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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 2 JULY 2015 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

Councillor J Baldwin (Chair)
Councillor J O'Donovan
Councillor A Leigh
Councillor R Richmond
Councillor T Turner

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris
District Councillor R Richmond

One member of the public.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Turner to his first meeting.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office as a Member was signed by Councillor Turner and witnessed by the Proper officer prior to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor J Mayhew who had pressing family problems and Councillor Rose who was on holiday and these were both accepted.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

There were no DPs.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2015 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 there will be two bye-elections for the County Council in July which may change the balance of power on the Council. There will also be another later in the year caused by the death of a member only elected in May. The Highway Partnership will be continuing this year and the Parish Council will only be paying 25% this coming year. He reported that he had contacted the Programme Director for Better Broadband for Norfolk who had stated that there were no issues with BT. The only suggestion was that individuals contact their Internet Service Provider if there is a problem. The Clerk added that he had been informed that there is further fibre enablement planned for the remaining properties in Beetley parish in 2016 and 2017.

He has not been able to obtain an answer on the request for a bus service in East Bilney. The County Councillor is still pursuing this.

The footpaths should all be maintained in the next two weeks.

The District Councillor reported that many parishes had jumped on the Neighbourhood Plan bandwagon but these are not watertight. They can be overruled by the District Council or the Planning Inspectorate when planning applications are considered. Some parishes have started to write a Community Action Plan which costs about £2000. The County Councillor stated that parishes should focus on what it wants from the new Local Plan and should

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concentrate on a small segment to ensure that the Parish Council has a say in the Local Plan.

5. Letter sent from the Village Hall Management Committee to all Regular Users.

Following the request at the last meeting for the Chairman of the Village Hall Management committee to attend this meeting, The Chairman had contacted him and he was unable to attend as were any other members of the Committee.

Councillor O'Donovan stated that at the AGM of the Dog Training Group it had been stated that the Village Hall Committee had been burdened with the financial responsibility for maintenance and other organisations are blaming the Parish Council. It was suggested that an amount be put back into the precept so that all the parish know that the Parish Council is contributing. No mention was made in the letter of the amount that was passed over from the textile bank. The amount passed onto the Village Hall Committee was £1393.86. The Chairman stated that an amount had always been in the precept in the past. Councillor O'Donovan felt that no letter be sent to the Village Hall and that she was happy for an amount to be included in the precept as a donation to the Village Hall. Councillor Richmond stated that all Village Halls in his ward are having a struggle. Councillor Leigh stated that the Village Hall can go out and raise funds by putting on events but the Parish Council can not. Councillor Leigh stated that a letter should be sent to all regular users stating the amount the Parish Council had donated from the textile bank.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that no letter be sent. This was passed by a majority decision with Councillor Leigh voting against.

6. Matters to Report.

6.1 Request for a Post Box near to Tavern Close.

Councillor Richmond reported he had been approached by a resident in Tavern Close who had requested that a post box be provided closer to Tavern Close than either Beech Road or High House Road. The resident stated that it is not pleasant to walk to either of the two boxes in the rain or snow and that there are many elderly residents in this part of the parish. The Clerk will contact Royal Mail to enquire if a new box is possible.

6.2 Norfolk Association of Local Councils.

The Clerk reported that he had had no further dealings with the Association and that it would be prudent to await a new Lead Officer.

6.3 Code of Transparency.

The Clerk reported that all the information for the website had been posted this month. It was agreed to circulate the draft minutes as soon as possible and if there were any changes particularly to the wording all Councillors were to be informed and then a final draft with the alterations in red would be circulated for final approval by the Councillors with a return date stating when the clerk required them back. If a Councillor did not respond by this date the Clerk would assume there were no alterations. The clerk would then post them on the website as a draft until the minutes are confirmed at the next meeting and the confirmed minutes would then be posted onto the web site which therefore means there will be a draft set of minutes and a confirmed set of minutes for each meeting..

6.4 Faster Broadband.

This had been covered in the County Councillors report.

6.5 Annual General meeting of Community Action Norfolk 15 July.

No one would be attending.

7. Planning.

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7.1 Applications.

7.1.1 3PL/2015/0667/F-22A Elmham Road-extensions and alterations to convert garage into annexe to dwelling.

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

7.2 Decisions.

The following decisions were noted.

7.2.1 3PL/2015/0215/O-Bittering Street-erection of two detached four bedroom dwellings with gardens and garages

(outline all matters reserved).

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Refusal.

The County Councillor left the meeting.

8. Highways and Transport.

8.1 Report on Highways Matters.

The Highway Community rangers will be visiting the week commencing 27 July. It was agreed to request that the trods be cleared, the nettles on the bridge on Folly Lane be cleared, cut back vegetation around all signs and clean the signs and also to repair the bracket on the bend sign to the north of Church Road East Bilney. Peacock Lane has been repaired but Common Lane has not nor has the sign to the Common been replaced and Norfolk County Council will be contacted again. There will be a road closure in Old Beetley on School Road on 21 July to repair a manhole.

