

## **Minutes of the Beverston Parish Council meeting held on 3rd December 2024**

**Present:** Mr Oliver Preston (Chairman), Mr David Morris, Miss Caroline Lowsley-Williams, Mr Dermot McMeekin, Mr Jorn Rixen-Osterbro, Ms Zara Kirk (Clerk).

Cllr Tony Slater was in attendance.

1. Apologies: None, all in attendance.
2. Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2024 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters arising not on the Agenda: The new Clerk was welcomed. Everybody expressed their sincere thanks to Fiona Gunn for her 12 years of work and commitment.

All registered their sincere condolences and good wishes to Dermot McMeekin and family in honour of Lady McMeekin and all her previous service to the Parish Council.

Cllr Tony Slater reported on the continued vigilance over CDC's spending and budgeting and the Publica mis-management. There is a local journalist who attends meetings now and Cllr McMeekin asked if they can track and record the probings. Cllr Slater reported that CDCs money will run out in about 2 years time. They will probably increase council tax by the set 5% threshold and could even apply for the maximum 10%

Thanks to Cllr Slater

4. Planning: Cllr Lowsley-Williams discussed the application for the new secure Dog Pound in a field off Chavenage Lane. Bookings of 50 mins will be taken online and they will have bins. Modelled on the one at Chedworth and Cllr Rixen-Osterbro mentioned another near Uley. In answer to Cllr Morris' question on lighting, yes, flood lighting is being considered to extend usable hours. 1 letter of support so far. No objections. Green from all Councillors.

Application also for maintenance work on trees at Chavenage. Necessary - Green from all Councillors. Cllr Preston and McMeekin have carried out tree surveys for the trees along the road at Beverston some of which have come down in the recent storms.

5. Babdown: Cllr Slater was asked about the progress over signage. He reported that the proposed action of 6 months prior has halted and he will chase. Cllr Rixen-Osterbro agreed he would be happy to meet with Cllr Slater and Nicky Randall to discuss

6. Roads and Traffic: Discussion had over pros and cons of PC owned cameras. Cllr Morris said a community led project approved by Glos Highways and Constabulary entails a cost of £1,200 per camera and then an obligation to monitor the data recorded which would be very time consuming for any volunteer and unlikely that anyone would want to or be able to do it. The example of what Woodchester are doing with cameras costing £2,500 but no obligation to monitor and consent only required from Glos Highways is another option. They need regular moving and theft or damage is a consideration. Option of the smiley face ones.

Illegal to put fake cameras. Cllr Rixen-Osterbro said 'what about just signs as a deterrent' the road is also an issue at Babdown.

Cllr Preston stated that it is a question which needs to be addressed to the villagers – would they like the PC to use some of the budget on this ? – will need to be explored further – probably at next AGM.

6. Budget and Precept: Cllr Preston asked Cllr Slater what the general trend is amongst councils. Cllr Slater reported that there are some who are putting theirs up but normally for specific goals.

It was noted that there will be a slight regular increase in PC costs with the paid Clerk.

Also, that especially as the precept comes from the whole parish, Cllr Preston emphasised he felt the PC shouldn't be giving a regular sum to the Village Hall Trust from the precept although this was allowed, but on one off occasions as required. (Cllr McMeekin reminded). Cllr Morris pointed out it is for the benefit of the whole Parish. Reported that research has shown not many care about the Village Hall. Cllr Rixen-Osterbro made mention that it is important the Village Hall becomes autonomous and not a burden to the budget.

Unanimous agreement to approach Irena Litton to be our new Internal Auditor with her fee of £200 pa.

Without obvious need to raise further funds it was unanimously agreed by all to keep the Precept the same as last year for 2025/26 which will make 3 years running at £6,300.

Cllr Preston proposed we look into a suitable Business Savings Account to earn interest for the PC funds with Lloyds. From January there will be a small charge to pay on the Business current account.

7. Any other Business: Cllr Lowsley-Williams commented that the SDC Wardens were pushing for their pathway to be opened – it is being sorted and she hopes the Wardens will fund gate repairs?

Date of Next Meetings: 8th April 2025  
13th May 2025 AGM

