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| Beckbury parish council Meeting minutes |
| Location: | Beckbury Village Hall |
| Date: | 5 March 2025 |
| Time: | 19:30 |
| Chair: | David Cummings (DC) |
| Present: | Peter Hopkins (PH)James Paice (JP)Matt Wild (MW)Georgina Porter, Clerk (GP) |  |

1. **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies**

Peter Gibbins

1. **Declarations of Interest**

No interests declared.

1. **Minutes**The minutes of the meeting on 8th January 2025 were approved by the PC.
2. **Local Elections 1 May 2025**

GP confirmed that Shropshire Council had forwarded nomination packs for the 7 vacancies for Beckbury Council. All present confirmed they would be standing for election.

Nominations must be delivered by hand to the Shropshire returning officer by no later than 4 pm on Wednesday 4 April 2025. Various locations are available for delivery and these are set out on the Notice of Election to be displayed on the Parish Notice Board from 10 March.

It was **agreed** that an item would be placed in next month’s parish magazine to explain the duties of councillors and encourage nominations. **ACTION** DC and GP to draft.

1. **Beckbury Playing Field**
	1. **Playground** **Inspection**. PG has confirmed that Playdale is booked for 17 April 2025 to carry out the annual inspection. PG’s initial inspection with Andy Slater has identified a hazardous broken branch on the far side of the field. It was **agreed** that JP would approach Matt Williams for assistance in its removal. **ACTION: JP**
	2. The field is booked by the RAF for their annual two-day march over 26-27 April. **ACTION: GP** to invoice the RAF for £200.
2. **Allotments**

One rent period is still overdue. **ACTION**: GP to contact Tom Spickernell

1. **Planning Applications**No planning applications were received in this period
2. **Village Maintenance**
	1. HGV Restrictions: GP is still awaiting response from Highways
	2. There have been ongoing problems with street lighting. No 1 street light Caynton Rd has been out of service since October 2024. E.on have replaced the bulb on two occasions but has now confirmed that replacement of the entire cut-out fitting is required from the National Grid who have given a target date of 1 April for the work.
	3. Parking on the High Street: DC summarized the problems – visitors to the village (generally walkers) park on both sides of the road opposite the shop, making it difficult and dangerous for other road users. The Village Hall already alerts users to parking facilities next to the school. DC suggested erecting several on-site notices to request the public to use the car park, rather than roadside parking. He also suggested printing similar information on leaflets for the shop and village hall. **Agreed. ACTION: DC** to confirm appropriate wording and **GP** to research costs/supplier.
3. **Beckbury Shop**.

The shop still needs more volunteers as it has come close to closing on several recent occasion.

1. **Beckbury Village Hall**

JP reported that Broadband has now been installed via Airband; remote controls for heating have been set up and an automated payment system for collecting hire charges should now be in place.

1. **Beckbury School House**

PH reported the ongoing issues arising from the lack of a vicar to take responsibility for the School House Trust, particularly the upkeep of the building. DC reiterated that the Parish had still not had any satisfaction from the Diocese over recognition of the legal status of the school as an asset of the Parish rather than the Diocese.  **Agreed** that the Parish Council should obtain an informed legal opinion to break the present impasse. **ACTION: PH** to draw up a chronology of recent events as a first step towards seeking legal assistance.

1. **Clerk’s report**

**A. Finance**

The clerk presented a statement of financial activity for the period following the last parish meeting. The bank balance is presently £20,388.42 A precept request for £11,000 has been lodged.

Income from hire of the Playing Field for the RAF 2-day march over 26/27 April. is £200 to be billed in April. Rent for 2024 from the allotments is also due.

Payments for approval:

* Clerk’s salary May 2024 – March 2025 (£2,500 pa @ £208.33 pm x 11) = £2,291.67 (less tax to HMRC of £458.33) = **£1,833.34**
* E-on: for repair to street lighting **tbc**
* Annual Inspection of Playing Field equipment **£310.00**
* West Mercia Energy : Outstanding this quarter **£254.44**
* Village hall rent: **£20.00**

**Agreed:** outstanding bills to be settled

**B. Administration**

a. Following the withdrawal of the invitation from Shropshire Council for parishes to volunteer services, the Council has now sent a survey which it is keen for all parishes to complete. The survey questions were discussed. It was **agreed** that the parish was not able to volunteer to take over any of the Council’s present obligations. The parish’s top present priorities are street lighting, road repairs and flooding. The council was also unanimous in agreeing that parish councils are best placed to make decisions about what happens locally but are not fully equipped to take on services.

b. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held prior to the next Parish Council Meeting on 7 May 2025. This is the meeting for the parish electorate to receive reports on the parish council business of the last 12 months and present any reports from County and District Councillors and voluntary or local community groups. It is also an opportunity for parishioners to question people and organisations on any issues relating to Beckbury.

**ACTION: All councillors** prepare reports on their areas of interest.

1. **Other Business**None
2. **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, 7 May 2025 at 19:30 in Beckbury Village Hall. Please note that this meeting will be the Annual Parish Council meeting where officials are confirmed into position following the election process on 1 May 2025. It will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting