

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON
THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present

Councillor A Leigh (Chair)
Councillor M Rose
Councillor J Baldwin
Councillor S Gould
Councillor J Mayhew
Councillor J O'Donovan
Councillor R Richmond

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris

15 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence.

The District Councillor had sent his apologies.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

Councillor Richmond declared a pecuniary interest under Appendix A in Agenda Items 11.1 having submitted parcels of land into the Minerals and Waste Consultation.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5 December 2013 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Grit Bin on Beech Road.

The Chairman outlined the history of the possible move of the grit bin from Beech Road to Ashley Road as follows:-

In January 2013 a request had been received from several parishioners to have a grit bin sited on Ashley Road near to the junction of Oakland Drive. The request for this bin was made because of the difficulties of exiting Oakland Drive in a severe winter where accidents have already occurred. The residents there are also very worried about the possible accident that could occur with vehicles being out of control and colliding with children walking to school or to catch the school bus.

Originally Norfolk County Council would not give permission for a bin to be sited here but after lobbying by the County Councillor and the Parish Council permission was given but Norfolk County Council would not fill this bin.

The responsibility to provide a grit bin lies with the Parish Council and it is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council to fill this if permission has been given.

The Parish Council decided as the bin would not be filled by Norfolk County Council it would not purchase a grit bin. Originally Norfolk County Council stated that it would allow the bin to be sited on Ashley Road and that salt could be obtained from one of its depots at a cost to the residents.

Subsequently Norfolk County Council withdrew its permission to site a grit bin there but suggested that if the grit bin that is sited on Beech Road near to the post box is moved to Ashley Road it would grant permission for this one bin and would fill it.

It would not grant permission to site two bins or fill two bins.

Because of this the Parish Council decided to consult with the residents who live near the Beech road Grit bin to advise them of Norfolk County Council's decision regarding grit bins in this area of the parish.

In January 2014 70 letters were distributed to residents in Beech Road, Wood Drive, Stone Road and River View requesting the residents to state whether they are in agreement at moving the bin or not.

46 replies were received by the Parish Council which is approximately 66%. Of these 9 stated that they were willing to have the bin moved and 37 stated they were not willing for the bin to be moved.

Several comments were also received stating that not only is the footway gritted but also the junctions into Wood Drive, Stone Road, River View and Fakenham Road.

The result of this letter drop is 80% of the replies received against moving the bin and 20% in favour.

The Chairman stated that it was disappointing that Norfolk County Council had changed its mind but it was now time to decide whether to move the grit bin from Beech Road to Ashley Road.

The meeting was adjourned.

A resident from Oakland Drive informed the meeting that George Freeman M.P. had visited the site and had said to him that there would be problems with emergency vehicles accessing the top of Oakland Drive. The resident also stated that he felt that Oakland Drive was more dangerous than Beech Road as it was on a steeper hill.

A resident from Beech Road stated that it is not only the footway that is gritted by residents but also the junction to Wood Drive and to Fakenham Road as it is more dangerous coming onto Beech Road from Fakenham Road.

A resident asked if it was possible for residents to pay to have the bin filled but the Chairman explained that this was not possible. The County Councillor explained that at present it costs £50,000 to fill all the grit bins in Norfolk and at the time when they are most used all operatives are gritting roads and therefore do not have the time to fill the bins.

Councillor Richmond was pleased that the M.P. had visited site and that the M.P. would be pressing Norfolk County Council to grant permission for another grit bin

The meeting was re=convened.

Councillor Rose stated that this was robbing Peter to pay Paul and as 80% of the replies had been not to move the bin the Parish Council should not go against those wishes.

The Chairman then called for a vote.

All Councillors were asked to vote in favour of moving the grit bin and none were in favour.

All Councillors were then asked to vote on leaving the grit bin on Beech Road and there were 6 in favour, Councillors Leigh, Rose, Gould, Mayhew, O'Donovan and Richmond and one abstention Councillor Baldwin. It was therefore agreed to leave the grit bin on Beech Road.

5. County and District Councillors Reports.

The County Councillor reported that the Council Tax would be set at the Council meeting on 17 February. It is likely to be a zero rise but there will probably several discussions over what is cut following the consultation. He was asked if the highways department gets the road fund licence money and he said that it does not receive this.

Breckland Council is not at this time paying the rate support grant although more clarification is being sought from DCLG. He was asked about the amount outstanding on Council Tax and he stated that 98.5% is collected and therefore there is not almost a third of the Council Tax outstanding as had been implied.

