

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON
THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2015 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present

Councillor J Baldwin (Chair)
Councillor J O'Donovan
Councillor A Leigh
Councillor R Richmond
Councillor M Rose

District Councillor R Richmond

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor J Mayhew who was working outside the county and Councillor T Turner who was at a passing out parade in Torpoint and these were both accepted. Apologies for absence had also been received from County Councillor M Kiddle Morris.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

There were no DPIs.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2015 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Co-option to the Parish Council.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that Mr. Tony Turner be co-opted onto the Parish Council. All were in favour and Councillor Turner was duly elected.

5. County and District Councillors Reports.

The District Councillor reported that the Local Plan is progressing to the next phase and consultation and should be completed by December 2016. He also reported that he attends the Patient Participation Group at North Elmham and Swanton Morley surgeries. It is expected that a third of all GPs will retire in the next five years and that there will be a shortage throughout the country of GPs. Toftwood Surgery is now part of the practice and the doctors there are augmented by visits from doctors at North Elmham. Councillor Leigh raised the problem of the dispensary that twice incorrect prescriptions had been delivered. The District Councillor noted this complaint.

6. Matters to Report.

6.1 SNAP Meeting.

Councillor Richmond reported that the meeting was held on the last Wednesday of the month. The priorities set were Bawdeswell Village Hall, Dereham play areas and car and motorbike speeding through villages. This includes Beetley but several other villages had reported the same problem.

6.2 Norfolk Association of Local Councils.

The Chairman had spoken to the office stating that the Clerk had lost confidence in the Association since the Lead Officer had left. She was told that the Lead Officer had left to take up a post at Watton, but the office is manned by executive committee and Anne

Barnes is there weekdays to deal with telephone calls/e mails and post. Enquiries are passed to Legal/HR to deal with. The post is being advertised and a new Lead Officer should be appointed in July hopefully. It was agreed to do nothing further until such time as a new Lead Officer is appointed.

6.3 Code of Transparency.

The Clerk reported that as he had been unable to obtain any answer from the Norfolk Association of Local Councils he had spoken to the Society of Local Council Clerks. It had confirmed that the Code is now law and any Parish Council not complying would be breaking the law and liable to sanctions both individually and as a Parish Council. It was agreed to commence with the implementation with immediate effect from 1 July. Funding for Parish Councils to implement the Code had been passed to the National Association of Local Councils but none had been distributed. The Society had also confirmed that dispensations are no longer needed for setting the precept or for the charity if these are discussed only at a charity meeting.

6.4 Faster Broadband.

There is a continual problem with speeds in areas not covered by faster broadband and this is worse since the fibre boxes were installed. The District Councillor stated that he had spoken to the Leader of Breckland Council who is leading the upgrade to areas not covered by BT but the maps had not yet been received from BT. Therefore any further upgrades using the finances from Breckland Council can not be decided at this time. The Clerk will contact Karen O'Kane at Norfolk County Council to try and establish why there is a problem with slower speeds.

6.5 RoSPA Report for High House Road.

The Village Hall Committee had agreed to pay for the inspection.

6.6 Trees on High House Road.

The Clerk reported that he had received an e-mail from a resident regarding conifer trees to the rear of their garden. Flagship Housing had suggested that she contact the Parish Council. The Clerk had replied stating that the Parish Council can not help as the land is not owned by it. He gave her the name of the landowner of the wood but suggested that the trees may not have been planted by him but by a previous tenant and therefore she ought to contact Flagship again. Nothing further had been received from the parishioner.

6.7 1st Beetley Scout Group Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman and Councillor Leigh had attended. There were also activities staged throughout the evening, a barbeque and a silent auction to help raise funds. Both had enjoyed the evening.

6.8 Website.

There are one or two items that are out of date and the wrong link dates on. The Clerk will contact the maintainer.

7. Planning.

7.1 Applications.

There were no applications to discuss.

7.2 Decisions.

The following decisions were noted.

7.2.1 3PL/2015/0343/O-Stoney Lane-erection of two detached two storey dwellings with associated gardens and garages. O Refusal.

8. Highways and Transport.

8.1 Report on Highways Matters.

Councillor Leigh reported on the bus service request for East Bilney. This had commenced on September 14 and the Clerk had chased the officer concerned regularly but no information had been received. The County Councillor had also tried to contact the officer concerned but he had not received a reply. It was suggested the Head of Transport be contacted. The vegetation around the signs in the parish had been requested to be cut back by the Rangers. A coping stone on the bridge at East Bilney had been hit and this had been reported. The problem of overhanging hedges in East Bilney near to the Alms Houses and at the north end of the village had also been reported again. The sign to the Common had not yet been replaced but the verges were being cut so the verge near to the trod on Fakenham Road should be cut back as well as the junction of Gorgate Road and Holt Road. A bracket on the bend sign to the north of Church Road East Bilney is missing and this has been reported. A list of problems on footpaths raised by Councillor Richmond had been forwarded to Norfolk County Council. Councillor Rose requested that the two footpaths to the rear of the church in Old Beetley also be reported. It was agreed to write to the landowners who maintain the footpaths that cross their land thanking them for their time and efforts. After several telephone calls Anglian Water had repaired the leak in East Bilney. A letter had been received from the Beetley Common Advisory Committee expressing their strong views about the state of the lanes to the Common. The Clerk had contacted the committee and informed it that this should be repaired in the next 4-5 weeks from 12 May and if it had not been done the Clerk will be informed.

