

Minutes of the **meeting of the Beaworthy Parish Council** held at 1930 hours on **Thursday 18th Jan 2024** in Beaworthy Parish Hall.

Councillors present: Cllr Rendell (Chairman), Cllr Coleman, Cllr Wonnacott, Cllr Higgins, Cllr Balsdon

Also present: A. Braidwood (Clerk), Cllr Mott (WDBC)

1. **Chairman's welcome.** Cllr Rendell welcomed attendees to the meeting.
 2. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Southcott (WDBC), Cllr Sanders
 3. **Public Forum** – No one spoke
 4. **Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda** – Nil
 5. **Minutes of the previous meeting.** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the **14th Dec 2023** were a true record and were signed by the Chairman.
 6. **Clerk's report** – received. **Annex A**
 7. **Planning.** Appeal Start Notification had been received regarding ref **0328/23/FUL** available on the WDBC Planning portal. The Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to submit the following representation. "The Parish Council supports this appeal. There is limited opportunity for sustainable business/employment in the rural community and this should be supported. The Parish Council sees no material reason to object. This proposed business may well create other much needed employment opportunities in a rural community. This decision is also based on similar previous planning applications in this area which have been given approval despite the same considerations over there being no footways or streetlights and an increase in traffic, which were not considered a problem. (3441/21/OPA)
 8. **Councillor reports:**
 - 8.1 Highways update –It was noted that the PC speak regularly with DCC regarding the state of the roads.
 - 8.2 Parish Hall Report – Received. It was noted there is a coffee morning on the 1st Saturday each month and an upcoming Bingo evening on 26 Jan at 7pm.
 - 8.3 Crime commissioners Report – NTR
 - 8.4 Northern Links – This will be removed from reports as this no longer takes place.
 9. **WDBC Report** – Received
 10. **Annual meeting of the Parish and Annual Council Meeting** – It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to have both meetings on 16th May. The Parish Meeting at 7pm followed by the Annual Council Meeting at 7.30pm.
 11. **Policy Reviews:**
 - 11.1 **Staff Development Review Scheme** - Reviewed and **RESOLVED** to accept the amendments.
 - 11.2 **Publication Policy** – Reviewed and **RESOLVED** to accept the amendments.
 - 11.3 **Document Retention Schedule** – It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy.
 - 11.4 **Standing Orders** - Reviewed and **RESOLVED** to accept the amendments.
 - 11.5 **Freedom of Information Policy** – Reviewed and **RESOLVED** to accept the amendments.
 12. **Finance:**
 - 12.1 The RFO presented the **Finance Report** and bank reconciliation **29 Dec 2023 (Annex B)**
- The Council **RESOLVED** to continue in **confidential session at 1955 hours**. Cllr Mott was invited to stay.
13. **Enforcement** –updates were received.
- The confidential session closed at **2020** hours.
14. **Items for the agenda for next meeting** – Privacy Policy review
 15. **Date of next meeting** – 15th Feb 2024
 16. **Meeting closed at:** 2025 hours.

Annex A - Clerk Report - Jan 2024

Finance:

- **Grant** – The cheque has been sent to the Village Hall treasurer.

Appraisal:

Forms are still outstanding – please can Councillors send these on to Cllr Sanders as soon as possible. Thank you.

Planning

- We are **still** waiting for the final Memorandum of understanding which will be agreed to sign up to.

Planning decisions received this month:

Application: 0604/23/FUL - Construction of a temporary agricultural workers supervisory dwelling (resubmission of 2874/22/OPA) Location: Land at SX 460 975, Metherell Cross, Patchacott – **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL**

Resolutions - All resolutions from the Dec meeting have been actioned. Including the cheques which have been issued and planning comments submitted.

Outstanding issues are:

- Emergency plan meeting to be arranged.
- Clerks' appraisal meeting to be confirmed.
- Nat West complaint - ongoing
- MOU

Correspondence

Financial assistance to the church

Section 82 of the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 has now come into force, inserting s.19A into the 1894 Local Government Act.

The amendment clarifies that the 1894 Act does not affect the discretionary powers of parish councils in England to fund church repairs or improvements, meaning councils can use their discretionary powers for work such as repairing a church clock, or the maintenance of open churchyards. Councils will also be able to use the General Power of Competence and section 137 (subject to normal restrictions, specified in the newly-updated [Legal Topic Note 31\(E\)](#)).

Parish councils are not under any additional duties as a result of this amendment. NALC have [issued a legal briefing](#) looking at this issue in detail, which we recommend you read. There's also [more information on our website](#).

Annex B - Finance Report and Bank reconciliation to 29 Dec 2023

Receipts

Total	Precept	Grant	Bank Interest	VAT Refund	Misc		
4,305.80	4,261.00	-	-	44.80	-	-	-

Payments

Total	Clerk's Salary	Grants and Donations	Admin and training	Office Costs	Insurance	Asset Maint	Election Costs	VAT
3,405.38	1,780.48	600.00	-	425.28	125.55	425.16	-	48.91

Bank Summary

Cashbook

		Current Acc
Balance at	01/04/23	4,746.57
Receipts	to date	4,305.80
Payments	to date	3,405.38
Balance at	29/12/23	5,646.99

Bank Reconciliation

Balance per statement **29 Dec 23** **5,785.63**

Outstanding cheques

Chq No Amount

Total Outstanding cheques/DD

372 138.64

(138.64)

5,646.99

Difference

-

of which £2848.13 is reserves