

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON
THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7.00 P.M.**

Present

Councillor J O'Donovan (Chair)
Councillor A Leigh
Councillor R Richmond
Councillor M Rose
Councillor V Williams (after co-option)

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris
District Councillor R Duffield

2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor J Baldwin who was on holiday and this was accepted.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

Councillor Leigh declared a pecuniary interest under Appendix A in Agenda Item 11.3 being the wife of the Clerk. Councillor Richmond declared a pecuniary interest under Appendix A in Agenda Item 7.1.1, 7.1.2 and 11.1 having submitted parcels of land into the Local Development Framework and Minerals and Waste Framework.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes were unable to be confirmed as there was not a quorum present to approve them.

4. Co-option to the Parish Council.

Vic Williams gave a short presentation on his wish to become a member of the Parish Council.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that Vic Williams be co-opted onto the Parish Council. All were in favour and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed and witnessed.

5. County and District Councillors Reports.

The County Councillor reported that Norfolk County Council reported that Norfolk County Council had received a further £147 million over the next six years for highway improvements. It is expected that this will all be spent on capital schemes so some schemes that had been postponed are likely to be resurrected. This will be confirmed at the budget meeting on 16 February. It is not yet certain where Faster Broadband will be going as BT has not yet finished its programme and passed the information to Breckland Council. The Parish Council pressed both the County and District Councillor to ensure Old Beetley and East Bilney are included in the roll out. Councillor Rose raised the matter that signs had been placed on the road advising the residents of Old Beetley but these had been placed on the wrong road which appears to be a waste of time and money. The County Councillor will look into this.

The District Councillor had nothing to report.

6. Matters to Report.

6.1 CPRE Light Pollution Survey.

This was discussed and completed.

6.2 Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation.

The Clerk confirmed that he had responded to Norfolk County Council stating that it objected to the introduction of charges for parking at Gressenhall Museum as this could cause problems with parking in the residential areas of Beetley.

6.3 Anglian Water at Beetley Common.

The Clerk confirmed that he had received notification that the temporary discharge pipe had been removed on 22 December. A further licence payment for the 2 weeks of works overrun is due and will be £170. This should be received in the next month

6.4 Funding of PCSOs.

A letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the possible funding of half the cost of a PCSO from Parish Councils is to be circulated. The cost of this to the Parish Council is to be ascertained.

6.5 Faster Broadband.

A parishioner had contacted the Clerk regarding slow broadband speeds in Beetley. He had suggested that there was no upgrade to the exchange in Beetley. The Clerk had replied stating that the exchange is being upgraded and that new fibre boxes are being installed in Beetley but not at this time in Old Beetley. The County Councillor had been informed of the communication.

6.6 SNAP meeting.

Councillor Richmond had been unable to attend this meeting. He reported that the priorities set at the meeting were the ongoing problems at the Recreation Ground and South Green gardens, Bawdeswell Village Hall and the ongoing drive to catch the major drug dealers which is not just in Dereham.

6.7 Breckland Town and Parish Forum.

Councillor Richmond had attended and reported that there had been three speakers on the Corporate Plan, the budget where Breckland Council have balanced the books with front line services protected. The Council Tax for a Band D property will be just under £70 and the books should be balanced in the future. The third speaker reported on the Community Events held in 2014 and those planned for 2015. The information is to be circulated.

6.8 Capita Town and Parish Planning Forum 10 February.

Councillor O'Donovan hopes to attend this.

6.9 Beetley Buzz.

The new heading was discussed with two bees at the top and all were happy with this although it is hoped that a flower could be used in the future if this can be available which can be seen when it is printed. An advert is to be placed in the next issue requesting assistance with the delivery on Fakenham Road Beetley.

6.10 NRCC Request for Continued Funding from Defra.

It was agreed to support the petition to continue the funding.

7. Planning.

7.1 Applications.

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

7.1.1 C/3/2014/3019-East Bilney Quarry-variation of conditions 1,2,3 and 4 of pp C/3/2010/3028 to allow a further 9 years to complete operations and to adopt revised for the quarry extension and revised restoration phasing for the original quarry.

