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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7th JUNE 2012 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

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

District Councillor R Duffield

13 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Rose who was on holiday and Councillor Baldwin who was at a training session and these were accepted. Apologies had also been received from the County Councillor who was at another meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Richmond declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Items 4 and 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 O'Donovan seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 May 2012 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Minerals and Waste Consultation.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Chairman explained that there is a Sub-Committee of the Parish Council that was formed to consider the Minerals and Waste consultation.

Clare Hedges is the Chairman of that committee and the meeting was handed over to her to explain the latest consultation.

Clare Hedges reported that two sites had been allocated for Minerals extraction one along Fakenham Road and the other on Bilney Road and two for Waste. The Parish Council would be objecting to all allocations. She explained that objections could only be raised on the soundness of the document not as an objection to a site because it was not liked.

There would be no questionnaire for the parish this time and at present the sub-committee is awaiting the report from Breckland on the consultation.

Several questions were answered from parishioners on the proposed sites.

The meeting was re-convened.

The Chairman thanked Clare Hedges for attending and all the parishioners for their interest

5. County and District Councillors Reports.

No report was given from the County Councillor but the Clerk reported on the backlog of footpath matters being dealt with by highways following the Highways Department taking over the administration of them.

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The District Councillor reported that under the review of the non-statutory matters that Breckland Council at present undertake it may decide to charge for elections at Parish Councils. This will need to be included in the precept in future if this is decided.

6. Matters to Report.

6.1 Recycling Payment.

The payment for the year 2011/2012 would be £1333.17

6.2 Alms Houses.

Councillor Richmond reported that it was responsible to report empty properties within the District. The Alms Houses have now been empty for 2 years and by reporting them empty a grant would be available to assist with the renovation of £5000 per dwelling. As there were originally 300 applicants for the 8 dwellings on High House Road there is a need for social housing. As the Alms Houses feature in the Welcome Pack he did not wish the Parish Council to be targeted for doing nothing. Any renovation is in the hands of the Trustees of the Charity and no intervention by the Historical Buildings Officer can be made until the properties are in a very poor state.

The Chairman stated that the matter is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council and the photograph should remain in the welcome pack but with the addition that they are the responsibility of the charity. It was agreed to write to the PCC with the concerns of the Parish Council.

6.3 Meeting with Brisley Parish Council.

The Chairman reported that it had been a successful meeting with a tour to Beetley River Meadows and the Affordable Housing followed by a discussion on common problems. One member from Brisley Parish Council had agreed to meet the Village Hall Committee to discuss and advise on funding.

6.4 Bus Shelter.

A third type of remover is to be tried as although the graffiti has faded it has still not been removed totally.

6.5 Website.

The Clerk reported that it had not been possible to place all the Minerals and Waste document on the site as their size was too great. A link was put on plus the pages that referred to Beetley.

6.6 External Auditor.

There was no objection to the appointment of Mazars LLP as the External Auditor.

6.7 Affordable Housing Photographs.

It was agreed to frame and give to Alan Abram one large and one small copy of the ribbon cutting.

6.8 Bulk Fuel Buying Syndicate.

The Clerk reported that he had received an e-mail from a parishioner suggesting that a bulk buying syndicate be formed in the parish. As the Parish Council is already a member of Norfolk RCC there would be no extra cost. The parishioner is to be contacted thanking him for his interest and enquiring if he would be interested in becoming the co-ordinator for the scheme.

6.9 Code of Conduct.

The Clerk reported that he had e-mailed all with the latest information on the new Code which should be in place by 1 July. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Planning.

7.1 Applications.

7.1.1 3PL/2012/0546/F-9 Fakenham Road-demolition of kitchen and conservatory, erect new extension with playroom above and part garage

conversion.

The meeting was adjourned.

The neighbour read out his objections to the proposed development and these were discussed at length with the Parish Council. His letter to Breckland Council would be kept with the application.

The meeting was re-convened.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Fox seconded the resolution that no objection be raised to the application. However the parish Council would comment following the discussions with the neighbour that it would be preferable if the gable end window was either removed or fitted with obscured glass. All were in favour.

7.2 Decisions.

7.2.1 3PL/2012/0283/F- Roosting Hill Quarry-erect agricultural livestock building, retention of small single storey outbuildings & close part of access road. N/O Permission

7.2.2 3PL/2012/0262/F-Bilney Hall Care Home-proposed 10 bed single storey extension N/O Permission

7.2.3 3PL/2012/0272/F-Land to the west of 55 Elmham Road-proposed chalet bungalow. N/O Permission

7.2.4 3PL/2012/0379/F-York Glen High House Road-extension to side. N/O Permission

7.3 Appeals

7.3.1 Bilney Mews.

Councillor Richmond reported that he had attended the hearing at which there were three people from the applicant, two from Breckland Council, The Inspector and himself. He had been allowed to speak twice and felt that the Inspector thought that 45years was a good compromise. He felt that the Inspector understood the concerns that the properties had not been marketed correctly and he was allowed to go on the site visit when the Inspector was surprised at the proximity of the Mews to the main hall.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Richmond, William Richmond and District Councillor Duffield for all their help with this appeal.