8.2 New problems.

The state of Fludges Lane near the church is to be reported.

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

The Clerk had looked at the maps of the conveyance of the land on Beech Road and this states that there is a right of way from Fakenham Road through to Spinney Close. This parcel of land is still owned by Barratt Homes. It was agreed to write to them to request that it donates this to the Parish Council.

8.4 Parking on Elmham Road.

The County Councillor had been contacted regarding the request to progress the extension of the double yellow lines on Elmham Road.

9. Beetley River Meadows.

9.1 Report.

A letter had been received from a parishioner regarding the amount of litter left in the Play Area by both children and parents. The parishioner also complained about the mole hills near to the seat halfway along the river and these have now been cleared. The Chairman had been on site and confirmed that the mowing had all been done at the same time and did not see much litter in the play area. Norfolk Woods and Hedges had cleared the trees in the river and cut back the suckers. The posts at the entrance to the basketball court are loose and NGF Play will be contacted to repair these.

Councillors Leigh and Rose both stated that they would not accept in future that the routine inspection of the play area had not been done and that this must be resolved.. None had been received for the previous month. It is a requisite of the insurance policy that these are done weekly otherwise the insurance policy is null and void and any claim would fall on the Councillors to pay. Councillor Rose felt so strongly about the failure to comply that if this is not resolved she would have no alternative but to resign from the Parish Council. The Chairman will speak to Councillor Mayhew and send him a copy of the form for him to send electronically to the Clerk so that there is an audit trail of dates.

The Clerk had confirmed with the Pre-school that a duck race may be held again in 2016.

10. Open Spaces.

10.1 Problems.

Councillor Rose reported that the residents of Old Beetley had thanked the Parish Council for having the Patch cut. This will cost £68.75 for the current year and £87.50 in a full year. The Clerk had responded to the person who had complained regarding the spraying on the Common stating that in future the Parish Council will assess whether any spraying is needed and a full risk assessment undertaken. He had responded by thanking the Parish Council for its reply and the reassurance it offered. Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that two signs stating spraying in progress be purchased at a cost of £9.75 each. All were in favour. Councillor O'Donovan will organise this.

10.2 Crossing Rights at Beetley Common.

The Clerk had spoken to Ward Gethin Archer but the information had not been passed to them from Spire Solicitors. The Clerk will ensure that the information is passed on.

10.3 Maintenance at East Bilney Town Lands.

This had been carried out and Councillor Richmond will walk the area and report back at the next meeting.

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 Membership of Community Action Norfolk.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that membership be taken out again this year as a non voting Bronze member at a cost of £20. All were in favour.

11.3 Insurance for 2015-2016.

The Clerk reported that he had received the renewal quotation from Came and Company for £655.71. The Parish Council is still in a long term agreement with Aviva until July 2016. A comparative quotation had been received from AON which was more expensive than that from Aviva.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the Parish Council remains with Aviva for 2015-16 at accost of £655.71. All were in favour.

11.4 Donation to 1st Beetley Scout Group.

A request had been received from the Scout Group to donate to the cost of putting on the fireworks evening. The group is currently attempting to raise £10,000 to convert existing toilets into an open access toilet and wet room for people with additional needs. It was felt that the Parish Council should not donate to a fireworks evening but could donate to the fund raising for the works.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that £500 be donated to the fund. It was also be requested that the Parish Council be kept informed of all future events at the Scout Group. All were in favour.

11.5 Balances.

Councillor Rose 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 28 02 15	21115.07
Receipts- Interest-1.63	

Litcham Parish Council	-37.91	
Beeston Parish Council	-28.47	
Horningtoft parish Council	-13.63	
Brisley Parish Council	-85.06	
Tittleshall Parish Council	-3.88	
Breckland Community Car	-76.05	
Interest	-1.85	
Breckland Precept	-7750.00	
Breckland Rate Support grant	-341.05	<u>8339.53</u>
		29454.60
Less cheques authorised 05 02 15	-72.00	
cheques authorised 05 03 15	-1004.14	
cheques authorised 02 04 15	-789.81	<u>1865.95</u>
Balance at 30 04 15		27588.65
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 02 04 15	-30.00	
unrepresented cheques authorised 14 05 15	-2061.93	<u>2091.93</u>
Balance at 14 05 15		27558.65
Float for Community Car co-ordinator		<u>200.00</u>
Balance at 14 05 15		27758.65

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

Spend to Date : £0.00

Cheques for authorisation:

598	B J Leigh	Contract May 412.67 less PAYE 82.60	330.07
599	HMRC	PAYE May	82.60
600	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car May	136.80
601	Susanne Rutter	Internal Audit	20.00
602	B J Leigh	Community Car Phone Top Up	20.00
603	Beetley Common Advisory Committee	Donation	200.00
604	Norse Eastern Ltd	Grass cutting	854.96
605	Broker Network Ltd	Insurance	655.71
606	Community Action Norfolk	Membership	20.00

11.6 Memory Sticks.

The Clerk raised the matter of storage of old data onto new memory sticks rather than on the current ones with one being held by the Chairman and one by The Clerk. This would allow faster copying of the data for each meeting.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that two memory sticks of 16GB memory be purchased. All were in favour.

12. Correspondence received for circulation.

There was no correspondence to be circulated:-

13. Matters for the Next Meeting.

13.1 Letter from the Village Hall Committee.

It was agreed to invite the Chairman of The Village Hall Management Committee to the next meeting to discuss the letter.

14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 2 July 2015 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2144 hours.