

# MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 7.30 P.M.

**Present** Councillor A Leigh (Chair)  
Councillor J Baldwin  
Councillor J O'Donovan  
Councillor R Richmond  
Councillor M Rose

Ten members of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Luck and Fox who were unwell and these were accepted.

**2. Declarations of Interest.**

Councillor Richmond declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 12.1, having submitted parcels of land for inclusion in the Minerals and Waste Framework.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 October 2011 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**4. County and District Councillors Reports.**

Councillor Richmond in the absence of the District Councillor informed the meeting that Breckland Council has a new Youth council with members aged 11-18 and 14 members in total.

**5. Matters to Report.**

**5.1 Diamond Jubilee Celebration.**

No replies had been received and this is to be removed from the agenda.

**5.2 Breckland Town and Parish Council Forum 20 October.**

Councillors Leigh, O'Donovan and Baldwin attended as well as Councillor Richmond in his capacity as a District Councillor. The buffet was up to the same standard as in the past but it was not one of the better forums that had been held. The presentation on the new planning framework was too long and the presenter was not one of the better speakers that had been at these forums. The outcome of this was to see what transpires with the new planning framework that allows neighbourhood plans to be developed. The presentation on the arts side of Breckland Council was very good.

**5.3 Christmas Meal.**

The date was agreed as 9 December at 1930 for 2000. The numbers are to be forwarded to the Clerk. Councillor O'Donovan agreed to obtain menus for all attending.

**5.4 Electronic Distribution of Information for meetings.**

It was agreed to trial this for the next meeting.

**6. Community Car Scheme.**

Councillor Rose reported on the workshop that had been held at the offices of NRCC which was also attended by the co-ordinator. The scheme at Heacham was used as an example and there was adequate time to raise questions about the checks that are in place for this

scheme. She also reported on the meeting held on 24 October with the co-ordinator and drivers. Councillor Rose re-iterated the three options open to the Parish Council- stay with Breckland Council, a stand alone scheme and the Parish Council to administer the scheme

but with no funding from Breckland Council. At this meeting several drivers and the co-ordinator stated that they would not continue if the health check was put in place nor would the co-ordinator continue if it is run separately from the Parish Council possibly as a charity.

Following the meeting on 24 October Elmham Surgery had been contacted and for a letter stating that the driver is fit to drive would be in line with the guidance from DVLA Group 1 which is not the same as that for taxi drivers. The time for this would be about 10 minutes with both the doctor and nurse.

The meeting was adjourned.

Pauline Silk asked why the medical is needed as other sponsors of car schemes do not impose it. She stated that 4 drivers are happy to continue if there is no health check, 2 would accept the health check and 1 is a definite no if all the checks are put in place. Paul Timson stated that he will retire at 65 and then volunteer for a scheme and there would be no need for a health check. Councillor Rose stressed that Breckland Council want the checks because it can enforce them. Councillor Baldwin stated that in the present litigious society it is necessary to ensure that all reasonable risks have been managed. Society is changing and now it is necessary for more checks and procedures than 20 years ago. She also asked why the drivers are against the health check. Pauline Silk replied that it is not necessary. The Chairman stated that if a free medical was on offer she would take it and could not understand why some of the drivers are against a free check. Michael Lannigan stated that he had just had a check and therefore does not need another one. June Overall thought the check was a waste of the doctor's time. The Chairman asked if the scheme was to operate on its own why could the co-ordinator not continue. She stated that a committee would have to be formed and she would not be willing to run it on her own. Councillor Rose stressed the three options and at present the only basis that the scheme could continue with the current co-ordinator and drivers is if the Parish Council administer and there is no health check. June Overall agreed with best practice but felt that Breckland Council were only looking at the governance one way and is not willing to negotiate. Patrick Monaghan stated that his doctor would issue a letter but would have to notify the DVLA if not capable of driving. Another member of the public stated that he drives for Dereham and he has had a medical which only lasted 10 minutes. Pauline Silk said that this was under the old system but she was informed that the medical was in the last three weeks under the new governance scheme. David Silk said that the health check is not statutory. Councillor Richmond stated that it was best practice for both Breckland Council and the Parish Council to put in place the checks.

The meeting was re-convened.

The Chairman summed up the situation that the Parish Council would not be seen to be upholding best value for the parishioners if it turned down the funding from Breckland Council. This would obviously mean that some drivers and the co-ordinator might not continue. She also felt that it was best practice for a health check to be in place.

Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that the Parish Council continues with the contract with Breckland Council and obtains funding from it and all checks are to be put in place. All were in favour.

