

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 5 JUNE 2014 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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

2 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mayhew and these were accepted. Apologies had also been received from the County and District Councillors.

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.**

Councillor Richmond declared a pecuniary interest under Appendix A in Agenda Item 7.3 and 11.1 having submitted parcels of land into the Minerals and Waste Consultation and Local Development 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 1 May 2014 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**4. County and District Councillors Reports.**

No reports were given

**5. Fence at St Mary's CP School.**

A letter had been received requesting assistance with the repairs to the fence between the school land and the playing field owned by the Parish Council. The cost for this is £65 and it is not known who owns the fence. Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that £32.50 be donated but it is to be made clear that this does not set a precedent for any future requests. This was passed by a majority decision with Councillors Richmond, Baldwin, O'Donovan, Rose and Gould voting for and Councillor Leigh against.

**6. Matters to Report.**

**6.1 Play Inspections.**

The Chairman advised the meeting that she is no longer a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

The Clerk confirmed that the cost for the RoSPA inspections if billed to different organisations would be £65 per site plus VAT.

**6.2 Beetley and Hoe Meadows-Gooch's Charity.**

A survey of the fencing was to be carried out in May prior to the cattle being on site.

**6.3 SNAP Meeting.**

Councillor Richmond had attended and there were 10 members of the public present. The problems highlighted were problems at the rugby field, South Green Gardens and the Recreation Ground in Dereham and these were set as priorities.

#### **6.4 Letter from a parishioner regarding Beetley River Meadows.**

The Clerk had circulated the letter which complained about the state of one garden that abuts the Parish land. As this is private land it was agreed that there is no foundation for the Parish Council to get involved. The Chairman would contact the parishioner and suggest that if there is a concern over rats then Environmental Health at Breckland Council should be contacted.

#### **6.5 NRCC AGM.**

Councillor Richmond would attend this.

#### **6.6 Dog Nuisance.**

A letter had been received from a parishioner regarding dogs being left outside and barking continually. The parishioner had requested that an article be placed in the Beetley Buzz about this. It was agreed that this was not a Parish Council matter and the complaint should be referred to Breckland Council or the Dog Warden.

#### **6.7 Friends of Gressenhall Museum AGM.**

Councillor O'Donovan would attend this.

### **7. Planning.**

#### **7.1 Applications.**

There were no applications to consider.

#### **7.2 Decisions.**

**The following decisions and the conditions attached were noted.**

**7.2.1 3PL/2014/0333/F-65 Fakenham Road-replace front flat roof dormer with three pitched dormers, add rear dormer and single storey side extension.**

**N/O Permission.**

#### **7.3 Local Plan formerly Local Development Framework.**

The Local Plan was discussed and the consultation will be commencing in the Autumn. A Strategic Housing Assessment has to be carried out which now must take account not based just on the borders of Districts but also of the market for houses for other areas of employment. This means that Breckland District falls into the catchment area of Norwich and the number of houses for those employed in Norwich must also be considered. The first phase of the consultation will be for sites to be submitted for development and it was agreed to discuss this further at the July meeting.

### **8. Beetley River Meadows.**

#### **8.1 Report.**

The Clerk reported on letters received from a parishioner regarding the cutting of the area. He had contacted the contractor and the areas not cut had been done promptly after this. The cutting is to be monitored during the next month and discussed again in July. It was felt that if a cut had been missed then the Parish Council should not pay for it. No reason has been given for the poor cutting. It had been confirmed that there is ash dieback disease but the Parish Council does not have to do anything about it as long as the trees are safe. If the trees are felled then all brash should be burned on site and the timber not moved off site unless agreed with the Forestry Commission.

#### **8.2 Old Allotment Area.**

Councillor Leigh felt that more could be done with this area. The area could be tidied up a bench put in but not picnic tables. It was agreed to look at this on the Parish Walk.

### **9. Open Spaces.**

#### **9.1 Problems.**

No problems were reported.

#### **9.2 East Bilney Town Lands.**

It was agreed to cut a path through from Fakenham Road to the board walk and to tidy up the entrance.

### **9.3 Crossing Rights at the Common.**

The Chairman reported that she had met Mr Mark Bane and also spoken to Mr Bloy who is more worried about how the track now looks like a right of way. Councillor O'Donovan queried who crosses to this land. The Chairman stated that Mr Bane had offered to do more work on the track so as it appears not a gravel track.

The meeting was adjourned.

A parishioner informed the meeting that there had been a considerable amount of farm traffic across the Common to the sheep which had been on the field but this was not Mr. Bane There is also a lot of traffic associated with shooting and at odd times of the day.

The meeting was re-convened.

