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| Beckbury parish council Meeting minutes |
| Location: | Beckbury Village Hall |
| Date: | 8 January 2025 |
| Time: | 19:30 |
| Chair: | David Cummings (DC) |
| Present: | Peter Hopkins (PH)Peter Gibbins (PG)Matt Wild (MW)Georgina Porter, Clerk (GP) |  |

1. **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies**

James Paice

**David de Courcy**

DC opened the meeting by inviting councillors to share in recognition of the valuable work carried out by David de Courcy who passed away suddenly in December 2024. He was a valued member of the council who always carried out Parish work diligently and thoughtfully. He will be greatly missed.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

No interests declared.

1. **Minutes**The minutes of the meeting on 8th November were approved by the PC.
2. **Precept**
The precept for 2024/25 was discussed and councillors considered the present financial statement for 2024/5 The current account shows a balance of £20,723.61 at the end of December (see attached summary). It was noted that outgoings and income were generally well balanced for this financial year, but that it was anticipated that some street lighting would need to be replaced with the next 12 months. Councillors agreed to increase the precept to £11,000 which recognizes the slight increase in Shropshire’s Council Tax taxbase as well as our anticipated needs for the next financial year.

**ACTION** GP to complete Council Precept forms and arrange signature approval before 31 January 2025.

1. **Beckbury Playing Field**
	1. **Football.** PG reported that Beckbury Badgers had promised the second installment of £250 as agreed, (*Now received- GP*)
	2. **Playground** **Inspection**. PG was aware of this requirement arising and would arrange in good time
2. **Allotments**

One rent period is still overdue.

**ACTION**: PG to contact Tom Spickernell

1. **Planning Applications**50, High Street – no objections
2. **Village Maintenance**
	1. HGV Restrictions: GP awaiting response from Highways
	2. West Mercia Energy – the changes to unmetered supplies has been postponed until later in the year
	3. EON had been requested to repair the two street lights on Caynton Rd, but there was still one (No 2 light) outstanding and now a further issue with No 1 light on Lawton Close.

**ACTION** : GP to contact E-on again for urgent attention

* 1. Pavement cleaning: GP reported ‘low priority’ response from Shropshire Council on our reported issues with leaf buildup on the High Street and Badger Road.

**ACTION**: GP to ask JP to take his suggestion forward to get an outside contractor to carry out the work

(*Update: JP confirmed that the work can be carried out for £198 + VAT. However, Shropshire Council itself carried out the work on 13 January 2025, so no further action required at this stage.)*

* 1. DC advised that nothing more had been heard from the police about renovation of the ‘blue telephone box’.

**ACTION:** PG torequest update

* 1. Fly-tipping: The recent incident on Badger Lane was discussed, particularly the nature of the debris – house clearance/renovation – which was likely to have been local. It was anticipated that the refuse had now been disposed of by the landowners (Solari Farms), but it was still a police matter and needed to be reported.

**ACTION:** GP to report to the police Public Liaison Officer Steve Breese.

1. **Beckbury Shop**PG reported that the shop had had a good Christmas period. The shop still needs more volunteers.
2. **Beckbury Village Hall**

The BPC has now been invoiced and has cleared rent due for 2024

1. **Beckbury School House**

PH reported that a new Church Warden had been appointed which enabled the school to be approved as a member of an Academy Trust. It was also likely to assist the School House Trust administration, which was still in limbo awaiting the appointment of a vicar to oversee the running of the Trust. This includes the matter of any rent that might be due from the school for its use of the School House premises. PH to report.

1. **Clerk’s report**
	1. GP reported on an offer from Energize / Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Community Resource for a subsidized bench for Beckbury. We are invited to make an application for funding via Crowdfund Shropshire under the Government’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The project hopes to be able to provide a bench/es at a cost of £100 each to the Parish / Town Council, with the balance coming from the Fund. All benches would be sourced from local sustainable woodland and of an appropriate standard to last up to 30 to 40 years.  Funds would need to be secured before 31st March 2025 and benches would be delivered in the spring / early summer of the same year.

AGREED: to put forward a bid for two benches at this stage, with consideration to be given to crowd funding and placement if we are successful.

**ACTION**: GP to make application

* 1. Updated signage regarding dog control/fouling fines has been ordered and we are awaiting to hear it is ready for collection
1. **Other Business**None
2. **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, 5 Mar 2025 at 19:30 in Beckbury Village Hall