8.2 New problems.

There are two potholes on Wood Drive near to Beech Road which will be reported.

8.3 Land to the rear of the footway for the siting of a bus shelter.

The Clerk had not had time to write to Barratt Homes regarding this.

8.4 Parking on Elmham Road.

The existing lines had been refreshed and the County Councillor will look into the extension requested for some of the double yellow lines.

8.5 Footpaths.

The County Councillor confirmed that all footpaths should be cut in the next fourteen days. Norse will be contacted to have the footpath alongside the School Playing field cut. A resident in East Bilney had complained to the Clerk regarding the state of the footpaths and the Clerk had informed him that these had all been reported but he could contact the County Councillor to add his complaints to those already lodged. The parishioner had contacted the County Councillor.

9. Beetley River Meadows.

9.1 Report.

All the area had been cut in one session. NGF Play had been contacted regarding the faulty post and netting and would also be requested for a price for new gates as one is no longer working again. Councillor Leigh stated that originally it had been considered to purchase one good quality gate per annum and this will be investigated. The Chairman reported that she had had a faulty pin replaced on an item.

9.2 Complaint regarding the River.

A parishioner had complained about the state of the river next to Beetley River Meadows and had mentioned a report prepared by the Inland Drainage Board. The Clerk had responded stating that the river, Wendling Beck, is the responsibility of the Environment

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Agency. The Clerk will contact the Environment Agency again.

9.3 Complaints regarding the Cutting of the trees.

Several complaints had been received about the way that the brash had been left following the removal of the trees from the river. No one thought that this is a problem and the Clerk will also look when he is next on site.

9.4 Play Area Routine Inspections.

Councillor Leigh stated that she was very worried that these are not being completed on time and she wanted the matter resolved at this meeting. A lengthy discussion ensued which covered the responsibility of the Parish Council and the consequences of not complying with the terms of the insurance policy. Councillor Turner agreed to take on the routine inspections with effect from September but he would also do these from now until 22 July when he has an operation. The Chairman will do them from 25 July until such time as Councillor Turner can resume. The Clerk will meet Councillor Turner on site at 1600 on the next day and pass on the sheets. The Chairman will speak to Councillor Mayhew about the change. Councillor Turner will take the completed sheets to the Clerk each Saturday for recording.

10. Open Spaces.

10.1 Problems.

There were no problems to report.

10.2 Crossing Rights at Beetley Common.

There was no progress to report.

10.3 Maintenance at East Bilney Town Lands.

Councillor Richmond had walked the area which had been cut and may need cutting again in a month. At some stage the trees will have to be cut back from the power lines so the Parish council should ensure that no more trees than is necessary are removed..

11. Finance.

11.1 Budgets.

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 and Cheques for Authorisation.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Turner 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 15	27588.65
Receipts- Interest-2.06	
Breckland Community Car 61.93	
Breckland Recycling-1948.64	<u>2012.63</u>
	29601.28
Less cheques authorised 02 04 15-30.00	
cheques authorised 14 05 15-668.07	<u>698.07</u>
Balance at 29 05 15	28903.21
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 14 05 15-1393.86	
unrepresented cheques authorised 04 06 15-2320.14	<u>3714.00</u>
Balance at 14 05 15	25189.21
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	<u>200.00</u>
Balance at 14 05 15	25389.21

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Amount available for Section 137 : 1162x£7.36 = £8552.32

Spend to Date : £0.00

Cheques for authorisation:

607	B J Leigh	Contract June 412.67 less PAYE 82.60	330.07
608	HMRC	PAYE June	82.60
609	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car June	152.10
610	Eastern Office Equipment	Stationery	14.95
611	B J Leigh	Contract July 412.67 less PAYE 82.40	330.27
612	HMRC	PAYE July	82.40
613	Abacus	Monthly Contract	23.71
614	Beetley Village Hall	Hall Hire	72.00
615	Norfolk Woods and Hedges Ltd.	East Bilney Town Lands- 180.00 Beetley River Meadows Tree Maintenance-840.00	1020.00
616	Steward Safety Supplies	Signs for Beetley Common	23.40
617	Norse Eastern Ltd	Cutting of Bays for Duck Race	24.00
618	B J Leigh	Memory Sticks	17.98

12. Correspondence received for circulation.

The following correspondence would be circulated:-

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| 12.1 | Local Council Review Summer 2015. |
| 12.2 | Clerks and Councils Direct July 2015. |
| 12.3 | Beetley Common Advisory Committee. |
| 12.4 | Signpost Summer 2015 |

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

The meeting closed at 2150 hours.