6. Matters to Report.

6.1 Grit Bin at East Bilney.

The Clerk had received a request for a grit bin on Hall Road East Bilney. The Clerk had explained that permission had to be obtained from Norfolk County Council and as this is a private road and that it is not allowing new bins at present it would not be worth pursuing this. The resident accepted this and would try to ensure the lane is kept clear of snow at the junction..

6.2 Rural Broadband Summit Dereham 6 December.

Councillors Mayhew and O'Donovan had attended and found it very informative and Councillor O'Donovan stated that she was impressed with the M.P. who is trying to be the hub to get things done. It is doubtful if fibre optic will be installed as quickly as all would like but there other systems available if there are no fibre optics..

6.3 CAG/SNAP Meeting.

Councillor Richmond had attended with his son and at the meeting there had been the Chairman of the Licensing Committee to listen to complaints. There were several people from Dereham present and the high presence of police in the run up to Christmas in the town had been successful.

It was agreed at the meeting to continue as a target the speeding vehicles on Cemetery Road and vehicles in the Cherry Tree car park and to add the Dereham Windmill where there had been problems with late night drinking. The Clerk reported that he had received the minutes from the meeting. The meeting is still looking for an impartial permanent chairman.

6.4 Devolved Services Meeting County Hall 9 December.

The Chairman had attended but did not find this interesting as there seemed to be no proposals from Norfolk County Council as to what the Parish Councils could take on and seemed to be asking for suggestions.

6.5 Alms Houses.

The Clerk had received a request from Breckland Council regarding the utilisation of Alms Houses across the district and the Clerk replied that the contact for those in East Bilney was the PCC. Breckland Council is actively trying to reduce the number of empty properties in the district.

6.6 Boundary Commission Consultation.

The Clerk reported that the proposals had been published and the details would be circulated. Beetley has been moved in the proposals to a two member ward. The number of Councillors is to be decreased from 54 to 49 with a change in the composition of many wards.

Individuals can comment and this consultation will be discussed at the next meeting.

6.7 Breckland LABV meeting 13 February.

The Chairman, Councillor Richmond and the Clerk will be attending.

6.8 Breckland Town and Parish Council Forum 27 March.

Councillors Leigh, possibly Rose, O'Donovan and Richmond will attend.

7. Planning.

7.1 Applications.

7.1.1 3PL/2013/1112/F-25 Elmham Road-rear dormer window, demolition of conservatory & utility & erect rear & side extension & detached garage to front.

This application had been received during the Christmas recess and had been circulated.

The Clerk had responded by not objecting to the dwelling but objected to the siting of the garage as this is in front of the building line.

7.1.2 3PI/2013/12126/F-6 Gorse View-remove existing garage and erect new bungalow & garage & garage for No. 6.

The meeting was adjourned.

A neighbour stated that he had objected to this application to Breckland Council as he would lose any privacy he currently enjoys in his back garden with the development. He also stated that there is insufficient room to access the site for building and in the future there would be inadequate space for vehicles to access the garages.

The meeting was re-convened.

It was noted that there were objections from other nearby residents.

Councillor Rose propose and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that an objection be raised to this application on the grounds that it is inappropriate use of garden land, there is inadequate access width and that there would be loss of privacy to surrounding properties. All were in favour.

7.2 Decisions.

The following decisions were noted

7.2.1 3PL/2013/1019/F-Walnut House 1 Elmham Road-proposed extension to Walnut House. **N/O** **Permission**

A condition of the permission was that the development shall be occupied solely as an addition to the main dwelling and shall not be sold, leased or sub-leased for occupation as a separate dwelling unit.

7.2.2 3PL/2013/1051/F-10 Elmham Road-proposed dwelling and garage. **N/O and O** **Permission**

7.2.3 3PL/2013/1089/FClear View Fakenham Road East Bilney-New boundary wall and additional car parking (Resubmission) **N/O** **Permission**

7.2.4 3PL/2013/1051/F-50 Elmham Road-proposed dwelling and garage **O** **Withdrawn**

7.2.5 3PL/2013/1112/F-25 Elmham Road- rear dormer window, demolition of conservatory & utility & erect rear & side extension & detached garage to front. **N/O & O** **Permission**

The siting of the garage had been moved 5metres further from the front hedge.

8. Beetley River Meadows.

8.1 Report.

Councillor Mayhew had cut back a projecting branch prior to going away and was going to clear the remainder on his return but someone had already done this by the time he returned. The spring is now awaited to check for ash die back disease and to have the safety surface cleaned.

