

Beckingham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 12th January 2022

Present: Cllrs Lawrence Tatton (as Chair), Phil Wells, Angela Smith, Scott Toomer & Andy Brewer
District Cllr Mary Green
County Councillor Marianne Overton
Terry Brown/Parish Clerk
1 member of the public

Minute	Action
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22/001 Public Time

A parishioner commented on the widespread concerns in the Village with the recent Traveller activity on the north side of the A17.

Cllr Tatton gave a detailed summary of the events since October and the communications from the Parish Council with NKDC. This had led to prompt enforcement action on December 20th with the serving of an interim Injunction. The Parish Council now waits to hear if the Order is to be made Final on January 17th.

A general discussion followed in which Parish Councillors forcibly conveyed to Cllrs Green and Overton their perception that the Pariah had received a longstanding neglect by Lincs CC and NKDC of their concerns in this area and in particular with a deficit of supervision and enforcement of the Traveller site to the east of the Parish.

It was agreed that the Clerk should prepare a draft letter for approval by Councillors expressing the Parish Council's disappointment at the lack of support offered to Parishioners. The letter would be finalised on hearing the outcome of the Court decision on January 17th and would be then circulated widely including the Press. Action Clerk

22/002 Chairman's Announcements

None

22/003 Apologies for absence

District Cllr Russell Eckert

22/004 Members' Declarations of Interest.

None

22/005 District and County Councillor Time

Cllrs Mary Green and Russell Eckert had previously submitted their January newsletters.

Councillor Overton explained at length recent developments with funding for roads in Lincolnshire (see attached).

There followed a lengthy criticism by Parish Councillors of the effectiveness of current Lincs CC road repairs, that the current system lacked cohesion and that the contractual arrangements needed an urgent review.

Further that the FixMyStreet was inept and did not inspire confidence in a solution to longstanding local problems.

22/006 To accept the draft minutes of the meeting of the 17th November 2021.

These were accepted by the meeting.

22/007 Matters arising

/1 to consider responses to village grass cutting tender

Councillors agreed to accept a Tender submitted for the two-year supply of services from NA Services.

Such a local contractor could respond immediately to the implementation of the contract and this was considered a major advantage to accepting this Tender.

Action Clerk

/2 to consider responses to the Play Park fencing tender

Councillors considered one quote received fencing. Whilst this was considerable favourably the meeting agreed with Councillor Toomer's suggestion that they wait for a final decision pending the imminent arrival of a second quote which Councillor Brewer is to chase.

Action Cllr Brewer

Councillors confirmed the plan to install new signage once the fencing had been installed.

/3 to give an update on progress with item 21/053/1 re definitive footpaths

The Clerk reported that this is still work in progress.

Action Clerk

22/008 Correspondence

Emails:

6/12/2021	Cllr Mary Green re December update
6/12/2021	Alex Williams re BVHSC news
21/12/2021	NKDC re local planning enforcement
24/12/2021	Marianne Overton re December news
28/12/2021 et al	Marianne Overton re local planning enforcement
28/12/2021 et al	Cllr Mary Green re local planning enforcement

22/009 Planning

/1 to consider a local enforcement action

See 22/001

22/010 Committees

/1 Village Hall

Cllr Tatton reported on the maintenance activities carried out to the Village Hall lights

/2 Village Hall Improvements Working Group

No report.

/3 Play Park:

See 22/007/1

/4 Village fete:

See 22/013/1

/5 Woodland

Cllr Wells is to finalise the 2022 Hill Holt arrangements and report back to the next meeting.

Action Cllr Wells

22/011 Matters for Discussion

/1 to note changed banking charges.

The meeting noted the Clerk's report that monthly charges were now imposed on the Council's HSBC account and that he was looking for alternative and more cost-effective arrangements.

Cllr Wells suggested looking at possible alternatives run by Building Societies.

Action Clerk

In addition:

/2 to confirm the appointment of Parish Council Trustees to the Randolph Pattinson Charity.

The meeting confirmed the appointment of Cllr Brewer and Nick Ashworth as the Trustees to serve in the next four-year period.

22/012 Finance

/1 Payments approved:

Hill Holt re inv 2678	41	24/11/2021	192.00
Bugle Dec 21	42	24/11/2021	64.78
T Brown 3rd qtr 2021 salary	43	09/12/2021	428.66
HMRC 3rd qtr 2021	44	09/12/2021	107.20
N Gratton re inv 686	45	09/12/2021	110.00
Hill Holt re inv 2702	46	21/12/2021	192.00
P Wells Re Xmas 2021 expenses	47	04/01/2022	87.82
T Brown re SLCC 2022 subs	48	04/01/2022	33.50

/2 Bank balances at 4/1/2022

Money Manager (Deposit) £4555.46
Community Account (Current) £10811.78

22/013 To receive items for the next agenda

- /1 to discuss possible activities for the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- /2 to confirm the Hill Holt management activity for 2022 (Cllr Wells)

22/014 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 23rd February 2022

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

County Councillor Marianne Overton reported:

Subject: LCC Budget with answers to my questions

Lincolnshire County Council Budget

Lincolnshire County Council is consulting on a 3% council tax rise, the same rise that was not taken last year, just before the elections. This budget does not include the missing £12m for Highways. The Government has adjusted their grants with the assumption we are taking the Council tax rises they have allowed, hence the shortfall. We could argue that it is short-sighted not to take the tax increases the Government is counting it as in the bank.

