

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

Present

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

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris
District Councillor R Duffield

1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Rose who was away and these were accepted.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

Councillor Leigh declared a pecuniary interest in 11.3 under Appendix A being the wife of the Clerk and 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 O'Donovan seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 February 2014 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Boundary Commission Consultation for Breckland.

All had seen the proposals which meant that Beetley parish would move into a two member ward with Wendling, Longham, Gressenhall, Hoe and Swanton Morley. The ward would be called Whitewater. It was agreed to respond stating that the Parish Council had no objection to the proposed change to the ward or the name.

5. County and District Councillors Reports.

The County Councillor reported that the Council Tax had been set and that it is a zero rise £7.1 million had been put back into the budget from the 2015/16 budget but this may only be for the next year. The change to a Committee system will be decided at a meeting later in the year but this would mean that no one party can be blamed for the budget. One of the results in the cuts to the budget is that mobile libraries will now only call every four weeks. The villages that are served by Tittleshall exchange are at present being upgraded to fibre. There is no plan at present to upgrade Gressenhall exchange. The District Councillor reported that there is no increase in the District portion of the Council Tax and that the Rate Support Grant will now be paid.

6. Matters to Report.

6.1 Breckland Council LABV meeting 13 February.

The Chairman and Clerk had attended and the details are to be circulated with the correspondence. Breckland Council would like to enter into a partnership with a private

investor so that the assets of the Council can be improved, new projects could be started earlier which would provide more houses, employment and leisure space and jobs. All the assets of Breckland Council had been put forward as part of the initial consultation to find a private sector partner who will provide the finance. There are no assets of Breckland Council in Beetley but several parishes were worried about the loss of open spaces in their villages as these had all been put in as assets.

6.2 Grass Cutting Invoices 2013.

The Clerk reported that he had received from CGM an offer to settle the account at £495 plus VAT. Payment had been withheld for invoices that totalled £877.60 plus. The reduction in the cost of the cutting was because a cut had not been done which the Clerk had reported and CGM now accepted this and an amount to cover the sub-standard work. The Clerk had replied that he felt that more should have been offered as compensation but he felt that the matter could drag on for several months and that the offer should be accepted. The Chairman felt that this was probably the best outcome and all were in favour of paying the amount due of £495 plus VAT.

6.3 SNAP Meeting.

No meeting had been held in February and the next meeting will be on 26 March.

6.4 Request for Information.

The Clerk reported that he had been e-mailed by a gentleman from Canada who wished to locate the World War 2 memorial tablet for the RCAF plane that crashed in Beetley. His father who is going to be 95 later this year had been on the plane but had been told to jump out of the plane over Hamburg and so he survived. The Clerk had replied stating where it is and the gentleman would be visiting in the next month and would contact the church to obtain access

6.5 First Responders.

The Chairman had been approached by a parishioner who is starting a first responders group in the parish to cover Beetley and Brisley. This is being supported by the East Midlands Ambulance Service who are giving major support to the East Anglian Ambulance Service. The group is looking for funding to hire the Village Hall for the training but it has not been confirmed for how long or how often the training will take place. The person responsible for the First Responders is supposed to be contacting the Clerk. The Clerk was given authority to agree the funding for the hire of the hall prior to the next meeting.

6.6 Horse Fair.

The Clerk reported that a Horse Fair is due to be held in Longham on 18 May.

7. Planning.

7.1 Applications.

7.1.1 3PL/2014/0055/F-6 Elmham Road-single storey front and rear extensions to form granny annex and other alterations.

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

7.1.2 3PL/2014/0171/F-Crossways 26 Fakenham Road-proposed extension to bungalow.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that no objection be raised to the application. All were in favour.

7.1.3 3PL/2014/0174/F-28 Beech Road-demolition of existing porch and erection of new porch to front of property.

Councillor Baldwin proposed and Councillor Gould seconded the resolution that no objection be raised to the application. All were in favour.

7.2 Decisions.

The following decisions were noted

7.2.1 3PL/2013/1126/F-6 Gorse View-remove existing garage and erect new bungalow & garage & garage for No. 6. O Refusal

The reasons that the application was refused in that the proposal fails to adequately respect the character and appearance of the locality by virtue of its position behind existing dwellings and that the future occupiers of and visitors to the proposed dwelling would pass overly close to the existing openings within the front elevation of 6 Gorse View which would be harmful to the amenities of the occupiers were noted.

