|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Beckbury parish council Meeting minutes | | |
| Location: | Beckbury Village Hall | |
| Date: | 6 November 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 |  |
|  |  |  |

1. **Public Participation**

The Council welcomed a parishioner to the meeting.

It also welcomed the attendance of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) Steve Breese and Sam Newbrook. A general discussion was held on the services offered by the PCSOs and issues specifically of interest to Beckbury. This included notification of recent theft of fuel from the Severn Trent pumping station. Parishioners can report any suspicious vehicles or activity via ‘999’ or by the “Neighborhood Matters” website <https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk>

In response to Parish’s concern on speeding through the village, the PCSOs confirmed they were able to monitor traffic within the 30 mph speed restriction area and would carry out speed checks in the vicinity of the school.

The public participation section of the parish meeting was then closed, with the parishioner in attendance invited to observe the second part of council business.

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

No interests declared.

1. **Minutes**The minutes of the meeting on 4 September 2024 were approved by the PC.
2. **Beckbury Playing Field**
   1. **PG**  reported that rent due from the use by football clubs was all paid up to date and had made a significant contribution to field maintenance.
   2. **Fence repair.** DC/PG will carry out this work as soon as weather permits
   3. **Proposed cycle track** This project is on hold while a source of topsoil is found.
3. **Allotments:** the rent for 2023/4 is still outstanding and has been drawn to the attention of the Allotments committee.

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

1. **Planning Applications**

No outstanding applications

1. **Village Maintenance**
   1. GP confirmed that street sweeping is now available by posting a request on the Shropshire Council website [Street cleaning | Shropshire Council](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/street-care-and-cleaning/environmental-maintenance/street-cleaning/). The leaf fall at both the corner opposite the shop and the corner opposite the farm have been logged on this website. JP reported that the clearance could be done privately at an estimated cost of £98.

**AGREED**: Shropshire Council should first be given the opportunity to meet their responsibilities to clear the pavements.

* 1. Concern has been 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. GP confirmed the issue is being taken up via the West Mercia Police traffic management advisor who works alongside Shropshire Council Highways.

**ACTION:** **GP** to continue liaison

* 1. West Mercia Energy – changes to unmetered supplies. WME are required to move all non half hourly unmetered supplies such as supplied to BPC’s street lighting to half hourly metering. E.on will supply us with inventories and UMS certificates, ready for the switch.

**ACTION: GP** to continue liaison

* 1. E.on street lighting. DC presented the results of an audit of our streetlights. E.on have recommending we replace one street light and renovate another. They have also provided a quotation for the work of £2,239.10. General discussion reached the conclusion that replacement was an expensive option.

**AGREED:** More detail was needed from E.on as to the need for replacement of the light as the lack of ‘structural integrity’ was not at all obvious to close inspection. **ACTION: DC** to liaise with E.on and to contact property owners where hedging was obstructing proper inspection of one of the street lights. The residents of the Dingle will also be approached for their views on E.on’s suggested refurbishment of the Dingle streetlight.

1. **Beckbury Shop**

PG reported on the successful recent Apple Festival and the upcoming “turning on of the Christmas lights” on 1 December at 5.30pm

1. **Beckbury Village Hall**

DdeC and JP reported on the matters discussed at the recent Village Hall meeting.

1. Fencing on the opposite side from the shop is to be replaced; otherwise the building is in good integral state. Discussions are ongoing concerning a change to all electric heating.
2. Invoices: the Committee is aware that invoices are due on recent hirings, including those of the BPC and these are due to be presented shortly.
3. **Beckbury School House**PH reported continued expense arising for the refurbishment of the School House, but no further progress on the future of the School House Trust and trusteeship. The process of appointing a new vicar has begun.
4. **Clerk’s report**

Shropshire Council:

1. **Exploring Future Options with Town and Parish Councils Survey**

Further to the recent request from the SCC leader regarding PCs partnering to provide services in local areas, the PCC has now concluded that no significant benefit is likely within present timescales and has suspended current interactions.

1. **Jane Salisbury, Dog Warden Shropshire:** is providing footpath stencils, signs for lampposts or recreation areas regarding dog fouling **ACTION: GP** to contact
2. **Tree and Urban Forest Apprentice** – Shropshire Council have appointed an apprentice – Kirsty Prescott. She is looking to form partnerships to make a network of individuals or organisations who may have land available for tree planting and would appreciate help/any interest in collaboration. **AGREED: GP** to contact Julie Playdell as a potential contact, based on her valuable input on the tree and planting schemes for the playing field.

**Financial Report**

GP tabled a summary of income and expenditure for the two months between meetings. **AGREED: GP** to present this information as a regular report.

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

Wednesday, 8 January 2025 at 19:30 in Beckbury Village Hall