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

7.1.2 C/3/2014/3018-land to south of School Road East Bilney-extension to East Bilney Quarry with installation of ground conveyor with culvert to accommodate the conveyor.

Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor Williams seconded the resolution that no objection be raised to the application. All were in favour. However conditions were to be requested to mitigate the noise, dust and visual impact to neighbouring properties.

7.2 Decisions.

7.2.1 3PL/2014/1156/O-Land to the rear of Beetley Grange-proposed development.

O Refusal.

7.2.2 3PL/2014/1198/F-Beetley Nurseries Elmham Road-proposed single storey sales building to garden centre including café.

O Refusal.

7.3 Local Plan.

The response to the consultation was:-

Q1 Positive policies must be included to promote the viability of rural villages. Villages need to have employment opportunities whether in that village or by clustering with others. It would be logical that if parishes wished it a few houses could be allocated to all villages.

Q2 There is no rural transport in parts of Beetley Parish so people will drive to either employment or shops. The only means of accessing facilities is by the use of a car and this should be recognised within the plan.

Q3. Strategic objectives should include the promotion of the economic viability of rural villages by positively encouraging the use of small business units of an appropriate scale for the village. The provision of faster broadband will encourage the employment potential within villages.

Q4 Option 3 should be adopted so that all areas are working to the same dates otherwise information from neighbouring councils would not be available at the same time as that for Breckland Council

Q5.Option 7 should be adopted to take into account all housing needs from other areas not just as has been suggested in the past for Breckland district alone.

Q6.Breckland Council should continue with 40% as is in the current Core Strategy. Any reduction would lead to less and less being built and the 40 % should be strived for. An increase is, the Parish Council feels, unobtainable.

Q7.Option 11 should be adopted to ensure that the correct housing is available for an area.

Q8. Local needs should dictate the requirements.

Q9.There should be sites in rural areas with a maximum of 6 pitches to ensure that the site is maintained. The definition of a traveller is surely that they will not be permanently on a site.

Q11.No as the definition of a traveller is that it is not permanent. Any business should be conducted from premises away from the sites so that a fair rent is paid.

Q12.Yes the criteria are agreed so that the sites are near to facilities with adequate access for vehicles.

Q13.Sites should be in proximity to existing services and facilities. Land availability should be based on sites that are owned by Breckland Council.

Q17.Whilst the Parish Council understands the logic behind the economic growth of Thetford and the A11 corridor it is important that this does not lead to the neglect of sustainable rural business development. If there is no provision for growth in villages then the villages will become mere dormitories.

Q18.Beetley Parish Council supports all of these options. Policies should be put in place to ensure that solar farms are not sited on good agricultural land.

Q19.Yes, the protection of the rural economy is vital to the villages and policies should be adopted to protect facilities to ensure that villages remain viable.

Q20.Beetley Parish Council concurs with evidence for the towns.

Q21.Option 26 should be adopted to ensure that town centres remain as vibrant as possible.

Q24.Option 29 should be adopted so that there is a flexible approach to town centres especially as far as residential use is concerned Free car parking should be kept to attract visitors to the town centres.

Q25.The importance of rural transport can not be emphasised enough. The concern is that all efforts will go into major centres and no improvements will be made to the rural transport structure. With an aging population this is especially important. Has Breckland Council considered subsidising rural transport in some areas.

Q28.There is adequate open space and play areas within this parish.

Q65.Settlement Boundaries should continue to be defined to maintain the character of rural villages.

Q66.Beetley would like to maintain its identity and can not see at this stage how the grouping of villages would work.

Q67.Breckland Council should continue with its current approach to ensure the maintenance of the rural character of villages.

Councillor Richmond rejoined the meeting.

7.4 Appeal.

7.4.1 APP/F26058/A/14/2229385-Land to the rear of 50 Elmham Road.

An appeal had been lodged against the decision by Breckland Council to refuse permission. No further comments had been sent and the date of the site visit is awaited.

