

# DRAFT

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 P.M.

### Present

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

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris  
District Councillor R Richmond

2 members of the public.

The Chairman thanked Councillor O'Donovan for chairing the previous meeting in her absence.

### 1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Rose who was on holiday and these were accepted.

### 2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

Councillor Richmond declared a DPI under Appendix A in agenda item 7.1.2 having submitted parcels of land into the LDF. Councillor Leigh declared a DPI under Appendix A in agenda Item 11.5 being the wife of the Clerk.

### 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2015 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

### 4. County and District Councillors Reports.

The County Councillor reported that Norfolk County Council is consulting on its budget. Committees were requested to cut their budgets by 25% but this was rejected by all committees so the council is aiming to save £111 million over the next three years. The consultation will last until the middle of January. There are to be two bye elections on 19 November one of which is held by UKIP and the other LibDem. If the seats change colour then there may be a change of power at County Hall. There is to be an emergency meeting regarding the NDR as some erroneous information was presented to the last meeting and a judicial review has been requested. If the County Council revisits the scheme with the correct information and comes to the same decision then the judicial review will finish. The possible devolution of powers which is being led by Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils and the LEP is to meet with Lord Heseltine. The councils wish to take over the budget for trunk roads, the faster train service to London and for the Enterprise Zones. The District Councillor reported that the District Councils are listening to what is being said about devolution and are holding meetings to discuss this matter. The Rate Support Grant is being phased out over the next three years. Breckland Council is promoting its Open for Service to attract more local businesses to improve the commercialism of the Council. Breckland Council wishes to improve this so that the Council Tax can be kept as low as possible. The latest information sheet on Faster

Broadband states that the Government has decided that where no faster broadband can be supplied by cable then a satellite voucher scheme will be provided. The details of this have not been finalised. This information sheet is to be circulated to all Councillors.

**5. 100<sup>th</sup> Beetley Buzz.**

This is to be in colour and must be received from the Editor by 20<sup>th</sup> November for approval and printing. It may be possible to forward this electronically to have it copied and this will be checked. A note in the Beetley Buzz is to state that this is the 100<sup>th</sup> edition and is a one off colour production.

**6. Matters to Report.**

**6.1 Request for a Post Box near to Tavern Close.**

Nothing further had been heard from Royal Mail.

**6.2 Code of Transparency.**

This is working satisfactorily and will be removed from the agenda.

**6.3 Faster Broadband.**

There was nothing further to report apart from the District Councillors report.

**6.4 Alms Houses.**

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had been informed that there are plans to renovate the Alms Houses into either two or three dwellings. Breckland Council is keen to keep all the Alms Houses open.

**6.5 Defibrillator at the Village Hall.**

Councillor Richmond confirmed that no harm can be done to a patient by the use of a defibrillator. The Village Hall Committee had been contacted and it will consider whether to install one.

**6.6 Community Car.**

Councillor Leigh reported that two new drivers had been recruited and they had passed all checks.

**6.7 Breckland Town and Parish Forum 2 December.**

Councillor Richmond will be attending.

**6.8 Annual General Meeting of Norfolk Association of Local Councils.**

The meeting planned for 17<sup>th</sup> October had been cancelled because the keynote speaker was unable to attend. The meeting has been rescheduled for 6 January at 7.30p.m. preceded by a Special meeting to revise the constitution at 6.30 p.m.

**7. Planning.**

**7.1 Applications.**

**7.1.1 3PL/2015/1117/F-Fleetwell School Road-alterations and extension.**

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

**7.1.2 3PL/2015/1261/O-12 Beetley Grange-Residential Development.**

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

A lengthy discussion was held over the application which is the same as the application in December 2014. A parishioner raised the matter of egress from and access to the properties stating that there is insufficient room to allow two vehicles to pass on the track which would lead to safety problems on Beetley Grange. This could also lead to problems of parking in Beetley Grange and further safety issues with the additional traffic on Tavern Close. The comments that

the Clerk had received from residents of Tavern Close and Beetley Grange objecting to the application were also noted.

