

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON  
THURSDAY 3 JULY 2014 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris  
District Councillor R Duffield

2 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.**

Councillor Richmond declared a pecuniary interest under Appendix A in Agenda Item 6.3 and 10.1 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 Rose seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5 June 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.**

The County Councillor reported that the first cycle of the new committee system had just been completed and he does not see any difference to the old Cabinet System as the Committee Chairmen are acting like Cabinet members. No decisions were made this month at the Council meeting. It was reported at this meeting that there is a worse financial situation than had been previously reported.

The District Councillor reported that Breckland Council is still waiting on the decisions from the Boundary Commission. He also complained about the hedge on Elmham Road between Green Lane and Holt Road as since the closure of the gravel pit the lorries do not keep the hedge back to the edge of the road. He raised the matter of the planning application for 50 Elmham Road and he will contact the planning department and if necessary call this in to the Planning Committee.

**5. Matters to Report.**

**5.1 Norfolk Rural Community Council AGM.**

Councillor Richmond had attended and this highlighted the hardship in rural areas where it is more costly to live than in an urban environment. The main problem is the cost of transport and lack of public transport. One lady was paying £75 per day in taxi fees and Norfolk RCC had been able to assist her with the cost. There is a lack of affordable housing throughout the country and villages have to become more open minded so that affordable housing can be built in rural areas. If only 10 houses are built in each village this will ease the problem. One of the schemes that it runs is the bulk fuel buying scheme and this saves an average of £120 for the households that have signed up to it.

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

Councillor O'Donovan had attended this and stated that she thought this was a good meeting. Five members of the committee have resigned recently and this is the last year for the Chairman and Secretary. The new ticket office is proving of great benefit and at Easter 2800 passed through the gates. There are many plans for the future and 90% of all training goes into future work. She was very impressed with the passion all had for the Museum. The aim is to do more to the fabric of the building and to get more visitors.

## **5.3 Beetley Buzz Distribution.**

The Clerk reported that a parishioner who had distributed the Beetley Buzz is now, unfortunately, in Lincoln House Nursing Home. Another parishioner is due to move away from the parish shortly. Both of them will be sent cards thanking them for all their assistance in the past.

Another parishioner has agreed to distribute the Beetley Buzz to these areas. A parishioner wondered if this could be delivered electronically but Councillor Leigh stated that this would be very difficult to monitor if a road had some electronic and some hard copy. Councillor O'Donovan had had a complaint that the Beetley Buzz was sometimes late being delivered. She had explained to the parishioner that the distribution is undertaken by volunteers and she tried to persuade the parishioner to assist.

## **5.4 Dog Nuisance.**

The Clerk had responded to the parishioner stating that this was a matter for residents to take up with Breckland Council. A further e-mail had been received stating that the Parish Council had placed, in the past, an article in the Beetley Buzz in respect of noise nuisance from parties in the summer months. The parishioner had also commented that it is a laborious process to complain to Breckland Council. The Clerk had replied stating that he did not remember any article about parties in the Beetley Buzz and since then he has not had another e-mail.

## **5.5 Fencing at St Mary's C.P. School.**

An e-mail had been received from the school thanking the Parish Council for its assistance with the cost of repairs to the fencing and this was read out.

## **6. Planning.**

### **6.1 Applications.**

#### **6.1.1 3PL/2014/0320/F-The Garage Bungalow Fakenham Road East Bilney-change of use back from offices to 3 x bedroom bungalow with no alterations.**

Councillor Rose raised the objections from the Highways Department but Councillor Richmond felt that there would be fewer vehicle movements to the bungalow when it is residential than as an office at present. At present vehicles exiting the bungalow drive along the forecourt so that there is adequate visibility. Councillor Rose wished it to be noted that she thought highways have some justification.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that no objection be raised but that a comment should be made about the vehicle movements. All were in favour of no objection but Councillor Rose was against making any comments on the highways matters.

#### **6.1.2 3PL/2014/0603/F-Boat House Church Road East Bilney-variation of condition 3 on pp 3PL2007/1636 to continue standing of mobile home for a further five years**

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

#### **6.1.3 3PL/2014/0622/F-Land to the rear of 50 Elmham Road-proposed dwelling and detached garage.**

The Clerk reported that this had been received by Breckland Council on 16 June, validated on 30 June but had not yet been sent out. A decision is due by 25 August. An extension will be requested and the District Councillor will get this referred to the Planning Committee if permission is likely to be granted.

## **6.2 Decisions.**

There were no decisions to report.

## **6.3 Local Plan.**

This was discussed and the current settlement boundary and the sites that were put in at the last consultation. The Parish Council was advised by both the County and District Councillors that it would be beneficial if it considered sites rather than objected to all the sites. A parishioner asked whether the Parish Council would formulate a Neighbourhood Plan so that the whole village was consulted. It was felt that this was too costly for the Parish to undertake and would not be of benefit. The Chairman is to provide plans of the settlement boundary and sites for the next meeting.

## **6.4 Open Space Audit 2014.**

As part of the Local Plan an Open Space Audit is being undertaken by Breckland Council. The initial map sent with the consultation did not show the whole parish and a full map was requested which had been received. Unfortunately this map does not show any registered Common Land and Breckland Council is to be requested to provide a map with these all marked.

## **7. Highways and Transport.**

### **7.1 Report on Highways Matters.**

The Highway Community Rangers will be in the parish the week commencing 28 July. They have been requested to cut back the vegetation around all the signs and to cut the grass next to the trod as this has not been cut.

