



MINUTES

Confirmed minutes of Full Council Meeting of Binsted Parish Council (BPC) on Tuesday 12th Jan 2023

24/001	<p>Apologies: Cllr Eldridge, Cllr De Sousa, District Councillors Ashcroft and Davies</p> <p>Present: Cllr Melvin (Chair), Cllr Clarke, Cllr Lock, Cllr Hearne, Cllr Jones, Mike Mordecai (Clerk)</p>
24/002	<p>Declarations of Interests: Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation is granted, they may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, any matter in which they have a pecuniary interest. They must withdraw from the room when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.</p> <p>None Stated.</p>
24/003	<p>Approval of Minutes from 12 Dec 2023 Full Council Meetings: Unanimously Approved. Proposed Cllr Clarke, Seconded Cllr Melvin.</p>
24/004	<p>District Councillor Report: None received</p>
24/005	<p>Chair's Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Hants District Council (EHDC) Draft Local Plan to be published for consultation shortly, and we expect SDNP's Plan to be published in the not too distant future. Both will show potential and preferred sites for housing and other development. Action: To alert residents when the EHDC Draft Plan has been published, and plan how we gather residents' views and submit a BPC response. • BPC have invited Claire Tester (planning lead at SDNP) to visit Binsted to find out more about the SDNP Local Plan timeline, process, how BPC's Parish Priority Statement (PPS) is considered as part of their process, and to provide her with additional background regarding our PPS. • Cllr Clarke provided feedback on a Holybourne residents' public meeting to discuss a proposed development of hundreds more houses within Holybourne. No planning application has been submitted and the timetable was unclear at this stage, but it was reported that it was very well attended meeting and there was widespread opposition to the development, with concerns about traffic volumes on London Road, flood risks and further pressure on already over-stretched services such as GP availability. • Blacknest Golf Club and the Jolly Farmer public house closure: We have received correspondence from a number of residents on these subjects, with concern expressed about losing community amenities. The Jolly Farmer was closed permanently at very short notice and put on the market (we assume for redevelopment rather than as a pub). And new owners at Blacknest Golf Club have informed members of high-level plans to close the existing golf course as part of a major leisure redevelopment. It was reported that a planned meeting with members had been cancelled to be replaced with a wider open day- at this stage therefore there was little additional/detailed information available. • There was a debate with the many residents who attended the meeting and councillors as to whether there was any value trying to register either venue as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). The following points were made: • There are various tests that need to be met to meet the ACV threshold (EHDC are the decision makers) and is an onerous process.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the threshold is met, it then delays a sale by 6 months with and no right to buy. There may be some benefit in going down only if this timeline allows locally interested parties to pull together a bid to buy. • There is little evidence that the above scenario is a possibility, and that local usage of the Jolly Farmer had declined in recent years and it would be difficult to meet the ACV tests. • There was also a discussion as to whether there was any value in trying to register the Binsted Inn as an ACV. • There was widespread disappointment reported from residents that the new owners of Blacknest Golf Club had not worked with members or the wider community before announcing their plans; there was little local goodwill given this approach; that the course would be shut at very short notice and with local members having to find new clubs further afield; and concerns that similar development plans elsewhere by the company appeared to have been very slow to turn into a reality. Decision: There was little value in applying for ACVs for any of these amenities at this point unless any new information emerges. • Bentley Station Road (BSR): Following residents’ feedback in the Summer 2023 Parish Survey, with many BSR residents expressing a wish to be part of Bentley Parish, BPC has arranged and publicised a public meeting on 30 Jan to discuss various issues relevant to them; understand their views better; and how we could build stronger engagement and better communication with them.
24/006	<p>Finance and Governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2023 financial reconciliations were proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Melvin and unanimously agreed. • Decision: That the full set of monthly reconciliations presented to FCM should be published in full on the website. • Decision: That there should be a rolling programme of signing off a selection of BPC policies rather than over one or two meetings to enable more detailed review of the policies themselves as well as the operation of them. • Decision: Code of Conduct, Drone, CCTV and Data Privacy policies were signed off. • Action: To publish these policies on the website, as well as adding Drone and CCTV policies to the boards at the pavilion. • Action: Equality and Diversity Policy should be renamed to include ‘Inclusion’, and should be further reviewed, as its primary focus is on how employees are treated rather than more widely (such as parishioners/other individuals/groups/organisations) BPC have dealings with.
24/007	<p>Projects and Working Group (WG) updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Working Group: It was noted that diversions and road closures along the B3004 for much of 2024 would be starting soon and BPC should monitor the impact on traffic through the parish to be able to feedback any emerging issues. Action: Clerk to add Cllr Lock to the invite list for regular calls tracking progress and issues on this subject. • BPC have received notification that we successful in applying for (3 of the 5 applied for) fixed location speed cameras EHDC were offering to parish councils. However it is far from clear as to the costs and process for installing them and ongoing maintenance/other costs, or indeed whether the police would use the data to issue enforcement notices/fines. Action: To better understand these issues before agreeing to take the cameras.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BPC have sought volunteers for three Speedwatch groups (Blacknest/Frith End, Holt Pound, Binsted village) across the parish. Some volunteers have come forward, and we are seeking more to enable self-sustaining groups. There is additional work required to get these groups set up, including permissions from Hampshire Highways and the police, registering and training volunteers. BPC would like to thank Tony De Sousa for donating two speed guns to the parish. • Cllr Hearn has drafted a letter to businesses at Blacknest Industrial Estate to encourage people who work there and their contractors to drive safely in the area. • Action: Clerk to review letter before sending. • Cllr Melvin has some success requesting that Hampshire Highways repair damaged signage in the parish. • Cllr Lock will be attending the Jalsa Salana Liaison Panel on Saturday 13th Jan. • Holt Pound Oval Working Group: We are awaiting the English Cricket Board comments on the quotes received for the feasibility study to return the site to multi-sports use. • Decision: To proceed with BPC’s favoured quote should ECB endorse this view. • Action: Follow up with Cllr Davies regarding the offer of a District Councillor grant should we proceed with this quote (including replacing locks borrowed from Blacknest Fields). • Recreation Ground Working Group: The Tennis and Croquet Club are organising a planning meeting in Feb. We await engagement with Rowledge Cricket Club regarding updating the contract and to discuss the 24-25 season. BCP wishes to review signage at the Recreation Ground to ensure visitors find it easier to find and to create a more welcoming experience. • Communications Working Group: An initial kick-off meeting to develop a refreshed approach to communications is planned for 19 Jan. • Blacknest Fields: The Annual Report has been published. S106 funds will finance seven packages of work, with two in progress (aggregate to repair paths and hedge-laying).
24/008	<p>Clerk’s Notices, Matters Arising, Actions from Previous Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk and Cllr Melvin had a productive meeting with the Community Rail Partnership at Bentley Station. • BPC has received correspondence from local residents informing us of damage to Bridleway 62 due primarily to delivery drivers taking wrong turns. <p>Action: To find an interim and longer-term solution to stop road traffic on Bridleway 62.</p>
24/009	<p>Planning 23697/014 Woodlea, School Road, Rowledge, Farnham, GU10 4BW No objections</p>
23/333	<p>Chair’s Closing remarks None</p> <p>The next full council meeting will take place on Tues 13th Feb 2024 at 7pm.</p>