8. Highways and Transport.

8.1 Report on Highways Matters.

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Officer at Norfolk County Council regarding a bus service in East Bilney It is possible that the No. 21 may be able to be used as it goes through East Bilney in the morning and comes back in the afternoon.

At present an option is being considered to increase the frequency and to give concessionary travel on the early bus. Councillor Rose felt that a large bus was not suitable for Old Beetley and thought that a smaller bus would be preferable. She is to consult the residents before any further action is taken.

The Clerk reported that he had reported two instances of flytipping one on School Road and the other on Beech Road. He had received a communication from Anglian Water to say that it is in consultation with Norfolk County Council on the repairs to Common and Peacock Lanes. Norfolk County Council had been reminded about the damaged bridge on Folly Lane and it had stated that this was classed as not urgent but it will be chased by the Highways Technician. A tree had also fallen across Folly Lane and this had been reported. Breckland Council had confirmed that it had spoken to the householder at 1 Maple Close regarding the sign for Maple Close. This had been placed in the wrong position and a new sign will be erected once Norfolk County Council has given permission. The 30m.p.h. signs near to Bilney Church had been adorned with advertising posters and this had been reported. The hedge on B1110 Holt Road between Spong Bridge and Hall Road was encroaching onto the highway and this had been reported.

8.2 New problems.

The surface of the road at the junction of B1145 and B1146 is crumbling, there is a pothole near to the bridge at the south end of the village, a tree root on Church Road Old Beetley is lifting the road surface and these will all be reported. There was an accident on Fakenham Road the previous Friday and a parishioner had suggested that the parking of cars at the hairdressing salon was a contributing factor. It was agreed not to request any restriction on parking at this point as it was not felt that this had contributed to the accident and the Speedwatch Co-ordinator confirmed that when cars are parked there it reduces the speed of vehicles travelling north through the village.

8.3 Road Name Change from B1146 through to Bilney Road.

The new signs for Stoney lane had been erected.

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

The Clerk reported that a bus shelter needs a licence and assessment so it would not be possible to have this included in the next financial year. The Clerk is to proceed with the application for another year.

8.5 Parking on Elmham Road.

The meeting was adjourned.

George Hayes reported that he had been contacted by a resident of Elmham Road about the inconsiderate parking near to the school. He had been working with the school to identify those that park for 3 hours or longer and some success had been had. However some vehicle owners will not park in the school car park. He felt that there is still a bigger problem from Fakenham Road to the Horseshoe and he requested that the Parish Council contact Norfolk County Council to obtain more double yellow lines and H-bars across drives. The police are unable to do anymore at present.

The meeting was reconvened.

It was agreed to contact Norfolk County Council to see if additional yellow lines and H-bars could be installed.

8.6 SAM2 sign.

Permission had been granted by Norfolk County Council to erect this in East Bilney and the data obtained from the north facing week had proved that cars are ignoring the speed limit. The Safety Team Camera Partnership is to be contacted for a visit. The sign is at present installed facing south so further data will be available.

9. Beetley River Meadows.

9.1 Report.

The Chairman and Clerk had met Norfolk woods and hedges and the cost to remove the dangerous branches from the paths and the river would be £700. The Clerk had instructed them to proceed as this is a safety matter. The original quotation for £390 had to be increased for the work on the paths and another tree across the river.

Norse had confirmed that the cutting contract for the coming season would be £1424.94. It was agreed that Norse had given a good service the last year after a few teething problems and the quotation was in line with the previous year.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that the quotation from Norse Ltd for £1424.94 be accepted. All were in favour..

A parishioner had complained about the rubbish in one of the gardens abutting Beetley River Meadows and Councillors Richmond, Williams and Rose will visit the site and report at the next meeting.

The repairs had all been carried out to the play area and Councillor Leigh raised the matter of the risk assessment and that this has to be undertaken regularly

10. Open Spaces.

10.1 Problems.

No problems were reported.

10.2 Crossing Rights at Beetley Common.

The Clerk reported on correspondence with the solicitor and he is to be contacted to attempt to get the matter resolved. All the information had been forwarded to Mr. Bane. It was agreed that once the solicitor has been contacted and the format of a letter agreed Mr Bane is to be given 28 days to respond and reminded that his crossing rights have still been withdrawn.