Nevertheless, I am very happy to support the campaign for Dept of Transport to recognise significant costs of rurality. This is not going to be resolved this year but is important for the fairer funding decision promised (again) next year.

here is however, no excuse for short-changing our residents on service. Revenue reserves went up by £37m last year. In my view, the money for road repairs must be returned, taken from where it was stored away last year, if the extra giveaway is not forthcoming from the Government this year!

Kind Regards,

Marianne

Marianne Overton MBE

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[Lincolnshire County Council Budget Summarised](#)

Main budget paper is [here](#).

This proposed 22/23 budget is for £534.515m, an increase of 5.2%. This is based on a 3% council tax increase for social care and reflects the reduced Highway maintenance allocation from DfT of 25%. The government has raised the amount they give us by around £16m to £77m this year and there are more people paying tax.

The 3% council tax increase for social care is the same increase that was deferred from last April, moving the increase from just before the County elections to after the elections.

The 25% cut to highways maintenance and repair, returns to the Department of Transport's expectations before the one-off grant previously received.

In this draft budget, the Executive proposes not to take all of the Council tax increases allowable by Government. There is a further 1% available for adult care from this year and 2% pa for general services. Each 1% increase generates £3.189m, so the 3% not taken equates to £9.567m income foregone next year.

In addition, we did not take the 3% increase allowed last year, which is around £9m we could have spent last year.

To my mind, not collecting the local tax that we can, suggests we do not need it and undermines our call from more funds from Government. Nationally on the Local Government Association, we have lobbied hard for proper funding of Councils, based on clear evidence of need. The Government has allocated more funds, mainly around new services in social care and elsewhere. The County Council call is now directed to the Department of Transport's choice of allocating more funds per head to urban, rather than rural areas, a common theme.

*Not taking the tax now also has a knock-on effect in future years. We have a shortfall of £9.3m next year 2023/4 and £6.4m and £6.9m in each of the following years. (page 25 para 1.33)
Extra costs of £41m are in the budget. These include more for care of adults and children and school transport up another £6.54m, even after efficiencies related to more effective route planning and contracting are introduced. Also a little more for flood and drainage £0.75m and £0.64m in each of next two years, but this may be on specific projects.*

Less comfortable is more spent on borrowing, rising due to increase in costs of current capital projects. (After reprofiling, new capital spend is £113.7m this year, £87m with grants.) Savings of £9.543m are planned this year, from more homeworking, reduced business support and reduced use of buildings. Also planning to review of fees and charges.

*The volatility reserves are £4.48m higher than the Executive Director of Resources recommended as a prudent minimum, so there is a little room there.
The formal papers of the draft budget now out for consultation are [here](#).*

Q. How much increase and total are set for road repairs?

(I see the net highways figure on page 24) but an extra 0.7138m is shown for "Highways" taking the figure to £24.825m and the figure of 0.79m for asset management on page 42.)

Answer from the Director: There is not an increase in activity planned in this proposal. The only growth items that have gone into Highway's revenue at this stage relate to inflationary increases (£760k) and to account for activity arising from a larger network (£30k).

There are various different highways budgets, both revenue and capital, doing various different initiatives as you would appreciate but the main pothole repairs one is the focus of the motion agreed at last council, namely c.£39m planned spend, as opposed to the £51m we received for 2020/21.

Q Social care shows as having a £9.56 increase in tax, plus the grant of £9.34m. Where on page 24 is that £18.8m allocated? I can only see the three figures of £3.666, 6.656 and 5.808 adding to £15,500.

Answer from the Director: The proposed increase in tax is contained within the County Precept line, the increase in grant is contained within the Other Non-Specific Grants line, both on the table in p24. On the latter, the badge of "Social Care" grant is a misnomer in that it isn't specific for that use, doesn't come with conditions and more is called that because it is given to upper tier/unitaries who provide those services and distributed as such and should be seen more in the context that our overall cost pressures have increased by the £41m you refer to earlier.

Q Is there a summary of reserves and movements during the year, please? Total reserves excluding schools are £257m risen during the year by £37m, but just £16m or 2-3% in the general reserve. Around half, at £129m is earmarked.

Answer from the Director:

We've referenced the September Council report as a background document as they are the most recently approved balances by Council p90/91 -

<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s41682/Review%20of%20Financial%20Performance%20202021.pdf>

We are currently updating balances etc and they'll be presented in the next budget report prior to Feb