

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 5 JULY 2012 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present

Councillor A Leigh (Chair)
Councillor M Rose
Councillor J Baldwin
Councillor A Fox
Councillor J Mayhew-after co-option
Councillor J O'Donovan
Councillor R Richmond

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris
District Councillor R Duffield

4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Richmond declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Items 7.3.1, 7.3.2 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 7 June 2012 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 Incinerator at The Willows King's Lynn had been passed by the Cabinet and it had now gone to the Secretary of State DCLG for a decision. The District Councillor reported that he had spoken to the Executive Member regarding the emptying of bins and he had been informed that a new policy had been adopted 2 years ago that additional bins on private land would not be emptied. The Clerk informed him that a guidance came out in May and he had followed that when informing Breckland Council. This guidance states on the front page that Breckland Council is to be informed so that the bins can be added to the emptying schedule. The District Councillor will pursue the matter further.

He requested that Beetley Parish Council support Gressenhall Parish Council in its objection to a solar farm when this comes out as a planning application.

The meeting was adjourned.

George Hayes reported that he had major concerns about the parking on Elmham Road and had witnessed two near crashes near to the Fakenham Road. He had written to the school but had not received a reply and hoped that the Parish Council would contact Norfolk County Council and the school to improve the parking on Elmham Road. An extension of the double yellow lines to the horseshoe would assist greatly. A letter requesting that the school state in their employment contract with staff that the car park is to be used and not Elmham Road would also reduce the risk of a collision. This letter should also be sent to the Pre-school.

The meeting was re-convened.

It was agreed to write to Norfolk County Council, the new Head Teacher and the Governors

to attempt to improve the situation.

5. Co-option of a Member to the Parish Council.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Chairman asked James Mayhew what he felt that he could do for the Parish. He replied that he wished primarily to protect the interests of children within the parish and felt he could assist at Beetley River Meadows. Councillor Rose stated that being a parish Councillor did not just entail attending once a month, but more time must be put in to ensure that all aspects of the running of the parish are covered. He agreed and accepted that the additional time is necessary and stressed that you only get out what you put in.

The Chairman stated that it would be necessary to deliver the Beetley Buzz, check on Beetley River Meadows and the play area. He said that he would be willing to do this.

The meeting was re-convened.

Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that James Mayhew be co-opted onto the Parish Council. All were in favour and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and witnessed.
The Chairman welcomed him to the Parish Council.

6. Matters to Report.

6.1 Village Hall.

The Clerk had received two letters from the Chairman of the Beetley & East Bilney Village Hall & Playing Field Committee. The first stated that it was considering amending to the Governing Document as it would be very difficult to work with the current pool of people and it will keep the Parish Council informed of progress.

The second letter concerned the payment of invoices for the charity. It requested clarification as to why the Parish Council can not pay for work done on the Playing Field as this is parish land similar to Beetley Common and Beetley River Meadows. The Clerk is to reply stating that the Parish Council can take no part in the management of the Village Hall and Playing Field as this is expressly forbidden in the Governing Document. If the Parish Council is to pay for the cutting of the Playing Field, under its financial regulations it would be necessary to invite tenders which would be taking a management decision. The land at Beetley River Meadows is owned by the Parish Council which has the responsibility for the management of the area whereas it is only the Custodian Trustee of the land and buildings at the Village Hall. The letter also raised concerns that under the Charity Commission rules it would have to obtain tenders for the work which could entail the payment of VAT which the Charity can not reclaim whilst the Parish Council can. It was stated that there are several contractors who are not VAT registered and several contractors are de-registering at the present time.

There was concern raised by all members that no fund raising is being carried out by the Village Hall Committee and it was felt that more should be done. This is an essential requisite of the continued donation by the Parish Council. The Parish Council is still committed to assisting the Village Hall Committee wherever possible but feels that it is just being used to bolster the lack of income for the Charity.

6.2 Breckland Town and Parish Council Forum.

Councillor O'Donovan reported that she was disappointed that there were no sandwiches this time. The County Councillor apologised for this. It was a very good meeting with plenty of information. The Code of Conduct needs to be adopted and it was suggested that this be reviewed in 6 months. There are still concerns about the format for an appeal against a decision and this is being considered. The cost of a Neighbourhood Plan would be outside the scope of most Parish Councils but there could well be a developer who would stand the cost if it was working with Parish Council.