8. Beetley River Meadow.

8.1 Problems.

The springs have all been replaced and the gates are working properly. The lack of grass cutting had been reported and the contractor had attended the next day.

8.2 Picnic Area.

All items had been installed.

Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that the quotation from CGM for the clearance of the undergrowth for £270 be accepted. All were in favour.

It was agreed to request the funding from Breckland Council and to obtain signs from IRS acknowledging the contribution from Breckland Council. It was also agreed to circulate a flyer with the Beetley Buzz informing all households of the areas. It was confirmed that there would be a cleaning and painting evening of the old benches on 18 July.

9. Open Spaces.

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9.1 Problems.

Several stiles need re-wiring and these will be reported hedges have overgrown the footpath at the end of River Lane East Bilney and the owners will be requested to cut the hedges back. The footpath from High House Road to Old Beetley also needs re-instating better than it is at present.

9.2 Beetley Common Advisory Committee.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Committee had requested that areas of the Common be managed better with the felling of trees that were growing too close to each other so becoming not as strong and posing a safety hazard. A request was also made to plant new trees in some areas and requested that the Parish Council finance these.

The meeting was re-convened.

It was agreed to allow the felling of some trees and to investigate funding for new trees with the Woodland Trust.

A tree was across the river and Nick Saunders is to be requested to clear this.

9.3 Play Equipment at the Village Hall.

It was agreed to defer distribution of the questionnaire until the end of August. It was reported that Windcrop had been to site and found nowhere to site a wind turbine so there would be no interference with the play equipment.

10. Highways and Transport.

10.1 Report on Highways Matters.

The continued standing of a caravan on Ashley Road had been reported to the PCSO following several complaints from neighbours. It is hoped that this will be removed shortly. Norfolk County Council is to request Anglian Water to resurface at East Bilney bridge and the poor sweeping of the road after surface dressing was also reported. The pothole on the B1146 at East Bilney had been repaired. The state of Rawhall Lane is to be reported so that the holes can be repaired.

11. Correspondence received for circulation.

There was no correspondence for circulation.

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 Fox 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 03 12	19714.36
Receipts-	
Interest-1.99	
Breckland Prcept-6500.00	
Breckland C/Car-60.58	<u>6562.57</u>
	26276.93
Less cheques authorised 02 02 12-550.80	

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cheques authorised 01 03 12-1011.34	<u>1562.14</u>
Balance at 30 04 12 24714.79	
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	<u>150.00</u>
Balance at 31 03 12	24864.79
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 03 05 12	<u>718.51</u>
Balance at 03 05 12	23996.28

Amount available for Section 137 : 1139 x£6.80 = £7745.20
Spend to Date : £0.00

Cheques for authorisation:

305	B J Leigh	Contract May 375.00 Less PAYE 27.20	348.00
306	Abacus Copiers	Monthly Contract	16.21
307	C.G.M.	Grass Cutting-April	144.65
308	Mrs A D Leigh	Community Car-May	243.40
309	HMRC	PAYE	27.20
310	Mrs S Rutter	Internal Audit	18.00
311	B J Leigh	Stamps for questionnaire	282.00
312	Mrs A D Leigh	Provisions for meeting with Brisley Parish Council	25.47
313	Daynes	Stationery	69.10
314	The Beetley Charity	Payment from Mr Nally	10.00

12.3 Accounts April 2011-March 2012.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that the accounts for the financial year 2011-2012 be approved. All were in favour and the accounts were signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

12.4 Beetley Common Advisory Committee.

Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that £90 be donated to the group for the invaluable work that they do on the Common.

13. Village Hall.

13.1 Charity Commission Response.

The Charity Commission had replied stating that under the current governance document all members of the management committee must be trustees. Councillor Fox felt that he could no longer remain on the Village Hall Committee and it was agreed that the Parish Council would have no representatives on the management committee.

It was agreed to write to the Village Hall suggesting that the governance document be amended so that representatives from outside bodies are not trustees.

13.2 Funding Meeting.

The Chairmen reported that a meeting had been held with the Councillor from Brisley regarding potential funding and this had been most helpful. The matter is now in the hands of the Village Hall committee.

13.3 Future Donations.

Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that £1750 be donated to the Village Hall in this financial year. All were in favour.

Future donations would be reviewed annually.

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The Village Hall is to be informed of this decision and that it will no longer pay the invoice from the grass cutter direct but this must be paid by the Village Hall Committee.

14. Co-option of a member to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is now able to co-opt and any interested parishioner would be invited to a meeting for a mini interview to explain why they wish to become members of the Parish Council and what they can do for the Parish.

13. Matters for the Next Meeting

There were no matters raised for the next meeting.

14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 5 July 2012 at 7.30 p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2150 hours.