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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 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 M Rose
Councillor T Turner

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris
District Councillor R Duffield
District Councillor R Richmond

Prior to the Parish Council meeting there was an open meeting regarding an enhanced bus service for East Bilney.

There were present all Parish Councillors, County Councillor M Kiddle Morris, Martin Stringfellow from Norfolk County Council, Gavin Hunter from Konect and 11 parishioners.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the representatives from Norfolk County Council and Konect for attending.

Councillor Leigh outlined the fact that there are only buses passing through East Bilney first thing in the morning for school and college students and returning late in the afternoon.

Parishioners do not always wish to stay in Dereham all day. She outlined the letter that had been sent to all parishioners in East Bilney suggesting that an extra bus be provided at 0915 by re-routing this through East Bilney rather than along Elmham Road Beetley. This service would then be able to connect to the service to Norwich. This would mean that NCC would have to give an exception for concessions on this service. The return journey would leave Dereham at 1230.

Martin Stringfellow confirmed that NCC have the power to have exceptions.

One parishioner raised the issue that when he moved to East Bilney he found there was a bus shelter but no buses. He stated that East Bilney is on a major gritting route yet buses appear to avoid East Bilney. There was a question from a parishioner about the service to Norwich and this was confirmed as every half hour.

The representative from NCC stated that it may be possible to utilise smaller buses as feeders into Dereham and Fakenham rather than re-route the 21. Councillor O'Donovan stated that children are catered for but not the elderly and felt that the user of smaller buses should be explored more. It was queried whether there could be a hail and ride scheme but NCC stated that all operators vary. Another parishioner raised the fact that work people are not catered for as there is no bus in at the time to connect to other services and there is no service back at the end of the working day.

NCC wondered whether the Community Car Scheme could be utilised. It was felt that this was not possible because of the demands on the drivers.

The representative from Konect stated that he would investigate the alternative routing but this might not be possible as other schedules may be compromised. NCC would look into a feeder service and other alternative provisions.

Both would report back in the first week of the January to the Clerk so that this can be discussed at the February meeting. It would then be possible to hold another open meeting in March.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

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1. Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

There were no DPs.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 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 in the two bye elections held one had been won by a Conservative from UKIP and the other had been held by LibDem. This means that of the 84 seats 41 are now Conservative and there are two non-aligned. There is a problem arising with both Adult Social Care and Childrens Social Care. The Government has realised this and is allowing Local Authorities to raise the Council Tax by 2% without the need for a referendum provided this is ring fenced for Adult Social Care. There are over 1000 children in Norfolk in care and it had been hoped to reduce this to 700 but this had not been possible. If devolution is to proceed then it will be necessary at this time to have an elected Mayor. Following the Autumn Statement all grants to District Councils will be phased out. He was asked why it is necessary to have a Mayor and why could the County Council not just have the deal. The County Councillor replied that following the business meeting with Lord Heseltine this is what the County Council has been informed and the Mayor will assist with the distribution of the funds.

The District Councillor reported that the District Councils do not know exactly what will happen with devolution. No one has yet decided whether will support or be against devolution. The Local Plan should be distributed after Christmas. Breckland Council has a balanced budget for 2016/17 and relies on its commercialism, investment assets and treasury management to ensure that the Council Tax is as low as possible. There is still £300,000 in Icelandic Banks. Part of the offices of Breckland Council is to be let to outside organisations such as The Job Centre (DWP) which has been agreed. This will allow members of the public to call at one site for more facilities. It is hoped that more revenue can be generated from Anglian Revenue Partnerships by offering their expertise to other councils.

5. Beetley Buzz.

5.1 100th Edition.

This was produced in colour and everybody was very pleased with the issue. A thank you card is to be sent to the Editor for all her work in producing this in colour.

5.2 Delivery of The Beetley Buzz.

Two letters of complaint had been received about the non-delivery of the Beetley Buzz to Birch Avenue.

Councillor Mayhew, who delivers this road, confirmed that it had been delivered the previous weekend. It was agreed that either Councillor Rose or Councillor O'Donovan will go with Councillor Mayhew at the end of January or one of them will do this house on its own.

6. Matters to Report.

6.1 Request for a Post Box near to Tavern Close.

Nothing further had been heard from Royal Mail. Councillor Richmond will e-mail the name of a person at Royal Mail who should be able to give the Clerk an answer.

6.2 Faster Broadband.

The Clerk reported that he had received confirmation from the Programme Director Better Broadband for Norfolk that 444 Beetley properties are served from Gressenhall cabinets 2 and 4 both of which have already been fibre enabled. There are 83 properties that are served from Gressenhall cabinet 3 but they are too far from that cabinet to benefit from a speed uplift even if the cabinet were fibre enabled. There are currently no fibre plans for these properties however there is further funding planned and she expects to know the new areas that will benefit early in 2016.

A new cabinet is planned for East Bilney as part of the second Better Broadband for Norfolk rollout. This rollout will take place from early 2016 until mid-2018. She said she was sorry she could not be any more precise on dates as yet. The Clerk had provided her with postal addresses of properties that had poor broadband. The satellite scheme had not yet been put in place.