6.3 Bus Shelter.

Councillor Baldwin reported that she had been cleaning the bus shelter with a different remover but this did not work as well as was hoped. Just as she and a friend were about to leave a van pulling a trailer pulled up and the driver asked if they were removing graffiti as he said he did it for a living. He came back at 1600 and met Councillor Baldwin and removed the graffiti free of charge. He used his specialist equipment and after two hours the job was complete and even pressure washed the floor. She showed some images of the bus shelter before and after. The Chairman thanked her for all her work and it was agreed to write to the person concerned thanking him for his time and effort.

6.4 Bulk Fuel Buying Syndicate.

The Clerk reported that he had received a reply from the parishioner stating that he had too many other commitments to take on the role of co-ordinator.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mr Alan Turner stated that he might be willing to run a scheme and it may be possible to obtain a preferential rate from a sole supplier. He offered to contact the oil companies and the Clerk will contact Norfolk RCC. The scheme could then be advertised in the Beetley Buzz.

The meeting was re-convened.

The Chairman thanked him for his offer and hoped that it would come to fruition.

6.5 Tetrapak recycling.

The Chairman reported that she had noticed there were tetrapak recycling bins and various locations and she had contacted Breckland Council regarding this but had not received a reply. She felt that this could be sited at the Village Hall.

6.6 Norfolk RCC AGM 11 July.

Councillor Richmond would attend.

6.7 Service at the Cathedral.

Councillor Richmond thanked the Chairman for allowing him to attend the Diamond Jubilee Service at the Cathedral which was a very moving experience.

7. Planning.

7.1 Applications.

7.1.1 3PL/2012/0566/F-Brecklands 48 Elmham Road-erection of 3 bed dwelling with attached garage.

The meeting was adjourned.

George Hayes stated that this was backland development albeit in the front and this would set a precedent for Elmham Road. He had sent his objections to Breckland Council.

The meeting was re-convened.

After a lengthy discussion Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Fox seconded the resolution that the Parish Council object to this application as it would set a dangerous precedent and under the new National Planning Policy Framework the inappropriate use of garden land for development should be avoided. All were in favour.

7.1.2 3PL/2012/0649/F-Woodlands East Bilney-minor material amendment to 3PL/2011/0564/F in respect of alter appearance of chimney and insert 2 velux windows.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that no objection be raised. All were in favour.

7.2 Decisions.

The following decisions were noted.

7.2.1 3PL/2012/0403/F- Land at Fakenham Road	N/O	Permission
7.2.2 3PL/2012/0438/F-Beechcroft 45 Elmham Road-single storey extension to side and replace flat roof with hipped end.	N/O	Permission
7.3 Minerals and Waste Pre-Submission Consultation.		

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

7.3.1 To note the response forwarded for the consultation on the pre-submission document.

The Clerk reported that he had filed all the response to the consultation and had requested that the Parish Council be allowed to speak at the Public Hearing.

The Parish Council had objected to the soundness and justification on the two mineral and two waste sites proposed.

It was agreed to write to Clare Hedges thanking her and her sub-committee for all the hard work they have put in over the long consultation.

7.3.2 To confirm the future of the sub-committee.

It was agreed to continue with the Sub-Committee until after the public hearing.

Councillor Richmond re-joined the meeting.

7.4 Appeal.

7.4.1 Bilney Mews.

The decision for the appeal against the refusal of Breckland Council to discharge a planning obligation had been received. The appeal had been upheld and the full decision was noted. This will mean that potential purchasers of the properties can be of any age. The members were very disappointed with this decision but the Inspector felt that the obligation no longer served any useful purpose.

8. Beetley River Meadow.

8.1 Problems.

The emptying of the bins has not been carried out by Breckland Council and there has been considerable correspondence from parishioners about this. Breckland Council have been spoken to several times and was reported earlier in the meeting the guidelines have been followed. Breckland Council is now saying that the guidance is misleading but the Clerk has stressed that the guidelines have been followed to enable the bins to be emptied. Councillor Fox and the Clerk are to meet an officer from Breckland Council on 10 July to try and resolve the matter. Councillor Mayhew agreed to empty and place new bin liners in the bins.

The gates are not closing properly again and RBS have been contacted.

The clearance of the area behind the play area to the new picnic area has been carried out by CGM but the Clerk had requested that CGM contact him when it was attending site to ensure it was done satisfactorily. This did not occur and CGM has been requested to return to site and clear the area to the satisfaction of the Parish Council.

