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| Beckbury parish council Meeting minutes | | |
| Location: | Beckbury Village Hall | |
| Date: | 4 September 2024 | |
| Time: | 19:30 | |
| Chair: | David Cummings (DC) | |
| Present: | David de Courcy (DdeC)  Peter Gibbins (PG)  Peter Hopkins (PH)  James Paice (JP)  Georgina Porter (Clerk)ter de Courcy  David de Courcy |  |
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1. **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies**Matt Wild
2. **Declarations of Interest**

No interests declared.

1. **Minutes**The minutes of the meeting on 3 July 2024 were approved by the PC.
2. **Beckbury Parish Council membership**

The recent death of Councilor David Tooth has left a vacancy on the Parish Council. A Parish Council consists of a chairperson and no fewer than five elected parish councillors. As there are still sufficient councillors to fulfil this obligation, there was general discussion on the merits of co-opting parishioners who had already shown an interest in serving or waiting until May 2025 when full elections for a new Parish Council will be held. Taking into consideration that the process for co-opting new members to the council would take until at least the January meeting, it was **agreed** to wait until the full elections in May to confirm the number of vacancies and invite nominations.

ACTION: **DC and GP** to respond to interested parties; **GP** to draft guidance to be published in the October Newsletter.

1. **Beckbury Playing Field**
   1. **Oak tree pruning**. This has been completed by Reid Glaze. PG reminded him to complete the commission with the clearance of brambles from the site so that the fence can be repaired and RG has agreed.
   2. **Fence repair.** DC/PG will carry out this work as soon as brambles are cleared
   3. **Football.** Albrighton FC have used the field throughout the summer and have paid £130 in rent. The Beckbury Badgers FC has confirmed usage in the new season. These rents have contributed around 50% towards the cost of field maintenance
2. **Allotments:** Noted that the rent for 2023/4 is still outstanding.

ACTION: **PG** to chase Allotments Treasurer, Tom Spickernell for payment

1. **Planning Applications**

Therewere noobjections to the development at Bigwood Farm Solar Panel array retention or Caynton Hall – demolition of workshop/replacement with new dwelling

1. **Village Maintenance**
   1. The new light for the corner opposite the Village Hall is now due to be erected on 11 November 2024.
   2. Clerance of the footpath running from the churchyard up to the entrance to 30, Badger Lane was carried out by some council members and parishioners. It was **noted** that the pathway had become dangerously overgrown and the volunteers’ work was very much appreciated. It was also noted that clearance of overhanging vegetation onto the highway is the responsibility of the landowner

ACTION: **PG** to contact and remind the owner of that duty.

* 1. It was noted that there had been no road sweeping carried out by Shropshire Council for some time. It was not certain whether this service had been withdrawn.

ACTION: **GP** to check and report

* 1. Concern was raised about the size and  weight of some lorries travelling through the village, a number of which had difficulty in going round the bend by the farm. It was **agreed** that a request be made of Shropshire Council for HGV restriction signs to be placed at the entrance to all appropriate lanes/roads. ACTION: **GP** to follow up with Shropshire Council.

1. **Beckbury Shop**

There is a continuing difficulty in recruiting volunteers, although a recent addition was very welcome. The annual Members Meeting will be held on 19 September 2024 when the results of the annual community shop grant awards will be announced. A total of £4000 is available this year for projects that will benefit the Parish.

1. **Beckbury Village Hall** 
   1. PG confirmed that the VH Committee will draw parking restrictions to the attention of hirers. PG puts out bollards if he is made aware of any functions.
   2. Invoices: The BPC has not been invoiced for recent hiring of the hall for council meetings and these costs are outstanding.

ACTION: **GP** to contact VH treasure for invoice to reconcile outstanding amount.

1. **Beckbury School House**PH reported no further progress on receipt of the original deeds to the property, but he will persevere. ACTION **PH**
2. **Police Matters**

GP reported that West Mercia Police had been in contact regarding the Community Charter – a “Parish Contact Contract” to record contact details of eh parish council Chairs and Clerks and the top three community issues. DC confirmed that he had responded to the Police and Crime Plan survey 2024 and had had to report little visibility of the police in the parish. It was **agreed** that the top three community issues to be recorded in the Parish Contact Contract should be:

Theft – particularly when aimed at farming/rural enterprise

Highway safety

Speeding

ACTION: **GP** to complete and return Charter. **GP** to invite police attendance at a parish council meeting in the New Year.

1. **Clerk’s report**

Shropshire Council:

1. The Procurement Act 2023 will come into force on 28 October 2024. The BPC will bear this in mind and GP will advise should it intend to tender for contract work.
2. Exploring Future Options with Town and Parish Councils Survey

The SCC leader circulated a letter for all PCs “Partnering to provide services in your area’, in particular, in relation to leisure services and local ‘street scene’. **Agreed:** the BCP would respond: “No, unfortunately we are not in a position to help”

ACTION: **GP** to respond

1. Road Closures:
   1. Badger Lane (by bridge) on 30 Sept for replacement of signage
   2. Burnhill Green/Albrighton Rd by Whiston Cross for Openreach 31 Oct
   3. Badger Lane for new street light 11 Nov

Woodland Trust:

The Trust is inviting applications for a free tree pack, many different to be supplied for March 2025. Interested parties will need to complete the application form – location of proposed planting /permission of land owner.

It was noted that the BPC made a successful application last year for hedging around the playing field. The BPC did not want to make an application this year but it was **agreed** to bring the offer to the attention of the parish in the next newsletter.

ACTION: **GP**

1. **Other Business**There was no other business
2. **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, 6 November 2024 at 19:30 in Beckbury Village Hall