.1 **It was agreed that** the Lease be renewed and the Clerk will confirm with Wychavon.
- 1917.2 Councillor B Hardman agreed to talk to Amanda Galvin to clarify future permitted use.
- 1917.3 It was agreed to investigate potentially use of the land as an open space for residents (lease currently states play area) and to inform the current grazing lease holder of our decision prior to its renewal in April 2025.
- 1918 To obtain Outdoor Gym equipment progress report.**
- 1918.1 Councillor Worrall confirmed that she was still awaiting to hear the outcome of the funding application.
- 1919 To agree the replacement of the bench near the Beckford Bus Stop.**
- 1919.1 Councillor Wing agreed to undertake further research as to the type of bench and costs.
- 1919.2 Councillor A Hardman confirmed that he would be able to provide funding up to £400 from the Local Member Development Fund.
- 1920 To discuss training opportunities**
- 1920.1 Councillor Cort agreed to send the link to the remaining Councillors for the online Inductive Training Courses.
- 1921 To discuss production of the next newsletter.**
- 1921.1 Councillor Cort confirmed that she had produce the last newsletter and would add to the website.
- 1922 Items for next agenda**
- 1922.1 To discuss access across the A 46 from Beckford to Little Beckford.
- 1922.2 To approve the Little Beckford Playground Inspection Report.

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm

The date of the next meeting 16th September 2024 at 7:00 PM

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Beckford parish council meeting.

15 07 24

A relatively short report from me today since the general election has tended to cause a stop to the activities of local government for the past six weeks but there are a few issues I would just like to raise with you.

1) Barry Barnes is away on holiday next week for a fortnight but I've asked him before he goes to give me some dates so that we can fix up a meeting in regard to the issues that remain in back lane.

2) I'm afraid I failed to reply to an e-mail that I am unable to find regarding a mirror in little Beckford which Allison I think sent to me. The County Council is against installing mirrors because of the risk that they pose to pedestrians and cyclists who tend not to be noticed by drivers in mirrors. I will also point out there is an issue with them on a day like today; not being very effective with rain or indeed fogging due temperature change. The County Council also has a feeling that it increases the liability that they would carry regarding an accident. we don't mind people putting them on private land but because then clearly they are responsible it's their mirror which caused an accident. This is not a hard and fast rule; since those who are observant will know that there is one on top of the County Council sign post at the top of Crashmore lane in Overbury but this was installed by the estate some time ago and we engage on in a touch of what I would call Nelson style behaviour.

3) I'm trying to chase down a contact at highways England so that I can take up the issue of the growth on the footpath because the current regional contact I have has moved on but I'm expecting to get a response this week as to who we can e-mail.

4) we have launched 2 consultations that could be of interest to the parish council one is on electric vehicle charging points and this is a more complex subject than one could imagine. And the second is on an idea that parish councils will take over the mowing and control of vergers on the C roads and unclassified roads so that they could then manage them in a more environmental way. I think it's true to say I am extremely sceptical of this, and I have a feeling that someone in highways is using the environment as a method to cost shunt to parish councils.

5) the saga of the RACK at county hall continues and we are now moving out of the building in entirety and moving staff into Wychavon and the rest into Wildwood which is a building we own on the same campus. We ended the financial year only some £4.6 million over spent by using a considerable amount of reserves and a bit of use of something called minimum revenue provision; in effect is a way of extending the mortgage!

Adrian