

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 6th DECEMBER 2007 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

Councillor R Richmond (Chair)
Councillor A Leigh
Councillor R Campbell-Smith
Councillor G Hayes
Councillor A Luck
Councillor M Petzer

District Councillor Duffield

1 member of the public

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Silk who was nursing. This was accepted.

2. Declaration of Interest.

Councillor Campbell-Smith declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 9 and Councillor Luck a personal interest in agenda Item 8.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

Councillor Campbell-Smith proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1 November 2007 having been circulated be approved. The minutes were duly signed. The Chairman thanked Councillor Leigh as Vice-Chairman for taking the Chair at short notice.

4. Matters to Report.

4.1 CAG meeting 6 November

The Vice-Chairman reported on the meeting when Sgt. Scott reported that over the past 8 weeks they had good success at Wendling Telephone Exchange regarding the drugs problem and have identified the persons and moved them on. Extra patrols have been out in Dunham and there has only been one criminal damage. Some success has occurred in the Sandy Lane area although there are still concerns that the problem has not been eradicated. The offences have been pinned down to two individuals. Halloween was a success with extra patrols in town centres and schools were targeted. After lengthy discussion the priorities for the next six weeks were decided as the Maltings in Dereham where there are problems with noise, fires, drugs, fights and alarms being set off, continuing with Sandy Lane and extra patrols in town centres leading up to Christmas.

4.2 NCAPTC Breckland Area Meeting-Understanding the Planning System 13 November.

Councillor Campbell-Smith reported on his attendance at the meeting and felt that a considerable amount was made up as the meeting progressed. The attendees were given the opportunity to discuss planning applications but it was not much more use than doing a month's planning applications forwarded to the Parish for consideration. He felt that the meeting was not as informative as he would have wished.

4.3 Dereham and District Tourist Association AGM 22 November.

Councillor Hayes reported that after the formal business of the evening the main points to emerge were that the association is struggling for funding and has received a small contribution as a one off from Breckland. They are looking for new premises and continue to struggle for volunteers. There is only one parish that contributes to the Association and there is the scope for a parish page on their web site. The meeting concluded with a presentation from Jenny Lock of Greenbanks restaurant and hotel.

4.4 NRCC Council Meeting-The Impact of Climate Change.

The Chairman reported on his attendance which was very informative and attracted a full house. Many charts were displayed and it was stated that the UEA is the world's leading experts on climate change. The need is to reduce the carbon footprint to 60% of the current value by 2050 to restrict the temperature rise to 2 degreesC. 9 tons of carbon emission is generated by each individual per annum. Breckland does not fair too badly in the emissions produced although North Norfolk is the worst as there are considerable number of visitors who have holiday homes in the area. The U.K. as a whole only produces 2% of the world's emissions.

4.5 Breckland Council Local Government Review 20 November.

This had been well attended by Parish and Town Councils. The Leader and Chief Executive of Breckland Council had that morning been to a meeting with the Minister in London to try and obtain some answers. Unfortunately these answers were not forthcoming during the meeting. The proposals from the local councils had to be presented by the end of November but there were no terms of reference for the Boundary Committee and these were unlikely to be available until January. The proposals must come from the whole County not District Councils independently. Breckland Council is pressing for the status quo but this does not seem to be an option although this may be looked at provided the Councils' proposals show that the cost of implementation of a Unitary Authority is excessive. Each scheme that is costed to provide a viable solution would cost £600,000 and no funding is available from Central Government for this. To change would cost millions of pounds and there is no idea where this funding would come from. Parish Councils may have additional responsibilities for example for the collection of rubbish, lighting and roads and parishes may have to form cluster groups. The downside of this is that the services would be run by amateurs who are unpaid and have no experience.

5. Planning.

5.1 Applications.

- 5.1.1** 3PL/2007/1399/A East Bilney Care Home-erection of signs at 4 Hall Cottages and Old Post Office.

Objection on the grounds that the design is not suitable, they are too large and a distraction to motorists at a dangerous bridge.

Proposed Councillor Campbell-Smith Seconded Councillor Luck
All were in favour.

- 5.1.2** 3PL/2007/1834/F The White House Hall Road Old Beetley-attached garage and extension-resubmission.

No Objection

Proposed Councillor Richmond Seconded Councillor Petzer
All were in favour.

- 5.1.3** 3PL/2007/1847/O Southfields 65 Fakenham Road-proposed new dwelling-Resubmission.

Objection: despite the letters supporting the fact that the access had been

through the supposed gate in past years this access has not been used for many years and another access at this point on Fakenham Road is not justified. The proposed dwelling is outside the settlement boundary for the village and the dwelling is not essential for agriculture or business.

5.2 Decisions.

- 5.2.1. 3PL/2007/1675/O The Paddock School Road –erection of bungalows Withdrawn
- 5.2.2. 3PL/2007/1636/F The Boat House Church lane-standing of mobile home Permission
- 5.2.3 3PL/2007/1338/F Hall farm Barns East Bilney-change of use to accommodation and porch link to main dwelling Permission

The above decisions were noted.

5.3 Tree Preservation Order.

The notice regarding the TPO for Beetley Wood was noted.