6.3 Pavilion.

There are several large boughs overhanging the pavilion which need cutting back. Councillor Mayhew proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that these be cleared by Norfolk Woods and Hedges.

A letter had been received from the Village Hall management Committee which had stated that it was intending to refurbish the pavilion. It was agreed to contact it to ascertain what is planned for the pavilion as this is the responsibility of the Parish Council. It was also agreed to request a key so that Councillors could visit the pavilion to have a look at the state of it and also to suggest a meeting with members of the Management Committee.

6.4 Defibrillator at the Village Hall.

The Village Hall Committee had been contacted and had replied that the defibrillator is on their wish list but it is not a priority at present.

6.5 Fanthorpe's Wood.

The Clerk reported that he had received a telephone call from the Secretary to the Trustees of the wood informing him that a new post had been removed. The Secretary had said that the Charity may close the concessionary footpath. The Clerk stated that he would raise the matter at the next Parish Council meeting but he had heard no more. Councillor Richmond had received a letter from the Secretary that evening. This letter would be circulated to all Councillors and a decision made at the February meeting. The Charity would be informed regarding this. The Clerk had also informed the Charity about a fallen bough which had damaged the post and rail and had suggested that all the trees needed an inspection.

6.6 Dates of Meetings 2016.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that these be agreed as the list below. All were in favour.

Parish Council Meetings

February 4th

April 7th

June 2nd

September 1st

November 3rd

March 3rd

May 12th

July 7th

October 6th

December 1st

Annual Parish Council Meeting

May 12th

Annual Parish Meeting

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April 7th

6.7 Beetley Woods.

The Clerk reported that he had received a telephone call from the landowner of part of the woods stating that he had been advised by his insurers to place signs stating Keep Out Private Property. The Chairman stated that she had heard that the land was going to be sold to allow 100 houses to be built but there had been no confirmation of this.

6.8 SNAP Meeting.

Councillor Richmond reported that the three priorities set at the meeting were drink/driving, shop watch and anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre and it had been agreed that the CCTV would be working.

6.9 Breckland Town and Parish Forum 2 December.

Councillor Richmond reported that there had been presentations on the budget, Local Plan and Norfolk ALC. The details from the Forum would be circulated.

6.10 Highway Encroachment Church Lane.

Two complaints had been received about the new fence outside Caltra on Church Lane that had encroached onto the highway. The Clerk wanted clarification if the Parish Council is to become involved. The County Councillor stated that if the Clerk informs him he will deal with the Highways Department. This was agreed.

6.11 Christmas Cards.

All cards had been distributed to the Community Car drivers, the Beetley Buzz distributors, Beetley Common Advisory Committee and to the parishioner who cuts the bus shelter verge at East Bilney.

7. Planning.

7.1 Applications.

7.1.1 3PL/2015/1114/O-65 Fakenham Road-erection of dwelling.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the application be objected to. All were in favour.

The reasons for the objection were that this development is outside the settlement boundary for Beetley and would be contrary to policies DC2 and CP14 which state that outside settlement boundaries in rural areas minimal development is supported. This proposal would be contrary to these policies and development plan. The issue of highway safety has been raised continually at this site and the comments of the Planning Inspector in his decision regarding 3PL/2012/0093/O where he stated that visibility when exiting this access was sub standard in terms of highway safety were supported. Nothing has changed with this application. The access is too narrow to allow two vehicles to pass each other and any vehicle on Fakenham Road wishing to enter the site would have to wait on the highway for the access to clear. This would adversely affect highway safety adding to the harm of vehicles exiting onto a main road with limited visibility splays and the high speed of vehicles travelling along Fakenham Road. Any increase in the use of this access would cause unacceptable harm to highway safety.

The Parish Council was also mindful that it objected to the accesses granted in error for the original site when reserved matters were dealt with. Permission for this development would only result in an intensification of the original Fakenham Road access.

The development would be in an unsustainable location for development as detailed by the Planning Inspector in 2012.

7.1.2 3PL/2015/0826/O-Land at the rear of The Paddocks-erection of dwellings-

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revised design.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that this application be objected to. All were in favour.

The objections raised at the initial application stage would be reiterated.

7.1.3 3PL/2015/1073/F-Hall Farm Barn Fakenham Road East Bilney-conversion of outbuilding to form new kitchen and build connection to existing dwelling house.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that no objection be raised and was pleased that a redundant building is being brought into use.

7.2 Decisions.

The following decision was noted.

7.2.1 3PL/20185/1117/F-Fleetwell School Road-alterations and extension.

N/O

Permission

8. Highways and Transport.

8.1 Report on Highways Matters.

The Clerk reported that the Community Rangers should have been in the parish the week commencing 26 October but he had received no report from the Highways Department who will be contacted again. The road outside the Chapel at the junction of High House Road and Chapel Lane had been reported and a pothole had been repaired and a larger permanent patch had been programmed. The Community rangers are due in the parish again at the end of January.

8.2 New problems.

The Highways Department is to be requested to side out Chapel Lane as it did on High House Road as the road is becoming narrower. The footway between Beech Road and Elmham Road needs inspection and repair.

