

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN BEETLEY VILLAGE  
HALL ON FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007**

**Present;** Councillor R Richmond (Chair)  
Councillor A Leigh  
Councillor R Campbell-Smith  
Councillor G Hayes  
Councillor A Luck  
Councillor M Petzer  
Councillor D Silk

Two Parishioners

**Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from County Councillor C Lloyd-Owen, District Councillor R Duffield and Mrs J Overall.

**Minutes of the previous meeting.**

Councillor Hayes proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the proposition that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record. All were in favour. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**Chairman's introduction and report.**

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting for Beetley Parish Council and can I thank you all for attending this evening.

For those of you who don't know me my name is Robert Richmond and I have just completed my first year as the Chairman of the Parish Council. I followed George Hayes who had served for six years.

You should all have copies of the agenda which you'll see has our standard items plus a special item covering the history of Beetley. You will also have a chance to raise any issues you have for further discussion in the Open Forum.

There are various members of the Council here this evening so feel free to talk to myself or them afterwards if you don't want to raise anything in the main meeting.

I would like to thank Bryan Leigh who has served as Clerk for one year which I hope you have found rewarding and interesting. Michelle Petzer came to the last Annual Parish Meeting and was subsequently co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Well, onto my report for the year.

It's been another busy year with a combination of our normal business and some special items and projects. We have repaired the fencing at Beetley Meadows and replaced the doors and windows at the pavilion.

As you may be aware we introduced a system of Portfolio Holders for each Councillor which has continued to work well ensuring we make progress and keep track of the Action Plan developed from the Parish Plan.

For the record I would like to confirm that the Parish precept has seen a relatively nominal increase of £500 which works out to about 15p per household per annum.

Finally I would like to thank all the Councillors for their dedication and hard work during the year and the support given to me. On 19<sup>th</sup> May we presented Bill Barker with a tree plaque to be erected next to the tree in respect of his long association with the village and services provided over many years. It is with sadness that I have to report the passing away of Bill Smith the Community Car Coordinator. The Parish council was represented at the funeral by the Clerk.

## **Action Plan Updates.**

### **Planning and Affordable Housing.**

Planning continues to have its problems and takes much of the time of the Council. Affordable Housing has been stuck as no suitable site has been found that is acceptable to the planning department.

### **Communications.**

The Parish Newsletter "The Beetley Buzz" was launched in 2006 shortly after last year's Annual Meeting thanks to the efforts of June Overall originally, which was then taken on and further developed by Angela Leigh.

This is now prepared and distributed monthly with a wide range of useful information for parishioners going to nearly all households in the village. It also contains an extract from the Parish Council meetings.

Feedback overall has been very positive.

Contributions are always welcome for future publication which can be sent to Bryan Leigh.

### **Environment.**

Replacement of trees had been done at East Bilney Town lands and the site is managed to ensure that the trees have a good chance of growing. This year it is hoped the Beetley Meadows area will be improved. Footpaths are always a concern and the Parish is indebted to the local landowners who cut and maintain the ones that cross their land. The Parish Council is responsible for the remainder and most of the problems had been with fallen trees.

### **Highways.**

30 mph limits had been erected in Old Beetley and Church Road East Bilney. The SAM vehicle had visited Beetley and East Bilney and the Son of Sam signs had been in Beetley. The VAS sign in East Bilney has been erected and progress has been made with the lining of the Elmham Road near the school. Leaflets had been distributed regarding speeding which is part of the programme to ensure safety in the village. Any problems please contact Angela Leigh.

### **Transport.**

Only eight replies had been received from the questionnaire about transport for Beetley and it had not been possible to take this forward. The bus shelter is being refurbished at the junction of Gressenhall Road and Fakenham Road

### **Community.**

The play equipment at the Playing Field is being looked at with a view to replacing and surveys have been in the Beetley Buzz and left at the school. The survey shows that most people are not happy with the current equipment but do want to keep play equipment at the Playing Field. The next funding round is in December 2007.

### **Health and Safety.**

The Parish Council is undertaking a risk assessment in the Parish and responding to the reports on the play equipment.

## **Community Car Scheme.**

June Overall reported that 3513 miles had been covered in the year and 201 passengers carried. Since 1991 76168 miles had been made by the scheme and the total number of passengers carried was 3527.

I am grateful to the volunteer drivers who have made it possible to offer this valued service to local residents, namely Mrs Dark, Mrs Melton, Mr Monaghan, Mrs Richmond, Mr & Mrs Scott and Mr Silk. We are lucky to have such a team-always willing to go the extra mile when unforeseen circumstances arise.

I would also like to express my personal thanks to Mrs Silk and Mrs Dann who very kindly stood in for me during my recent extended absence.

I was very sad to hear on my return of the recent death of Mr Bill Smith the former Beetley Community car Organiser. I am sure members and residents would wish to join me in passing on condolences to his family. I know from personal experience that users of the scheme who knew Bill held him in very high esteem and he was sorely missed when he was forced to stand down.

