

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2011 AT 7.00 P.M.

Present

Councillor A Leigh (Chair)
Councillor A Luck
Councillor A Fox
Councillor J O'Donovan
Councillor R Richmond
Councillor M Rose

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris
District Councillor R Duffield

Six members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Baldwin who was being trained and this was accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Luck declared a prejudicial interest in agenda Item 6 being a trustee of the Village Hall and 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 3 November 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.

The County Councillor reported that the Minerals and waste Site Specifics will be put to the Cabinet in January and published in February 2012. There will then be a further consultation prior to going before an Inspector in June 2012. It is expected to be adopted in January 2013. There is £100,000 for local highway improvements. The Localism Act received royal assent on 15 November and has made changes to the standards and code of conduct. The main changes are the general power of competence, abolishes the Standards Board and predetermination, new rights for the community to challenge, which would enable local councils to express an interest in taking over the running of a local authority service, and the right to bid for an asset of community value. There are significant reforms to the planning system and a local council would be able to develop a Neighbourhood plan and the power for local people to deliver the development that their local community wants. The Community Infrastructure Levy could be transferred to a local council rather than the planning authority.

The District Councillor reported that the car park review has been postponed until January.

5. Matters to Report.

5.1 Dates of meetings in 2012.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that no meeting be held in August. All were in favour.

The dates were confirmed as follows:-

Parish Council Meetings

February 2nd

March 1st

April 5th

May 3rd

June 7th

July 5th

September 6th

October 3rd

November 1st

December 6th

Annual Parish Council Meeting

May 3rd

Annual Parish Meeting

April 5th

5.2 Christmas Meal.

This was confirmed as 9 December at 1900 for 1930 at the New Inn.

5.3 Community Car Scheme.

A letter of resignation had been received from Mrs Pauline Silk. The Chairman agreed to be the interim co-ordinator and so far two ladies had telephoned to offer to become the co-ordinator. One of the ladies had suggested that a mobile telephone be used for the passengers to call so that this could be passed between the co-ordinators at holiday time. Councillor Luck offered the Parish Council a mobile telephone at no cost to be passed between the co-ordinators. This was accepted with grateful thanks. The Chairman suggested that a get-together of the co-ordinators and drivers be held in January and this was agreed. She stressed that there is no wish for the scheme to fail and she and the Clerk had had their medicals which lasted 15 minutes. The information on the CRB checks had just been received and the cost is £25. Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that cheques be drawn between meetings to forward with the applications to ensure there is no delay. All were in favour. The Chairman felt that it was preferable to have more than one co-ordinator so that the work is shared and there is cover for holiday. Councillor Rose thought that a float should be given to the co-ordinator so that she is not out of pocket when paying the drivers. The Clerk is to consult Norfolk ALC to ascertain how this is to be accounted for.

5.4 Code of Conduct Training.

Breckland Council had advised that no further training sessions will be held until the changes in the Localism Act have been finalised.

5.5 Planning Applications Consultation.

A letter had been received from Breckland Council stating that it wished to streamline the consultation process for planning applications. It suggested that these would be forwarded electronically. The District Councillor informed the meeting that it is the contract between Breckland Council and Capita Symonds for all plans to be sent to Parish Councils. The matter has been referred back to Capita Symonds so no response is needed at this time.

5.6 Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

The Parochial Church Council will be holding an event but the final details have not been decided.

5.7 Plaque in Church for parishioner killed in Afghanistan.

The Church has not said no and Councillor Luck has spoken to Patricia Jeffrey. There has been a query raised as to whether the person had been honoured elsewhere as he had apparently been at school in Wisbech. Councillors Luck and Fox will meet the parents and the Clerk will contact the Diocesan Board.

5.8 Christmas Cards.

These would be distributed at the end of the meeting to be given to the Beetley Buzz deliverers and Beetley Common Advisory Committee.

5.9 Bottle Banks.

Councillor O'Donovan requested that if any Councillor goes to the bank would they please check the level and let her know if it needs emptying.

6. Village Hall.

The Chairman informed the meeting that this item is on the agenda to ensure that the Village Hall continues to remain viable and prospers. Stephen Pope, the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, was invited to explain the plans and to discuss the funding.

The meeting was adjourned.

Stephen Pope explained that there have been plans drawn up to upgrade the current facilities. The kitchen is to be extended so that food can be prepared on site, update the toilets and install a disabled toilet, infill the rear to provide a storage area. The Committee is also looking at changing the heating system but the building needs to be insulated and so Pro-help has been contacted to give their opinion on the best form of insulation for the building. Pro-Help will be sending an architect to look at the building and advise. There has been considerable discussion as to whether it is viable to upgrade the current building or to go down the route of a new hall. Councillor Rose asked how the costs of the works would be met. Stephen Pope stated that it would be from different sources of funding. Councillor Rose said that funding from outside sources needs the Village Hall to be raising money by fund raising. Stephen Pope said that there is match funding available and unfortunately this year the quiz night had to be cancelled. Councillor Leigh raised the matter of the curtains and carpets which do not make the hiring of the hall attractive. Stephen Pope stated that quotes have been received for the cleaning of these and the cleaner had assured the Committee that all the marks will be removed from the carpets. The necessity to have fire retardant curtains is being checked. It had also been discussed whether to use the Refurbishment Fund for the general maintenance at the Hall. Councillor Leigh expressed concern that no fund raising had been done this year and that if the Parish Council discontinued paying for the insurance and cutting of the field the hall would not be viable. It appears that only minor pieces of maintenance have been done and she understands well that funding is difficult to obtain at present. When the Affordable Housing Open Session was held at the Hall discussion had taken place with the representative from Breckland Council as to whether some land could be sold for housing and the money raised utilised for a new hall.