## **7. Beetley River Meadows Play Area.**

### **7.1 Problems.**

The graffiti remover had been obtained and Councillor Fox will clean the slide. There is no tree in the river that Councillor Fox can see and it was agreed not to cut the central area until next year.

### **7.2 Gates.**

The Clerk is to get prices for fitting for the next meeting.

### **7.3 Grant application.**

This had been turned down and Councillor Richmond will speak to Breckland Council about match funding.

### **7.4 Plant pots.**

These have been moved to the village hall and weeded.

## **8. Open Spaces.**

### **8.1 New problems.**

The Clerk had authorised Norfolk Woods and Hedges to proceed and for Anton Crisp to cut the hedge in the new year at East Bilney Town Lands.

The landowner will be contacted to strim the footpath from Bluebell Wood to the Fakenham Road.

### **8.2 Footpath posts.**

This was deferred to the next meeting.

## **9. Highways and Transport.**

### **9.1 General.**

The hedge on Fakenham Road was reported by a parishioner as overhanging the footway and the landowner will be requested to trim this.

### **9.2 Local Highway Improvements.**

The cost of a new path from FP15 to school car park has been requested from Norfolk County Council.

## **10. Website.**

### **10.1 Update.**

The Clerk reported that there is still a problem with the website and Norfolk ALC is trying to resolve this. The piece about the website is to be inserted once the problem has been resolved.

### **10.2 New additions.**

None were requested.

## **11. Correspondence received for circulation.**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>11.1</b> | Crime figures September                  |
| <b>11.2</b> | Norfolk link October 2011                |
| <b>11.3</b> | Clerks and Councils direct November 2011 |
| <b>11.4</b> | NRCC Signpost October 2011               |
| <b>11.5</b> | Queens Diamond Jubilee Beacons           |
| <b>11.6</b> | Parish matters –Came and Company         |
| <b>11.7</b> | Active Norfolk                           |

## **12. Finance.**

**12.1** The budget sheets and financial information had been circulated and Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that these be approved. All were in favour.

**12.2 Balances.**

Councillor Baldwin proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that the balances and cheques for authorisation be approved. All were in favour.

**Balances**

**Bank of Ireland Treasurer's Account**

Balance at 31 08 11	22452.20
Receipts-	
Interest-1.90	
Breckland Community Car-41.60	
Breckland Precept-6500.00	
Tittleshall Parish Council-26.89	<u>6570.39</u>
	29022.59
Less cheques authorised 01 09 11-	<u>826.37</u>
Balance at 30 09 11	28196.22
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 06 10 11	<u>1465.81</u>
Balance at 06 10 11	<u>26730.41</u>

Amount available for Section 137 : 1118 x£6.44 = £7199.92

Spend to Date : £20.00

Cheques for authorisation:

245	B J Leigh	Contract October	368.00
246	Abacus Copiers	Monthly Contract September	26.64
254	Mrs P Silk	Community car	93.30
248	C.G.M.	Grass Cutting-September	144.65
249	Green-Tech Limited	Grit Bins.	330.00
250	Daynes	Stationery	33.60
251	Mrs A Leigh	Graffiti Remover	7.50
252	Dereham CAB	Donation	60.00
253	St Mary's School	Photocopying for Minerals and Waste in colour	65.16

**12.3 Precept 2012/13.**

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that the precept be set at £13000. All were in favour.

**12.4 Donation to the Village Hall.**

As no figures were available this was deferred to the next meeting and it was agreed to request that the Chairman attends the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the future funding of the village hall.

**12.5 Norfolk Lowland Search and Rescue.**

It was agreed not to donate.

**13. Village Hall.**

**13.1 Report from the Village Hall Committee**

No report was given.

**13.2 Increased charges.**

These were noted.

**13.3 Financing of the Village Hall.**

This was deferred until the Chairman met the Parish Council. Councillor Fox is to be requested to raise several matters at the next Committee meeting such as the carpets,

curtains, light fitting and ladies toilet.

**14. Affordable Housing.**

**14.1 Open Meeting.**

Councillor Richmond reported that Michael Cramp from Flagship and Richard Bland from Breckland Council had attended. There had been several visitors and it emerged that there are still no properties for shared ownership as the mortgage market is still restricted for shared ownership. Michael said at the afternoon that he would look into the current situation. It was a good afternoon and the visitors all appeared to have passed the criteria for occupation.

**15. Matters for the Next Meeting**

**15.1 Charity Donations.**

**15.2 Dates for meetings in 2012.**

**16. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.**

This was confirmed as Thursday 1 December 2011 at 7.30 p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2153 hours.