

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON
THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER 2014 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present Councillor J Baldwin (Chair)
Councillor J O'Donovan
Councillor J Mayhew
Councillor R Richmond

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris

3 members of the public.

The Chairman wished everybody a Happy Christmas.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor M Rose who was on holiday and this was accepted. Apologies for absence had also been received from Councillor Leigh who was at another function but these were not accepted. Apologies for absence had also been received from District Councillor R Duffield.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

Councillor Richmond declared a pecuniary interest under Appendix A in Agenda Item 6.1.1, 6.1.2 and 6.3 having submitted parcels of land into the Local Development Framework.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 November 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 Norfolk County Council needs to fund a deficit of a further £12.9 million and it is possible that services could be cut. There is a possibility that the Council tax could be increased by 1.9% which would bring in a net increase of £3million as the Council would lose a grant by not keeping the Council Tax at the same rate. There is a suggestion that parking at Gressenhall Museum could be charged for. The consultation document will be forwarded to all Councillors and the Clerk will respond to the consultation once any comments have been received from Councillors. There has also been a suggestion that all staff at Norfolk County Council will be charged for parking but this has not been decided.

The County Councillor also reported on Breckland Council, in the absence of the District Councillor, stating that the Affordable Housing Policy has been changed by Central Government. This has changed from 5 or more houses to a minimum of 10 and less than 1000sq. metres of floor area This also means that single dwellings will not qualify for S106 payments. This new policy does not affect Rural Exception Sites.

5. Matters to Report.

5.1 Dates of Meetings for 2015.

These were agreed as follows.

Parish Council Meetings

Thursday February 5th
Thursday April 2nd
Thursday June 4th
Thursday September 3rd
Thursday November 5th

Thursday March 5th
Thursday May 14th
Thursday July 2nd
Thursday October 1st
Thursday December 3rd

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Thursday May 14th

Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday April 2nd

5.2 Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation.

The consultation document will be e-mailed to all Councillors and the comments collated by the Clerk and sent to Norfolk County Council.

5.3 Vacancy on the Parish Council.

A notification of the vacancy had been placed in the Beetley Buzz and as yet no one has contacted the Clerk.

5.4 Community Car.

The Clerk reported on behalf of the Co-ordinator that Fakenham had been added as a standard cost. As there had been so much trouble with the mobile phone, the telephone number to ring had been changed to the land line number 01362 861112. All the regular users had been informed. All the Christmas Cards for the drivers and the gift for the assistant co-ordinator had been delivered.

5.5 Beetley Buzz.

The heading had been changed to incorporate the website and the editor would be looking at incorporating a bee in the title over the Christmas period. The Christmas Cards had been delivered to the deliverers of the Beetley Buzz and a gift to the editor.

5.6 Report from Dereham Town Council.

Councillor Richmond had attended this and a matter was reported that travellers had pitched up on the Recreation Ground illegally. As this is owned by Dereham Town Council any enforcement cases to remove them would have to be borne by the Town Council and not by any other authority. This would also apply to a Parish Council if travellers parked on their land. This could mean a large cost for a Parish Council

5.7 SNAP Meeting.

Councillor Richmond reported that there are still problems with drug taking on the Recreation Ground although four positive detections have resulted from the increased Police presence. The drug taking at South Green Gardens has died down since the increased police patrols. The cycling on the pavements in Dereham has resulted in extensive police patrols and numerous people have been dealt with for cycling on the pavement. The priority settings for the next two months are the Recreation Ground in Dereham, shopwatch (increase in shop theft running up to Christmas) and drug usage in Dereham Town Centre and surrounding areas as the police feel that this is a catalyst for other matters.

6. Planning.

6.1 Applications.

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

6.1.1 3PL/2014/1156/O-Land to the rear of Beetley Grange-proposed development.

Councillor Mayhew proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that an objection be raised to the application. The development is outside the settlement

boundary, there would be overlooking of neighbouring properties, dominance and a loss of amenity caused by increased traffic. All were in favour. The objections from neighbours were noted.

6.1.2 3PL/2014/1198/F-Beetley Nurseries Elmham Road-proposed single storey sales building to garden centre including café.

The meeting was adjourned.

A lengthy discussion was held with the applicant who stated that he did not wish to continue with wholesale but wishes to concentrate on retail sales. Questions were raised with him on the height of the building and that the storage area is on the first floor. The applicant stated that the architect had been the person who had designed the building and he had had little input into this. It was also queried why the sales area for which planning permission had been granted had not been built.

The meeting was re-convened.

Councillor Mayhew proposed and Councillor Baldwin seconded the resolution that an objection be raised as all Councillors were uncomfortable with the height of the building, were worried about the future use of this building and that there appeared to be little development on the site since the last application. All were in favour.

6.2 Decisions.

There were no decisions to be noted.

6.3 Local Plan.

It was agreed to hold a meeting on 7th or 8th January 2015 to discuss the Local Plan so that a response could be forwarded to Breckland Council.

Councillor Richmond rejoined the meeting.