District Councillor Kiddle Morris informed the meeting of the new village hall at Great Dunham which had been built with Lottery money and match funding from other sources. There is £200,000 money from Breckland Council for match funding in this year and a further £200,000 ion next year.

Councillor Leigh suggested that the committee contact Breckland Council to arrange a meeting and at the same time talk to the architect over what can be done in the future.

District Councillor Duffield suggested that the committee talk to Building Control at Breckland Council to ascertain the u values that can be achieved in the building.

Councillor Rose stated that she does not think that enough is being done to raise funds.

Stephen Pope said that the committee has not been able to come up with any new ideas.

Councillor Rose suggested a brainstorming meeting to come up with ideas for events and she offered to help. Councillor Leigh suggested that an event could be staged to link in with the Diamond Jubilee.

The Chairman thanked Stephen Pope for attending and trusted that the discussion had been useful. She stressed that the Parish Council is not trying to take over the running of the hall but wishes to ensure that it continues to be viable.

The meeting was re-convened.

7. Beetley River Meadows Play Area.

7.1 Problems.

Councillor Fox reported that he has cleaned the graffiti and has checked the play area as part of the regular assessment. There are two seats in the basketball area and on one there

is a slat missing. Councillor Fox offered to replace this and this was accepted. A considerable amount of moss has reappeared on the safety surface and the Clerk is to contact Redlynch Leisure who cleaned the area last year.

7.2 Gates.

Further prices had been received including one from RBS Engineering who had said that the current gates could be modified. The cost for this would be £1787.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that the quotation from RBS Engineering be accepted at a cost of £1787 provided that the gates will meet BSEN1176. All were in favour.

7.3 Grant application.

Any further application was deferred until the February meeting.

8. Open Spaces.

8.1 Problems.

The landowner had strimmed the footpath from Bluebell Wood to the Fakenham Road. Councillor Luck is to check the footpath at East Bilney from Church Road to Gorse Hill as this may need cutting or clearing.

8.2 Footpath posts.

A further walk is to be held in the spring to decide the location for the posts and way markers.

8.3 Public Rights of Way.

An e-mail had been received from Norfolk County Council offering Parish Councils the opportunity to become more involved with the maintenance of these. It was agreed to respond and find out what is entailed.

Councillor Leigh left the meeting.

Councillor Luck assumed the Chair.

9. Highways and Transport.

9.1 General.

The request for a VAS sign on Holt Road had been turned down but some form of signage should be erected to warn motorists of their speed. High House Road is to be closed from 5 December to 9 December for the installation of a sewer connection. A letter had been received from a parishioner expressing concern that the roads to Beetley Common will not be maintained if there are more vehicles travelling to the Common and that there should be a speed bump at the junction of Peacock Lane and Common Lane.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Beetley Common Advisory Committee expressed concern that there would be increased flytipping on the Common if the sign is erected on the west side of Holt Road. It was suggested that the sign be placed on Peacock Lane about 10 metres from the highway.

The meeting was re-convened.

It was agreed to contact the Highways Department to request that the sign be sited on Peacock Lane.

9.2 Local Highway Improvements.

The cost of a new path from FP15 to school car park has been received from Norfolk County Council. This would be £3000 of which the Parish Council would contribute £1500.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Fox seconded the resolution that the Parish Council proceeds and requests that this improvement at a cost of £1500 be included in the improvement plan. All were in favour.

10. Website.

10.1 Update.

All has been resolved with the website and notification will be placed in the next issue of the Beetley Buzz about it.

10.2 New additions.

None were requested.

11. Correspondence received for circulation.

- 11.1 The Playing Field Autumn 2011
- 11.2 Breckland Town and Parish Forum Newsletter
- 11.3 Crime Figures October
- 11.4 CAB Thank You

12. Finance.

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

12.2 Balances.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Rose 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 30 09 11		28196.22
Receipts-	Interest-1.89	
	Breckland Community Car-39.50	
	Beetley Scout Group-50.00	91.39
		28287.61
Less cheques authorised 01 09 11-142.00		
Less cheques authorised 06 10 11-1465.81		1607.81
Balance at 30 09 11		26679.80
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 03 11 11		1128.85
Balance at 03 11 11		25550.95

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

Spend to Date : £20.00

Cheques for authorisation:

255	B J Leigh	Contract November	368.00
256	Abacus Copiers	Monthly Contract September	40.99
257	Mrs P Silk	Community car	110.58
260	C.G.M.	Grass Cutting-September- 144.65	144.65
258	F Haverson	Grass Cutting of Playing Field	1100.00
259	The Beetley Charity	Transfer of Rent from Beetley Scout Group	50.00

261	Mrs A Leigh	Plants for Village Hall Christmas cards and Present for Buzz editor	18.48
262	Norfolk Woods and Hedges	Removal of tree at Old Beetley, remove fallen tree at East Bilney Common, Strim Town lands and prune trees	318.00
263	Beetley and East Bilney PCC	Donation for grass cutting	100.00
264	SLCC	Membership	140.00
265	B J Leigh	Contract December dated 01 01 12	368.00

Councillor Luck withdrew from the meeting.

12.3 Donation to the Village Hall.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Fox seconded the resolution that £550.80 be donated to the Village Hall to assist with the payment of the insurance for the year. All were in favour. However there was a caveat that next year the Parish Council should see more evidence of active fundraising by the committee prior to donating. All were in favour.

Councillor Luck re-joined the meeting.

13. Matters for the Next Meeting

15.1 Village Hall Fundraising.

15.2 Plaque at the Church.

16. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 2 February 2012 at 7.30 p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2136 hours.