6. Correspondence.

6.1 Correspondence for Circulation.

- 6.1.1 Breckland-Agendas
- 6.1.2 CPRE-Light Pollution Guidance Notes
- 6.1.3 The Playing Field
- 6.1.4 Local Council review
- 6.1.5 Clerks and Councils Direct
- 6.1.6 East Anglian Air Ambulance-thank you letter
- 6.1.7 Norfolk accident Rescue Service-thank you letter
- 6.1.8 CCLA-Improvements to COIF Charity Funds
- 6.1.9 Wensum Valley trust Newsletter
- 6.1.10 GO-East-Consultation
- 6.1.11 defra-Farming Link

7. Finance.

7.1 The budget sheets and financial information had been circulated and these were approved.

7.2 Balances:

Business Base Rate Tracker Account

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Balance at 19 September | 16524.28 |
| Transfer from Community account | <u>4000.00</u> |
| Balance at 19 November | 20524.28 |

Community Account

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Balance at 20 October 2007 | 6446.66 |
|----------------------------|---------|

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Receipts | Forestry Commission | | <u>558.00</u> |
| | | | 7004.66 |
| Transfer to Business Base Rate Tracker | | | <u>4000.00</u> |
| | | | 3004.66 |
| Payments authorised 04 10 07 | | 16.50 | |
| Payments authorised 01 11 07 | | <u>254.65</u> | <u>271.15</u> |
| | | | 2733.51 |
| Less unrepresented cheques | | | <u>715.36</u> |
| Balance at 19 November 2007 | | | 2018.15 |

Amount available for Section 137 : 1096x£5.64 = £6181.44
Spend to Date : £116.50

The following cheques were authorised for payment:-

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| 222 | B J Leigh | Service contract | 244.50 |
| 223 | Abacus Copiers | Monthly Contract | 29.09 |
| 224 | Daynes Office Interiors | Stationery-Buzz Editor | 22.84 |
| 225 | Norfolk County Council | VAS Sign | 3671.12 |
| 226 | J & A Luck | Rope for River View | 19.39 |

7.3 Precept 2008-2009.

The resolution to set the precept at £12250 was proposed by Councillor Campbell-Smith and seconded by Councillor Luck and passed unanimously.

7.4 Donation to Beetley with East Bilney Parochial Church Council.

The resolution to donate £100 was proposed by Councillor Petzer and seconded by Councillor Richmond and passed unanimously.

7.5 Donation to St. Mary's C. P. School Beetley.

The resolution to donate £100 was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Luck and passed unanimously.

7.6 Payment of the grass cutting for the Playing Field.

The resolution to pay the bill for £950 was proposed by Councillor Campbell-Smith and seconded by Councillor Hayes and passed unanimously.

7.7 Audit Commission.

The letter requesting further information received was noted. The Clerk had already forwarded the information needed.

8. Village Hall.

A few tickets were still left for the Christmas function.

9. Beech Road.

The slow completion is because Breckland do not own the whole parcel of land and are currently negotiating with the owners.

10. Clerk's Corner.

10.1 Disposal of documents.

It was resolved to dispose of all out dates documents by shredding or depositing at Norfolk Records Office Archive centre. It was agreed to keep approved planning applications until completion or if refused until such time as an appeal may be lodged.

10.2 Register of electors

The forms for these were distributed.

10.3 Dates of Meetings for 2008.

These were confirmed as:-

Parish Council Meetings

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| February 7 th | March 6 th |
| April 3 rd | May 1 st |
| June 5 th | July 3 rd |
| August 7 th | September 4 th |
| October 2 nd | November 6 th |
| December 4 th | |

Annual Parish Council Meeting

May 1st

Annual Parish Meeting

April 3rd

11. Matters for the next meeting.

11.1 Clerk's Service contract

12. Portfolio Holders Update.

12.1 Affordable Housing.

No further communication had been received. District councillor Duffield reported that the Scrutiny Committee at Breckland was currently considering a change of policy for Affordable Housing.

12.2 Communications.

12.2.1 Beetley Buzz.

There would be no issue produced in December. It was proposed by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Petzer to purchase Publisher 2007 for the editor from amazon U.K. and passed unanimously. It was proposed by Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Richmond that the Chairman's fund be used to purchase a Christmas gift for the editor and passed unanimously.

12.3 Environment.

12.3.1 Beetley Meadows

The advice from Norfolk County Council was not to replant the areas and this was agreed. It was resolved to tidy the river bank.

12.3.2 Town Lands and Bilney Common

The Chairman and Clerk had met a representative from Norfolk County Council who was doing a study on wet woodlands and a report would be received in due course.

12.3.3 Beetley Common.

Flytipping had occurred at the common and Breckland are to be contacted to clear the area if possible.

12.3.4 Landfill Site

There was an increased problem with rabbits and water run off and Norfolk County Council are to be contacted.

12.4 Transport.

Nothing to report.

12.5 Highways.

12.5.1 Footpath High House Road to the Old School on Fakenham Road.

This had been resurfaced.

12.5.2 Son of Sam sign

This was currently in East Bilney and would be there for most of December.

12.5.3 Speedwatch.

This had proved very successful in the pilot areas and would be rolled out across the

county. There is a funding shortage and a minimum of three volunteers are needed to run the scheme. If no funding is available the cost to train would be £750 and would be carried out by Norfolk Constabulary.

12.6 Community.

12.6.1 St. Mary's C.P. School

A community governor is still required.

11.7 Health and Safety.

11.7.1 Beetley Meadows Play Area.

The clerk reported on the costs he had received and this was deferred to the next meeting for further consideration for action to be taken in the spring..

12. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 7th February 2008 to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall at 1930.

The meeting closed at 2136 hours.