8.3 Footpaths.

The footpath, FP17, had been cleared of vegetation and the fallen bough cleared.

8.4 Local Highway Improvement 2016/17.

The Highways Engineer had confirmed that the cost of a trod at East Bilney would be £5600 of which the Parish Council would have to pay 50%.

Councillor Mayhew proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that a bid be put in for a trod on Fakenham Road East Bilney at a cost of £2800. All were in favour.

The next item was discussed after Matters for Report to allow the County Councillor to leave.

8.5 20m.p.h. Speed Limit at Elmham Road/ Fakenham Road Crossroads.

The Clerk had received an e-mail from the Highways Engineer. He stated that he acknowledged the concerns in this location.

He stated in his e-mail the following :- "I have reviewed this recently in respect to parking on Elmham Road. I have reviewed the information available to me which relates to personal injury accident records and references to our speed management strategy. The accident history may involve more incidents than our records indicate, our records do however only record incidents where there has been an injury. With this in mind, this junction has a level of incidents in line with that which we would expect.

The speed watch data shows an 80% compliance with the existing 30mph limit. This along with the accident data does not demonstrate the requirement for a change in speed limit.

With regard to the advance signing on all approaches, there is adequate signing to warn of the crossroads and the school on Elmham Road. Flashing wig-wag signs also indicate peak

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times. At this stage NCC have no plans to add to these signs, I would however support a part funded bid to have the wig-wag signs updated to include an advisory "20mph when lights flash" sign."

He had confirmed that the cost of the two new signs would be £5000 for which the Parish Council would pay 50%. The County Councillor will check if it is possible to have a sign on the existing poles as there are already flashing lights at this point.

The Beetley Community Speedwatch Coordinator had been advised of the Highways Engineer's proposals and felt that the signs would be an improvement. He suggested whether part funding could be obtained from the School and the Camera Partnership Scheme.

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris withdrew from the meeting after this item

9. Beetley River Meadows.

9.1 Report.

There were no problems reported. The contractors had been instructed to replace the fencing and to install the new gates. The panel on the bear bin in the play area does not appear to have been locked in place and the Clerk will investigate.

10. Open Spaces.

10.1 Problems.

There were no problems to report. A get well card is to be sent to Horace Bloy who is the Chairman of the Beetley Common Advisory Committee following his operation on his knee.

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 Donation to Beetley and East Bilney Parochial Church Council.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that £150 be donated to assist with the maintenance of the churchyards. All were in favour.

11.3 Balances and Cheques for Authorisation.

Councillor Richmond 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 31 08 15	32075.31
Receipts- Interest-2.08	
Breckland Community Car- 64.80	66.88
	32142.19
Less cheques authorised 01 10 15	1633.22
Balance at 31 10 15	30508.97
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 03 09 15-130.00	
unrepresented cheques authorised 01 11 15-707.35	837.35
Balance at 01 11 15	29671.22
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	200.00
Balance at 01 11 15	29871.22

Amount available for Section 137 : $1162 \times £7.36 = £8552.32$

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Spend to Date : £25.00

Cheques for authorisation:

644	B J Leigh	Contract Nov 441.00 plus back pay 01 04 15-31 10 15 24 hours @ 9.551 per hour less PAYE 134.00	536.22
645	HMRC	PAYE Nov	134.00
646	Abacus	Monthly Contract- Oct-18.08. Printing of Beetley Buzz in colour-48.00	66.08
647	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car Nov	219.15
648	Eastern Office Equipment	Stationery	8.99
649	Mid Norfolk Citizens' Advice Bureau	Donation	100.00
650	B J Leigh	Contract Dec 441.00 less PAYE 88.20	352.80
651	HMRC	PAYE Dec	88.20
652	Beetley PCC	Donation	150.00
653	Norse Eastern Ltd	Flailing of large field	342.00
654	B J Leigh	Christmas Cards-7.50 Gift for Beetley Buzz editor and Assistant Community car Coordinator-16.00	23.50
655	Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall	Hall Hire	36.00
656	Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership	167.00

11.4 Precept.

11.4.1 To consider amending the method of payment to the Village Hall.

The Chairman wished to show an amount in the budget as a donation to the Village Hall. A lengthy discussion followed as the amount to be shown could not be quantified. Councillor O'Donovan had thought that the request was from the Village Hall Management Committee.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that the method of payment remains as it had been the previous year in that the income from the textile bank be passed to the Village Hall. This was passed by a majority decision of four for and two against with one abstention. Councillor Richmond voted against the resolution only because the amount of the income from the textile bank was not known at this time.

11.4.2 Precept.

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

12. Correspondence received for circulation.

The following correspondence would be circulated.

12.1

Details from Breckland Town and Parish Forum

12.2

Letter from Gooch's Charity

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13. Matters for the Next Meeting.

13.1 Bus service.

13.2 Gooch's Charity.

13.3 Publication of Information in Dereham and Fakenham Times.

13.4 Local Plan.

14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 4 February 2016 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2225 hours.