This year's details indicate that the scheme is becoming more well-known within the community and used by more people. Although, in some instances, transport can be provided by external agencies, the personal service provided by the community scheme is highly valued by the users, and in many cases, where no such help is available, they would experience problems, and certainly much greater expense, if the service were not available. I regularly receive requests from people outside the area (for example, Swanton Morley and Shipdham), and have had to explain that the scheme was set up by Beetley Parish Council for local parishioners: without exception they bemoan the fact that there is no such arrangement in their area. I feel we should be particularly grateful to those who made the decision to set up the scheme in 1991- and to the willing volunteers who make it possible to carry on.

## **Village Hall Report**

Stephen Pope the Chairman presented the report.

I have to report that 2006 was a very successful year for the Village Hall with income from the hire of the hall nearly double that from the previous year. This has been partly due to the increasing use of the hall by local groups and clubs.

Regular users of the hall include:-

Dog Obedience Classes, Carpet Bowls, Wood turners, Women's Meeting, Aerobics, Keep Fit, Parish Council, Table Tennis, Friends and Neighbours Club, Pre School Music Group.

Throughout the year the Committee has looked at ways of saving money including the removal of the wheelie bin which has saved about £600 and the telephone is likely to be removed in the future.

The Christmas Function was well supported and raised £360 for Hall funds. As a result of the increased income £500 has been transferred to the refurbishment fund.

Refurbishment of the hall has included the fixing of the photographs and memorabilia in the Main Hall as well as three photographs of Old Beetley and East Bilney in the meeting room. The card tables have been recovered thanks to the efforts of Mr. Ted Turney and a new refrigerator installed. The car park has been regravelled thanks to a donation of material from Barker Brothers and the efforts of Adam Luck.

We have had problems with the oil tank when a quantity of oil was stolen during the year and the committee is looking at replacing and resiting the tank so it is not so vulnerable.

Finally my thanks to the Village Hall Committee who all do sterling work to give the Parish this superb facility you are in tonight. The current Committee members, all prepared to stand for the next year are:-

Mrs Joyce Jordan

Mrs Brenda Vickers

Mr Jake Luck

Mrs Heather Roberson

Mrs June Overall

Mr Stephen Pope

Mrs Ann Pope

Mr Adam Luck

Mr Kevin Foran

Mr Frank Haverson

It was propose by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Petzer that the committee be re-elected. All were in favour.

The accounts were circulated which showed a balance in the bank accounts of £3736.04

## **Club Reports**

### **Football**

Beetley began this season with a much changed squad with many new youngsters joining the team. This new team took its time to gel and the season began with a string of defeats, but once they managed to chalk up their first points their confidence grew. Mid-season they put together a fine run of results in which they only lost twice (to the same team) in ten matches.

Highlights of the season included reaching the quarter finals of the Barnard Sports Ambulance Cup (defeating a team two divisions higher than them on the way) and a fantastic team performance in the final game of the season which ended in a 6-1 victory.

The squad will be looking for more consistency next season and will be wanting to be pushing a lot higher in the division.

## **Cricket**

The season 2006 was mixed in relation to results but the fact that the club has survived has to be seen as a success.

We continue to struggle with numbers of players and despite adverts and general word of mouth we seem to fail to attract new blood!!! So please anyone reading this if either you or anyone you know wants to play then we would be pleased to welcome you.

The Club again competed in the West Norfolk League Division 3 (there are 5 divisions), where we finished just below middle. Put simply we won a few, we lost a few and some did not even get played because for some people watching England play football was more important than getting some fresh air and exercise!!!

One notable success was that James Perkins won the Division 3 bowling award and was presented with his trophy at the leagues annual presentation evening - well done James. It is now on for another season and so far we have had 3 weekends...but played only once....with a 100% record.

## **Table Tennis**

The team is in Division 1 of the Dereham and District League. Firstly can I thank the Village Hall Committee for the use of the Hall. We always get positive comments from visiting teams about the facilities particularly since it's fairly recent "face lift".

In terms of performance another mixed season.

We reached the semi final of the league cup, losing to the top Swanton Morley side who went on to win the final.

Our league performance was not as good finishing just above the relegation places but means we stay in Division 1 for next season.

## **Carpet Bowls**

The club is still just surviving and meets weekly and could always do with new members. We are grateful to the Village Hall Committee for the use of the hall.

## **Norfolk Wood Turners**

The Norfolk Woodturners wish to thank the Village Hall Committee as they are so pleased with the facilities they now have every meeting there and are grateful that the stove lathe can be stored at the hall. They normally have about 60 members.

## **History of Beetley.**

We believe strongly as a Parish Council that the history of Beetley is very important and needs to be better recorded for future generations. Some very good work has already been done by Stephen Pope but we need a more detailed, formalised and structured approach to it.

There is lots of material available in both the village, at the Gressenhall Museum, in the Norfolk Archives and in Dereham library.

If anyone is interested in becoming involved in a working party to look into what is available and what needs to be done in more detail please contact George Hayes.

The Beetley Buzz would be used to promote this and it was suggested that school records should also be looked at.

### **Open Forum**

Rodney Bennett suggested the area of Beetley Meadows could be enhanced with a small amount of work and offered to help. Councillor Luck was to liaise with him.

The meeting closed at 2036