Councillor Richmond felt that the crossing rights holder is straying into other areas and the permission is being abused. The Chairman stated that Mr Bane had spent £300 on materials and £400 to lay the stone. The Parish Council could well be liable to apply for retrospective permission for the track as loose stone has been used. Councillor Leigh felt that wood chip or soil should be laid on the top of the stone. She also wondered how the crossing could be policed in the future and thought the applicant should do more to the track.

Councillors Richmond and O'Donovan stated that they were not happy with the track but would accept but other issues need to be clarified. It was proposed by Councillor O'Donovan and seconded by Councillor Leigh that Mr Bane be written to again asking for clarification on the number of vehicles and who is crossing the Common. He should also be informed that consent is needed to lay loose stone and that the track be covered with soil but until such time as clarification is received and discussed the crossing rights remain withdrawn. All were in favour

### **9.4 Hedges at Beetley Meadows.**

Reminder letters are to be sent requesting that all hedges are to be cut back to the fence line.

### **9.5 Gates on Beetley Meadows.**

Reminder letters are to be sent stating that there is no right of way to Beetley River Meadows from the properties.

### **9.6 Parish Walk**

This was agreed as 25 June starting from the school car park at 1900.

### **9.7 East Bilney Green.**

The Clerk had received an e-mail from the parishioner who had cut the area of grass around the village sign at East Bilney for many years. He informed the Parish Council that he would no longer be able to mow this area.. It was agreed to write to Mr Andrew Tomlinson thanking him for all the work he has done in the past. It was agreed to contact Norfolk County Council to enquire if this parcel of land could be purchased and also the Patch at Old Beetley and in the interim period to request that more grass cutting be carried out.

### **9.8 Beetley Common Advisory Committee.**

A request had been received to enquire if the Parish Council would donate to the Committee again this year. Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that £100 be donated. All were in favour.

## **10. Highways and Transport.**

### **10.1 Report on Highways Matters.**

The Clerk reported that the cats eyes on B1110 will be replaced and that cats eyes are generally installed on A and B roads but the requirement states that they are only required on roads which have a double white line system. Norfolk County Council intend to reinstate

all the cats eyes on the A and B road network and it will only be old cats eyes on the minor C and U network which may not be replaced through the surface dressing activity. The hedges at East Bilney and on Elmham Road have still not been cut back although Norfolk County Council has been contacted again. All the information will be passed to the County Councillor to attempt to have these issues resolved. The sign to Beetley Common on the B1110 has been damaged and reported. Councillor Baldwin had contacted East Bilney Garage and the hedge in front of the road narrows sign will be cut back shortly. The owner of East Bilney Garage had apologised for not doing this sooner but he had been away on holiday. Councillor Baldwin had contacted the landowner over which FP6 crosses and he is intending to make a larger swathe around the outside to grow wild flowers on.

### 10.2 New problems.

The hedges on B1110 at Sorrell Lane, Hall Road and Peacock Lane are now too high to see vehicles approaching when exiting and this will be reported. The Highways and Community Rangers are to be requested to clear around all the road signs on their next visit.

## 11. Finance.

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

### 11.2 Balances.

Councillor Rose 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 14	14733.37
Receipts- Interest-1.35	
Breckland Precept-7750.00	
Breckland rate Support grant-341.05	
Breckland Community Car Mar-57.80	<u>8150.20</u>
	22883.57
Less cheques authorised 03 04 14	<u>684.06</u>
Balance at 30 04 14	22199.51
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	<u>200.00</u>
Balance at 30 04 14	22399.51
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 01 05 14	<u>4835.56</u>
Balance at 01 05 14	17563.95

Amount available for Section 137 : 1150 x£7.20 = £8280.00

Spend to Date : £0.00

Cheques for authorisation:

502	B J Leigh	Contract May-404.00 less PAYE-80.80	323.20
503	HMRC	PAYE May	80.80
504	Eastern Office Equipment	Stationery	14.95
505	RBS Engineering Limited	Repairs at Beetley River Meadows	66.00
506	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car May	125.90
507	Susanne Rutter	Internal Audit	20.00
508	Abacus Copiers	Monthly Contract-2 months	38.18
509	The Beetley Charity	Transfer of money for Surveyors Pit	10.00
510	Norse Eastern Ltd	Grass Cutting-6 month	792.08

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**11.3 Accounting Statement for the Financial Year April 2013- March 2014.**

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that the financial statement for the financial year April 2013- March 2014 be approved. All were in favour and the statement was duly signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer.

**11.4 Annual Governance Statement for the Financial Year April 2013- March 2014.**

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year April 2013-March 2014 be approved. All were in favour and the statement was duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

**12. Correspondence received for circulation.**

- 12.1 **Clerks and Councils Direct May 2014.**
- 12.2 **Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Update.**
- 12.3 **Environment Agency**

**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 3 July 2014 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2155 hours.