The meeting was reconvened.

Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that the application be objected to. All were in favour. The Parish Council will re-iterate its objections that this is outside the settlement boundary, there would be a loss of amenity to the neighbouring properties, safety issues from additional traffic, an unsatisfactory form of development in a rural area and that this could set a dangerous precedent for development to the rear of other properties.

District Councillor Duffield is to be requested to refer this application to the Planning Committee if the Officers are likely to grant permission.

Councillor Richmond rejoined the meeting.

## **7.2 Decisions.**

There were no decisions to report.

## **8. Highways and Transport.**

### **8.1 Report on Highways Matters.**

Councillor Leigh reported that following representation to the Assistant Director at Norfolk County Council Highways a meeting had been arranged with Norfolk County Council and the bus operator for an improved bus service in East Bilney. This is to be held on 3 December at 6.30p.m. prior to the Parish Council meeting. A flyer had been delivered to all the residences in East Bilney with the Beetley Buzz informing them of the meeting.

Councillor Leigh had also spoken to many residents explaining the request. Councillor Richmond stated that the bus used to stop at Church Road and it was considered that as there is a wide verge outside the Alms Houses it may be possible for the bus to stop there also. This will also be raised at the meeting.

The Clerk had received a telephone call from Breckland Council regarding the flytipping on High house Road. The possible responsible resident had been spoken to and some of the flytipping had been cleared although some had just been pushed further back onto the verge. The residents in the vicinity had been written to by Breckland Council but it is difficult to take any further action unless the culprit is seen.

The land owner where the verge had been removed at East Bilney had been contacted who stated that the field was let out to contractors this year, and he is not happy with the construction of the access and had agreed to re-instate the damaged verge.

The parking on the verge at East Bilney had been reported the previous month and the Clerk had contacted Norfolk Police who stated that the police only deal with total or dangerous obstructions to the road The Local Safer Neighbourhood Team had been informed by Norfolk Police.

The road surface on Rawhall Lane and a large pothole on Fludges Lane had been reported.

The County Councillor confirmed that aggregate lorries are entitled to travel along Elmham Road for a local delivery.

The County Councillor confirmed he has not heard any further about the extended yellow lines on Elmham Road. The Chairman confirmed that the existing lines had been refreshed. The Highway Community Rangers had not been seen in the parish and the Clerk will check when they are due.

## **8.2 New problems.**

There were no new matters to report.

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

Nothing further had been heard and the Clerk will try and get an answer on the ownership from Land registry. This will be deferred until clarification has been received.

## **8.4 Footpaths.**

A letter had been received from a resident which had been circulated regarding FP18 which is from Beech Road to Beetley River Meadows. This is a PROW which goes round Beetley River Meadows along the river to Fakenham Road and as such it is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council to maintain. The Parish Council maintains the PROW on Beetley River Meadows and it was agreed that the part from Beech Road should also be cleared of undergrowth. Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that Norse be requested to clear the area. All were in favour.

## **8.5 Local Highway Improvement 2016/17.**

The Clerk had met the Highways Engineer on site at East Bilney regarding a trod along Fakenham Road. A price for this should be available by the next meeting.

## **8.6 20m.p.h. Speed Limit at Elmham Road/ Fakenham Road Crossroads.**

The meeting was adjourned.

The Beetley Community Speedwatch Coordinator reported that there had been several accidents at the crossroads and that 20% of vehicles travelling along Fakenham Road exceed the current speed limit. There is a school at this point which has a 20 mph limit outside on Elmham Road and he wondered whether a 20mph limit is possible on Fakenham Road or additional signage be erected to try and slow vehicles down.

The meeting was reconvened.

Councillor Leigh stated that the hedge at the junction on the east side of Fakenham Road is overhanging the highway and causing visibility problems. It was agreed to write to the landowners. It was also agreed to contact the highways engineer to enquire if either a reduced speed limit or additional signage is possible.