A complaint had been received that there were campers on the site and Councillor Fox had been to meet them and after informing them that no campers are allowed they had vacated the site and left no rubbish.

8.2 Sign for the Notice Board.

Three signs are to be purchased for the notice boards to read:- "Picnic tables and benches have been jointly funded by Breckland Council and Beetley Parish Council."

8.3 Bench Cleaning Evening.

This is to be 18 July at 1900 weather permitting.

9. Open Spaces.

9.1 Problems.

The Clerk had received complaints about the footpath from High House Road to Church

Road and the footpaths at East Bilney at the end of River Lane and from the path from the Drift to Melton's Barn and the landowners will be contacted.

East Bilney Town Land is not looking very tidy and it was agreed to cut the entrance and a path through to the boardwalk. Anton Crisp is also to be requested to cut the hedge as soon as possible and again in January.

9.2 Meeting with Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

The Clerk had been contacted by Norfolk Wildlife Trust as it had heard that tree felling was being carried out at Beetley Common. The Clerk had replied that this was just good husbandry and a meeting is to be held on site and it is hoped Horace Bloy will also attend.

9.3 Play Equipment at the Village Hall.

The distribution of the questionnaire will be at the end of August with the replies to be returned by 21 September. A date to consider the replies will be made at the next meeting.

10. Highways and Transport.

10.1 Report on Highways Matters.

The footway on Fakenham Road needs weed spraying and this and the potholes on Church Road and Rawhall Lane East Bilney, outside High House Farm and at AA box Corner are to be reported. The Highways and Community Rangers are due to visit the parish on 30 July.

10.2 Tree at East Bilney.

A letter had been received from Norfolk County Council regarding the sycamore tree at East Bilney on the roadside verge at East Bilney. This had been circulated with an article to be placed in the Buzz explaining the reason for the necessity to fell the tree. Norfolk County Council had agreed to replace this tree and had requested that the Parish Council purchase another tree to mitigate the impact of losing such a mature one by planting two.

Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that a tree be purchased at a cost of about £330 to cover the purchase, planting and 5 years establishment maintenance. All were in favour.

10.3 Milestone on Holt Road.

The Clerk had received a communication regarding the milestone stating that when the person came to raise the milestone as had been suggested it was found to have a damaged section at the rear. This will need a stonemason to repair before it is lifted. The Parish Council could be billed for £25 for the work undertaken or await until next year when a stonemason is available. The costs of the stonemason are to be clarified prior to agreeing that this could wait until 2013.

11. Correspondence received for circulation.

- 11.1 Police Crime reports
- 11.2 LCR Summer 2012
- 11.3 Signpost June 2012
- 11.4 Information from Breckland Council Town and Parish Forum.

12. Finance.

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

12.2 Balances.

Councillor Richmond 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 30 04 12	24714.79
Receipts- Interest-1.90	
Breckland recycling-1333.17	

Breckland C/Car-49.58	
T Nally-rent-10.00	
Tittleshall Parish Council-4.03	1398.68
	<u>26113.47</u>
Less cheques authorised 03 05 12	718.51
Balance at 31 05 12	25394.96
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	150.00
Balance at 31 05 12	25544.96
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 07 06 12	1183.83
Balance at 07 06 12	<u>24361.13</u>

Amount available for Section 137 : 1139 x£6.80 = £7745.20

Spend to Date : £0.00

Cheques for authorisation:

315	B J Leigh	Contract June 375.00 Less PAYE 27.20	347.80
316	Abacus Copiers	Monthly Contract	18.70
317	C.G.M.	Grass Cutting-May	144.65
318	Mrs S Ludlow	Community Car-June	63.42
319	HMRC	PAYE	27.20
320	Mr A Fox	Fittings for Beetley Play area	7.98
321	B J Leigh	Contract July-375.00 less PAYE 27.20	347.80
322	Mrs A D Leigh	Photo frames and paint	25.27
323	HMRC	PAYE	27.20
324	Glasdon	Litter and dog bins	554.76
325	B J Leigh	Computer Ink	63.97
326	RBS Engineering	Repair to Gates	63.00
327	Whitehouse Enterprises	Tables and Benches for picnic areas	3936.00
328.	Beetley Common advisory committee	Donation	90.00

13. Code of Conduct.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that the Code Of Conduct as drafted by the National Association of Local Councils be adopted. All were in favour.

It was agreed to review this in February.

14. Matters for the Next Meeting

14.1 Parking at the School.

14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 6 September 2012 at 7.30 p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2146 hours.