8. Beetley River Meadows.

8.1 Report.

Councillor Mayhew reported that he had removed the sharp projections from the equipment but the gate at the east end of the play area is not working properly. There had been a problem with the litter bins not being emptied but it is hoped that this has now been corrected by Breckland Council The replacement play equipment is due to be fitted in the next month and Councillor Gould was reminded to do a risk assessment.

9. Open Spaces.

9.1 Problems.

No problems were reported.

9.2 Roosting Hills Trout Fishery.

A request had been received from the fishing club for the renewal of permissions to cross the Common. Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that the permissions be renewed for the ensuing year. All were in favour.

10. Highways and Transport.

10.1 Report on Highways Matters.

The litter along the B1146 had been cleared by Serco. Potholes had been reported on Chapel Lane and High House Road and these had been repaired.

The Clerk had received a complaint regarding FP4 which goes from The Drift in East Bilney to Fludges Lane in that this is not passable. The Clerk had spoken to the landowner who had confirmed that it is passable. The Clerk also feels that this path is acceptable. The complainant had been informed.

The Clerk is still trying to get the hedges cut back on Elmham Road and Fakenham Road East Bilney near to the Alms Houses and the de-limit sign. Norfolk County Council has been contacted again.

The Clerk had reported the flooding at the junction of B1146 and C231 Back Lane to Stanfield at East Bilney. The Highways Engineer confirmed that there are a couple of grips which are blocked and the back ditch is in need of cleansing. These have programmed to be cleaned in the near future and the junction swept.

The marker posts on Fakenham Road East Bilney will be looked at by the Rangers at the end of April.

A parishioner in Old Beetley had complained that on a recent visit the corner had been cut off in Old Beetley by the gritting lorry and severely damaged the verge. The Highways Engineer had been contacted again.

10.2 New problems.

There is a damaged sign on Fakenham Road Beetley which will be reported.

10.3 SAM2 Sign.

The sign has finished its trial and the data downloaded The Clerk is now trying to analyse this. The sign will now go to Weasenham then to Harpley and will carry on its route round.

11. Finance.

11.1 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.

11.2 Balances.

Councillor Richmond 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 12 13	17068.13
Receipts- Interest-1.60	
Breckland C/Car -75.80	
Horningtoft parish Council-24.50	
Tittleshall Parish Council-108.16	<u>210.06</u>
	17278.19
Less cheques authorised 05 12 13-252.00	
cheques authorised 06 02 14-136.85	<u>388.85</u>
Balance at 31 01 14 16889.34	
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	<u>200.00</u>
Balance at 31 01 14	17089.34
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 06 02 14	<u>816.39</u>
Balance at 06 02 14	16272.95

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

Spend to Date : £25.00

Cheques for authorisation:

477	B J Leigh	Contract February-404.00 less PAYE-49.20	354.80
478	HMRC	PAYE February	49.20
479	Eastern Office Equipment	Stationery	12.23
480	Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall	Hall hire-April 2012-March 2014	210.00
481	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car February	139.85
482	B J Leigh	Telephone April 2013-March 2014-48.00 Postage March 2013-February 2014-32.31 Mileage March 2013-February 2014 138 miles @.45 per mile-62.10	141.41
483	A C Crisp	Hedge Cutting East Bilney Town lands	180.00
484	Dereham CAB	Donation	100.00
485	CGM	Grass cutting	594.00

11.3 Clerk's Contract.

The Chairman withdrew from the meeting.

The Clerk stated that as he had received an increase in the amount last year and then a further increase under the salary pay increase for Local Government Employees he felt that the contract should remain at £404 per month.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that the Clerks remuneration be £404 per month. All were in favour.

The Chairman rejoined the meeting

11.4 Rate Support Grant.

The Clerk reported that the Rate Support Grant is now to be paid by Breckland Council to Town and Parish Councils and this will mean an extra £682 which be paid to the Parish Council. The decision to pay this had come too late to amend the precept that had already been requested.

12. Correspondence received for circulation.

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| 12.1 | Rural Life |
| 12.2 | Norfolk Link February 2014 |
| 12.3 | Clerks and Councils direct |

13. Matters for the Next Meeting.

No matters were raised for the next meeting

14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 3 April 2014 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall. It was decided that if there was no one at the meeting from the organisation to read out the reports these will not be read out by the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 2110 hours.