

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7 APRIL 2011

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

Six Parishioners

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Luck, Stephen Pope and the County and District Councillor.

### **Minutes of the last Meeting**

Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that these be adopted.

All were in favour.

### **Chairman's introduction and report.**

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting and I thank you all for attending.

It has again been a busy year for the Parish Council with the most common item being planning. There were 25 planning applications during the year, which is slightly higher than the previous year, and it has been the Parish Council's priority to ensure that any development has been within the settlement boundary and would not detract from the surrounding properties. 3 of these applications have gone to appeal and in each case the appeal has been dismissed. I said last year that it has been pleasing to note that recently it appears that our objections are either being listened to by Breckland or our objections are in accord with theirs. I think it is fair to say that this year the decisions from Breckland Council have continued in common with the thoughts of the Parish Council. I would like to thank Maxine Rose the Planning Portfolio holder for all her work in assessing the applications prior to the Parish Council meetings.

The Parish Council has always tried to maintain the areas that it owns and to this end the safety surfacing has been repaired. The further enhancement of the area is proceeding and all residences were sent a questionnaire to indicate what they would like done at the River Meadows. The response was outstanding and therefore the Parish council is actively applying for funding for anew picnic area and more equipment for the play area. My thanks are due to Adam Luck and Alan Fox who has taken on the role of ensuring the area is fit to use, for all the work they have both done at the Meadows. Last year we changed contractors for the cutting and I think all will agree that they did a great job and we have re-employed them again this year.

With the help of funding from Breckland Council and with assistance from the School areas of the Parish have been planted with bulbs. This may not all come to bloom this year but I am sure that next year there will be ablaze of colour throughout the parish.

The precept has not been raised this year by as it was felt that in the current economic climate the Parish Council should continue to use reserves to finance projects.

Another severe winter has brought numerous problems on the roads and by close involvement with Norfolk County Council it has been possible to maintain the roads as best as has been possible in the weather conditions. Permission has been granted for a salt bin in Beech Road and this will be installed in the next few months.

After many years the plans for the Affordable Housing site have been approved by Breckland Council and work is due to start shortly as Flagship Housing now have the funding in place.

During the year Alan Fox was co-opted onto the Council. This year is election year but there will be no election for the Parish Council in Beetley as only 7 were nominated to fill the seven vacancies.

Three Councillors were again appointed to the Village Hall committee last year and continue to assist where possible.

The last year has seen little on the Minerals and Waste Framework but the next consultation will be sent out in the next few weeks. No doubt the Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship Clare Hedges will be reassembled shortly.

The website for the Parish is virtually complete and it is the aim to go to print with this in the next month. Our sincere thanks go to John Relph for all his assistance in getting the web site up and running.

Finally I would like to thank all the Councillors for the assistance and time they have given me and the Parish over the past year.

#### **Community Car Scheme.**

This was presented by Pauline Silk  
COMMUNITY CAR

Mileage April 2010– March 2011: 6519.5

Number of passengers carried: 267

Total mileage from September 1991 100905.5

Total number of passengers carried 4867

Journeys	Hospital:	104
	Doctor/ dentist/optician:	123
	Visits to sick and elderly:	39
	Other:	<u>1</u>
		267

Three drivers have left during the year but there are now seven drivers in total as more have volunteered

#### **Village Hall Report.**

The report was read out.

#### **Village Hall Report to Parish AGM 2011**

I have to report that 2010 was another successful year for the Village Hall with steady income from hire of the hall by private parties and the regular clubs, and an increase in fund raising activities for the refurbishment.

Regular users of the hall include:

Dog Obedience Classes  
Carpet Bowls  
Wood Turners  
Women's Meeting

Keep Fit  
Parish Council  
Table Tennis x3 clubs  
Friends and Neighbours Club

It is now extremely difficult to find an evening during a weeknight where the hall is not in use.

Fundraising events held during the year included our every popular Christmas function. A Quiz night and a car boot/table top sale. The committee hope to hold further fundraising events during the year to raise money for the Village hall refurbishment.

The committee are continuing to draw up plans for the second phase of the refurbishment of the Hall and are investigating various options for insulating and heating the building. It is to be noted that the boiler is very old and becoming difficult to maintain and we have also suffered over the last few years of instances of oil being stolen from the tank.

The Committee wish to record their thanks to the Parish Council for their support during the year.

Finally my thanks to the Village Hall Committee members, who all do sterling work to keep this village facility available for the community. The Committee are all prepared to stand for the next year and are:

Mr S Pope - Chairman  
Mrs J Overall - Secretary  
Mr J Luck - Treasurer  
Mrs A Pope – Bookings Secretary  
Mr A Luck  
Mr K Foran  
Mr F Haverson  
Mr R Richmond  
Mr A Fox

Stephen Pope Chairman

### **Club Reports**

#### **Football**

No report given

#### **Cricket**

No report given.

#### **Open Forum**

Horace Bloy raised the matter of the two trees on the Patch at Old Beetley and that the cherry is crowded by the other and should be removed. These trees were donated by Robin Kirkland. The Parish Council would consider the removal of one.

The meeting closed at 1932