10.3 Utilisation of the Wayleave from Anglian Water.

Beetley Common Advisory Committee had advised the Clerk that a new mower to enable areas to be maintained satisfactorily would cost about £800.

It was agreed to contact the committee to clarify the maintenance and servicing of the mower.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that In principle a new mower be purchased for the committee and that the £680 Wayleave be utilised for this. All were in favour

11. Finance.

11.1 Budgets.

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 Williams proposed and Councillor Richmond 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 14

23783.63

Receipts- Interest-1.96	
Forestry Commission-558.00	
Breckland Community Car DBS-187.47	
UK Power Networks Wayleave-76.63	
Breckland Community Car-85.18	
Tittleshall Parish Council-21.58	
Anglian Water Wayleave-500.00	
Interest-1.90	
Brisley Parish Council SLCC Subscription-27.83	
Breckland Community Car-67.55	<u>1528.10</u>
	25311.73
Less cheques authorised 04 09 14-225.00	
cheques authorised 06 11 14-1514.53	
cheques authorised 04 12 14- 1149.85	<u>2889.38</u>
Balance at 31 12 14 22422.35	
Less unpresented cheques authorised 06 01 15-	<u>136.00</u>
Balance at 06 01 15 22286.35	
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	<u>200.00</u>
Balance at 06 01 15	22486.35

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

Spend to Date : £25.00

Cheques for authorisation:

565	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car December	136.00
566	B J Leigh	Contract Jan 404.00 less PAYE 80.80	323.20
567	HMRC	PAYE Jan	80.80
568	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car Jan	307.55
569	Abacus Copiers	Monthly Contract	16.34
570	Village Hall	Rent September to December	72.00
571	Eastern Office Equipment	Stationery	2.99
572	Norfolk Woods and Hedges Ltd	Remedial work to oak tree at Beech Road	348.00
573	J P Relph	Website Maintenance 2014	55.00
574	Information Commissioner	Data Protection	35.00
575	NGF Play Ltd	Repairs to play equipment	530.40

11.3 Clerk's Contract.

Councillor Leigh withdrew from the meeting.

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services agreement had been circulated. Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that the Clerk's contract be increased to £9.900 per hour for SCP20 for 40 hours per month plus £200 for the use of home as office per annum with effect from 1 April 2015. The mileage rate of 45 pence per mile and the telephone cost of £48 per annum remain the same. All were in favour.

Councillor Leigh rejoined the meeting.

11.4 Workplace Pensions.

The clerk reported that he is entitled to be enrolled in a workplace pension but as his salary is below the mandatory limit for enrolment this is optional but he has had to register the Parish Council as an employer. This will not come into force until 2016.

11.5 Beetley PCC.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that a donation to Beetley PCC for assistance with the maintenance of the churchyards of £150 be made. All were in favour. This is an increase on previous years of £50 as the amount donated has not been increased for several years

11.6 Litcham School Kids Lit Quiz.

A request had been received from Litcham School to assist with the travel costs for a team that had won the National Final of the quiz. The team is to go to USA for the world final in July. One of the team members lives in Beetley. Unfortunately the Parish Council can not donate to an individual or to the School.

It was agreed to respond expressing the Parish Council's apologies that it can not donate.

12. Correspondence received for circulation.

The following correspondence is being circulated:-

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 12.1 | Guide to Cross Compliance 2015 & New CAP policy Schemes Update December 2014 |
| 12.2 | Norfolk Link December 2014 |
| 12.3 | Norfolk Police PCSO Funding. |
| 12.4 | Realise Futures. |
| 12.5 | The Pensions Regulator. |
| 12.6 | Local Council Review Winter 2014 |
| 12.7 | Clerks and Councils Direct January 2015 |
| 12.8 | Mr M Bane. |

12. Matters for the Next Meeting.

- 12.1 Walk on the Common**

13. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 5 March 2015 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2136 hours.