The County Councillor informed the meeting that no licence is required for cutting the area of land near the village sign in East Bilney or the Patch in Old Beetley. If the areas are cut Norfolk County Council will not cut them. The Chairman will try and get a volunteer for East Bilney. The Clerk had spoken to the landowner of the land beside the trod and the landowner had stated that he would get the hedge cut back.

The bridge on Folly Lane has been damaged and this has been reported to be repaired. Councillor Leigh complained to the County Councillor about the time it is taking to have the hedges cut back in East Bilney and on Elmham Road. The County Councillor agreed that seven months is too long and he will chase the Highways Engineer on this.

The landowner has cut back the hedge in East Bilney near to the road narrows sign approaching the bridge from Dereham.

The Clerk had contacted Norfolk County Council about FP6 in East Bilney. The definitive map has not been changed and the Chairman will report this to the landowner who had stated that the route of this had been changed.

The Clerk had received an e-mail from the school stating that several parents had complained that there is a visibility problem exiting the school car park and was it the Parish Council's responsibility to cut this area. The Clerk had replied that it had never been cut by the Parish Council and that he thought it was part of the contract for the playing field.

The Chairman and Clerk had visited the site but did not feel that it is any worse than many other junctions.

The footway from Beech Road to Elmham Road has been repaired.

The Highways Department had been to High House Road with a digger and sided out the road on the north side and had gained a full metre of road which had been lost to soil and vegetation. The parishioner who had mentioned this to the Clerk had thanked him for this as it is stopping cars driving on the verge on the south side of High House Road.

### **7.2 New problems.**

The verges on B1110 at Sorrell Lane, Hall Road and Peacock Lane are now too high to see vehicles approaching when exiting and the Highway Community Rangers are to be requested to trim these verges on their next visit.

## 8. Beetley River Meadows.

### 8.1 Report.

The Chairman reported that she and the Clerk had met the contractor on site and he had agreed to trim the paths back to 3m and to widen the viewing areas. The Parish Council had also toured the area prior to this meeting and all felt that the width of the paths needs increasing along the river. The cutting will be monitored to ensure that all cuts are done and to the standard required. Councillor Leigh stressed that the area must be monitored to ensure that any problems are noted before receiving complaints from parishioners. Councillor Mayhew will check the area each Sunday and report to the Clerk. A lid for one of the litter bins has been lost and Breckland Council is to be contacted as it had obviously not locked it back in position properly. A new lid will be ordered.

### 8.2 Old Allotment Area.

Councillor Leigh stated that following the walk around the area that evening a new bench should be positioned by the river and another one on the old allotment area. It was agreed to proceed with an application for grant funding for this and to inform the residents at 5 River View of the plans.

## 9. Open Spaces.

### 9.1 Problems.

When the Chairman and Clerk had met the contractor the path through the Bilney Town Lands was discussed. The contractor would have difficulty cutting a path unless the crown is lifted on the trees. He had suggested just doing the trees on the path which would then allow a large mower to be used. It was agreed that this was a sensible suggestion and a price is to be obtained to do this work.

### 9.2 Parish Walk.

This had not taken place and Councillor Leigh queried whether a walk is necessary. It was agreed not to have a walk in future but to investigate if there is a problem on any of the footpaths.

### 9.3 Crossing Rights at Beetley Common.

Nothing had been received from the farmer since the last letter.

## 10. Finance.

### 10.1 Budgets.

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.

### 10.2 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 30 04 14	22199.51
Receipts- Interest-1.76	
Breckland Recycling-1723.24	
Breckland Community Car-33.93	
Mr Nally-rent for Highway Surveyors Pit-10.00	<u>1768.93</u>
	23968.44
Less cheques authorised 01 05 14	<u>3391.94</u>
Balance at 31 05 14	20576.50
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	<u>200.00</u>
Balance at 31 05 14	20776.50
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 01 05 14-1443.62	

unpresented cheques authorised 05 06 14-1471.11  
Balance at 05 06 14

2914.73  
17861.77

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

Spend to Date : £0.00

Cheques for authorisation:

511	B J Leigh	Contract June-404.00 less PAYE-80.80	323.20
512	HMRC	PAYE June	80.80
513	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car June	209.30
514	Abacus Copiers	Monthly Contract	19.67
515	B J Leigh	Top up of Community Car Mobile Phone	50.00
516	B J Leigh	Contract July-404.00 less PAYE 80.80	323.20
517	HMRC	PAYE	80.80
518	Norfolk Woods and Hedges	Tree Removal Beetley River Meadows	90.00
519	Realise Futures	Replacement Slats for Picnic Table	98.46
520	Beetley Common Advisory Committee	Donation	100.00
521	St Mary's CP School	Donation to cost of fence repair	32.50
522	Broker Network Ltd	Insurance	636.61
523	Norfolk RCC	Membership	20.00

### **10.3 Insurance 2014-2015.**

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that the Insurance be renewed with Aviva as the Long Term agreement does not expire until July 2016 at a cost of £636.61. All were in favour.

### **10.4 Norfolk Rural Community Council Membership.**

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Gould seconded the resolution that the Parish Council continues to be a non-voting member at a cost of £20 for the next year. All were in favour.

## **11. Correspondence received for circulation.**

11.1

**LCR Summer 2014.**

11.2

**Clerks and Councils Direct July 2014.**

11.3

**Notes from NRCC AGM.**

## **12. Matters for the Next Meeting.**

There were no matters raised for the next meeting.

## **13. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.**

This was confirmed as Thursday 4 September 2014 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2200 hours.