8.2 Repairs to the Play Area.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that £1705 be spent on repairs to the play equipment based on the quotation from NGF frames.

This is to include:-

1. Trim Trail-replace rotten wobble beam and stepping stones and tighten chains.
2. Multiplay Unit-replace hanging log Top Beam and hanging logs, and remove support.
3. Seesaw rocker- install grasslok matting.
4. Swings- replace main beam.

Councillors Mayhew and Gould will repair the seat bench, and the sharp projections on the goal posts.

9. Open Spaces.

9.1 Problems.

No problems were reported. The Clerk reported that further work is being undertaken at Hoe Meadows by Gooch' Charity as a continuing part of the Stewardship Scheme.

9.2 East Bilney Town Lands.

The hedge has been cut and the contractor has done an excellent job.

9.3 Friends of St Mary's C.P. School.

A request had been received to site a storage container on the playing field that the parish Council owns. It was agreed to reply stating that the Parish Council does not see why this container can not be sited within the school grounds as this appears to be very close to the rear of a property.

Concern was also raised over the long term maintenance and or removal if no longer needed and this should be drawn up legally with no cost to the Parish Council. Clarification is also to be requested on the method by which this will be sited as there could be damage to the car park and paths.

9.4 Land Registration.

The playing field on High House Road has now been registered and Fields In Trust will be informed.

10. Highways and Transport.

10.1 Report on Highways Matters.

Potholes on High House Road had been repaired as an emergency and the area is to be patched when the weather improves with HRA and surface dressed in the next two years. The flooding on the junction of B1146 and C231 to the north of East Bilney had been reported.

A parishioner in Old Beetley had complained that the gritting lorry is not gritting the junction and is damaging the verge at The Patch by cutting to corner off the junction. The Highways Engineer had been contacted and the next visit by the gritting lorry had gritted the junction and not cut off the corner.

10.2 New problems.

Breckland Council is to be requested to clear the rubbish along the B1146. When the Rangers are next in the parish they are to be requested to clean all marker posts and replace those damaged in East Bilney. The potholes on B1146 north of Church Road and High House Road and Chapel Lane are to be reported. The hedges along Elmham Road are to be reported as these are now a safety hazard and a reminder is to be sent regarding the hedges at East Bilney which have not been cut.

10.3 SAM2 Sign.

The sign is under trail in Horningtoft and the Clerk will then make sure that the data can be downloaded.

11. Finance.

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

11.2 Balances.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Mayhew 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 10 13	27999.97
Receipts- Interest-2.23	
Breckland C/Car -89.05	
Forestry Commission-558.00	
UK Power Networks-74.03	
Litcham Parish Council-5.00	
Beeston with Bittering Parish Council-95.54	
Beetley Youth Fund Raising Committee-200.00	
Interest-1.91	
Donation to Printing of Beetley Buzz from Mr Basil Day-10.00	
Brisley Parish Council -24.50	

Beeston with Bittering Parish Council -24.50	
Litcham Parish Council-24.50	
Breckland C/Car -78.30	<u>1187.56</u>
	29187.53
Less cheques authorised 07 11 13-8807.66	
cheques authorised 05 12 13-3311.74	<u>12119.40</u>
Balance at 31 12 13 17068.13	
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	<u>200.00</u>
Balance at 31 12 13	17268.13
Less un-presented cheques authorised 05 12 13-	<u>252.00</u>
Balance at 01 01 14	17016.13

Amount available for Section 137 : 1173 x£6.98 = £8187.54

Spend to Date : £25.00

Cheques for authorisation:

469	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car December	136.85
470	B J Leigh	Contract January-404.00 less PAYE-49.20	354.80
471	HMRC	PAYE January	49.20
472	Abacus Copiers	Monthly Contract	23.87
473	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car January	203.55
474	B J Leigh	Stamps for circular to Beech Road-36.00 and computer ink-58.97	94.97
475	Information Commissioner	Data Protection	35.00
476	John Relph	Website Maintenance	55.00

11.3 Dereham CAB.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that £100 be donated. All were in favour

11.4 Magpas.

It was agreed unanimously not to donate.

12. Correspondence received for circulation.

12.1	Letter from Beetley PCC
12.2	Boundary Commission Report
12.3	Norfolk Link December 2013
12.4	Norfolk County Council Gritting Routes
12.5	Clerks and Councils Direct January 2014
12.6	LCR Winter 2013

13. Matters for the Next Meeting.

13.1 Clerks remuneration.

14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 6 March 2014 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2142 hours.