7. Highways and Transport.

7.1 Report on Highways Matters.

The SAM2 sign had been erected on Elmham Road and the data did not show a major problem with speeding. The Clerk is to discuss with the Highways Engineer the possibility of erecting the SAM2 sign in East Bilney. A deer in the drive of Councillor O'Donovan's property had been cleared but it had taken longer than it should. The Clerk had been unable to contact the officer dealing with the request for a bus service in East Bilney and Old Beetley but would continue to press for a response. The Clerk had met the Highways Maintenance Supervisor regarding FP6 in East Bilney, which goes to the church. The Highways Maintenance Supervisor confirmed that his map was incorrect and as the hedge is on the Public Right of Way he will ensure that it is cut back. Norfolk County Council had been reminded that the hedge along Elmham Road between Green Lane and Holt Road had not been cut back nor had the hedge near to the Alms Hoses in East Bilney and Norfolk County Council has confirmed that it is in contact with the landowner. This will either be cut by Norfolk County Council and recharged or the landowner will be cutting it. A pothole on Vale Road needs repairing. Another BT box is to be installed near to the bus shelter at Gressenhall Road to provide faster broadband. The pothole on B1146 just north of Church road in East Bilney which had been repaired needs a further repair and this had been reported. Correspondence had been received from a parishioner about the state of Common Lane and Peacock Lane and it was agreed to contact Norfolk County Council to see if Anglian Water could be encouraged to repair the two lanes.

7.2 New problems.

There is still a lot of litter on B1146 although there had been a clearance and Breckland Council will be contacted again. The footbridge at Folly Lane still has not been repaired and Norfolk County council will be reminded about this.

7.3 Road Name Change from B1146 through to Bilney Road.

Nothing further had been received from Breckland Council.

7.4 Local Highway Improvements in Partnership with the Parish Council 2015/16.

It was agreed not to request a scheme in the next financial year but the possibility of a bus shelter near to Beech Road will be looked into.

8. Beetley River Meadows.

8.1 Report.

The Chairman had e-mailed Norse with the comments only from parishioners regarding the recent cutting works carried out. The play area repairs had been ordered. The Chairman and The Clerk will meet with Norfolk Woods and Hedges to ensure that all the required trees are cut back.

8.2 Matter raised by a parishioner.

The Clerk had received a comment from a parishioner that the litter bin is being used for the depositing of dog fouling. Litter stickers are to be requested for this bin and an article placed in the Beetley Buzz requesting that dog owners use the correct bin.

9. Open Spaces.

9.1 Problems.

No problems were reported.

9.2 Crossing Rights at Beetley Common.

Following a letter from the farmer who had requested all documentation regarding the crossing rights the Clerk had contacted the solicitor and Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that the Parish Council pay for legal advice which should be £210. All were in favour. The Clerk had not yet found any legal agreement regarding crossing rights and can only check the minutes as far back as 1998 which is all that is held by him.

9.3 East Bilney Town Lands.

The Clerk had prepared an income and expenditure report. This showed an excess of income over expenditure to the end of March 2014 of about £500. Notification had been received of the yearly payment and there will still be a small surplus at the end of March 2015. It was agreed to consider doing further work to raise the canopy in the next financial year.

9.4 Tree Work at Beech Road.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that the quotation from Norfolk Woods and Hedges for £290 be accepted. All were in favour. Permission had been granted by Breckland Council to carry out the work as there are TPO's on the two oak trees.

10. Finance.

10.1 Budgets.

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

10.2 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 30 09 14	25672.01
Receipts- Interest-1.72	
Breckland Community Car-43.05	<u>44.77</u>
	25716.78
Less cheques authorised 04 09 14-72.00	
cheques authorised 02 10 14-1861.15	<u>1933.15</u>
Balance at 31 10 14	23783.63
Less unpresented cheques authorised 04 09 14-225.00	
unpresented cheques authorised 06 11 14-1514.53	<u>1739.53</u>
Balance at 06 11 14	22044.10
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	<u>200.00</u>
Balance at 06 11 14	22244.10

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

Spend to Date : £25.00

Cheques for authorisation:

556	B J Leigh	Contract Nov 404.00 less PAYE 80.80	323.20
557	HMRC	PAYE Nov	80.80
558	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car Nov	120.50
559	Abacus Copiers	Monthly Contract	23.81
560	Eastern Office Equipment	Stationery	15.54
561	B J Leigh	Contract Dec 404.00 less PAYE 80.80	323.20
562	HMRC	PAYE Dec	80.80
563	B J Leigh	Christmas Cards and gifts	15.00
564	Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership	167.00

10.3 Precept 2015/16.

The Clerk had prepared the proposed budget for 2015/16 which showed a precept requirement of £15000. A lengthy discussion was held on the budget items especially for Beetley River Meadows, maintenance at East Bilney Town Lands, Projects and the Village Hall. The Clerk stated that it had been agreed to donate the income from the textile bank to the Village Hall and as this is a straight in and out amount it does not need to be budgeted for. At this stage it is not known the exact amount that will be received. The additional income received would be from the Rate Support Grant, glass recycling and the maintenance payment for East Bilney Town Lands.

Councillor Mayhew proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that the precept be set at £15500 the same as the last financial year. All were in favour.

10.4 Norfolk Age UK.

It was agreed unanimously not to donate to this.

11. Correspondence received for circulation.

There was no correspondence for circulation.

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 5 February 2015 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2147 hours.