The speed data from East Bilney is to be sent to the Beetley Community Speedwatch Coordinator as nothing had been heard from The Safety Camera partnership team. He will attempt to progress this.

## **9. Beetley River Meadows.**

### **9.1 Report.**

The hedges on 1 and 5 Beetley Meadows need cutting back where these overhang the fences. Letters will be sent to the residences. It had been reported that a branch had come off a tree and this will be investigated.

### **9.2 Repairs to the Play Area.**

The Clerk had circulated the quotations.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the quotation from GG Fencing for £4420 plus VAT be accepted to replace the fencing around the basketball court. All were in favour.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Turner seconded the resolution that the quotation from NGF Play for the two replacement gates at the play area for £2207.52 plus VAT be accepted. All were in favour.

**9.3 Cutting of the Large Field and Allotment Area.**

This had been carried out at a cost of £285 plus VAT.

**9.4 Duck Race 2016.**

A request had been received from the Pre-School to hold a duck race again in 2016. It had also requested permission to take a vehicle across the Meadows to the beach to cart gazebos and equipment.

It was agreed to grant permission for the duck race and the vehicle to cross provided that the vehicle is not parked on the Meadows for the duration of the race. The same rules apply as last year and the Parish Council will cut back the viewing areas as last year.

**10. Open Spaces.**

**10.1 Problems.**

There were no problems to report.

**10.2 Maintenance at East Bilney Town Lands.**

Councillor Richmond reported that a further swathe had been cut and some branches lifted. It was agreed to have the hedge cut in the New Year as normal.

**11. Finance.**

**11.1 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.

**11.2 Donation to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.**

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Turner seconded the resolution that £25 be donated. All were in favour.

**11.3 Balances and Cheques for Authorisation.**

Councillor Mayhew 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 08 15	24722.92
Receipts- Interest-2.23	
Breckland Community Car- 64.05	
Breckland Precept-7750.00	
Breckland Rate Support Grant-341.05	8157.33
	<u>32880.25</u>
Less cheques authorised 03 09 15	804.94
Balance at 30 09 15	<u>32075.31</u>
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 03 09 15-130.00	
unrepresented cheques authorised 01 10 15-1633.22	1763.22
Balance at 03 09 15	30312.09
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	200.00
Balance at 03 09 15	<u>30512.09</u>

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

Spend to Date : £0.00

Cheques for authorisation:

637	B J Leigh	Contract Oct 412.67 less PAYE 82.40	330.27
638	HMRC	PAYE Oct	82.40

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639	Abacus	Monthly Contract- Sep	26.10
640	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car Oct	184.25
641	Eastern Office Equipment	Stationery	19.85
642	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Donation	25.00
643	B J Leigh	Computer Ink	39.48

### **11.4 Precept.**

This was discussed at length and a decision is to be finalised at the next meeting. It was agreed to consider a resolution to alter the method of donation to the Village Hall so that this is shown in the precept and budget.

### **11.5 Additional Hours for the Clerk for the Code of Transparency.**

Councillor Leigh withdrew from the meeting.

The Clerk reported that the additional hours that are necessary for the Code of Transparency are two but it was felt that this was inadequate and four were suggested. A compromise was agreed at three hours.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that the Clerks hours be increased by three backdated to 1 April 2015. This would increase the Clerk's contract to £5292 per annum. All were in favour.

The Clerk will claim these additional hours from the fund for smaller councils.

Councillor Leigh rejoined the meeting.

### **12. Correspondence received for circulation.**

The following correspondence would be circulated.

- 12.1 **Signpost Autumn 2015**
- 12.2 **Clerks and Councils Direct November 2015**

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

- 13.1 **Village Hall donation.**
- 13.2 **Pavilion.**
- 13.3 **Dates of meetings for 2016.**

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

This was confirmed as Thursday 3 December 2015 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2149 hours.