

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON
THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2016 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

District Councillor R Duffield
District Councillor R Richmond

3 Parishioners

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from County Councillor M Kiddle Morris.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

Councillors R Richmond and T Turner declared a DPI under Appendix A in Agenda Item 7.3 as both had submitted parcels of land for inclusion in the Local Plan.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 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.

District Councillor Duffield reported that the issue of devolution still rumbles on. He pointed out that one of the sites listed in the Local plan is actually in Gressenhall. He also informed the meeting that one leg of the bus shelter on Gressenhall Road has a leg that had corroded through. This will be investigated.

The Clerk reported on behalf of the County Councillor that the two bye elections held has resulted in a change of members of Committees and the Conservatives now have a majority on five committees including the Policy and Resources which sets the budget. This Committee is chaired by the Leader of the Council who is a Labour member. This may affect the setting of budgets in the future.

5. Fanthorpe's Wood.

The letter from Gooch's Charity had been circulated. Councillor Richmond stated that there did not appear to have been a problem with the maintenance of the path in the past few years and the Parish Council had not been informed about the additional signage until there was a problem. There is no foundation in the assertion from the Charity that residents of Beetley had caused the damage. The letter had requested that the Parish Council pay the cost of a replacement post and that the path which is a permissive path may be closed if the Parish Council does not contribute.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that the Parish Council does not pay for the replacement post. All were in favour.

The Clerk reported that he had informed the Charity that a section of its post and rail fence had been damaged. This had been repaired by the Charity and the Charity informed the Clerk that it had received complaints about the state of the footpath from Beech Road to Beetley River Meadows. The Clerk had responded that this is a PROW and is therefore the responsibility of Norfolk County Council to maintain. He also informed the Charity that the Parish Council has always maintained the footpath around the meadows and not relied on Norfolk County Council to maintain it. He also informed it that he had received no complaints regarding the state of the path and that the Parish Council had had the footpath cleared of undergrowth.

6. Matters to Report.

6.1 Request for a Post Box near to Tavern Close.

Royal Mail had responded to the Clerk and had stated that the area had been reviewed in detail and that the area is well covered by post boxes so it does not propose to install an additional box. It was agreed not to pursue this matter further.

6.2 Faster Broadband.

The Clerk reported that he had received confirmation from the Programme Director Better Broadband for Norfolk that no fibre upgrade is planned for Old Beetley. The Government Satellite Scheme is now in place and this can be accessed via the website-if it is possible to connect to it. Further information about the areas to be covered by the additional funding from Breckland Council will be known in March. It was queried whether WiSpire would be installed at Beetley Church in the future and the Clerk will attempt to ascertain this.

6.3 Pavilion.

A site visit had been held on 1 February and it was felt that the roof needs re-felting. Three local builders will be requested to provide quotations. Some Councillors felt that more boughs need cutting back and a further meeting is to be held with Norfolk Woods and Hedges.

6.4 SNAP Meeting.

No meeting had been held in January and the meeting is now scheduled for 10 February. The meeting was cancelled as the Chairman was unavailable.

6.5 Bus Service in East Bilney.

Councillor Leigh reported that Norfolk County Council had replied to suggest a bus into Dereham at 0921 with an exemption on concessionary travel on this bus but not returning until 1430. This was felt to be too late for most people if they wish to shop in Dereham. This will be queried as would the times for a possible mini bus in Old Beetley which would collect at 0900 to connect with the 0921 bus to Dereham but would not return until 1445. It was agreed to invite Norfolk County Council to the meeting in March and a flyer will be distributed to Old Beetley to see if there is a consensus for a bus service. At this point no mention has been made of stopping at Church Road East Bilney and this will be clarified at the meeting.

6.6 Parish News in Dereham and Fakenham Times.

A lengthy discussion occurred on whether to put the extract of the minutes in the local newspaper. A vote was taken and it was agreed by a majority vote of the casting vote of the Chairman to send the extract to the Dereham and Fakenham Times. It was also agreed to distribute the Beetley Buzz to local businesses.

6.7 Freedom of Information request from Parkwood Leisure.

The Clerk had received a request to provide details of cultural and leisure facilities within the Parish which he had responded to.

6.8 Delivery of the Beetley Buzz to Birch Avenue.

Councillor Mayhew and Councillor O'Donovan had delivered and photographed the

delivery.

The Clerk had received a thank you from the Editor of the Beetley buzz for her Christmas gift which she stated was a kind thought.

6.9 Village Hall Christmas Event.

The Chairman reported that this had been a good evening and the electricity had been restored just in time for the event.

6.10 Training.

Councillor Turner will be booked in for initial training at Swaffham.

7. Planning.

7.1 Applications.

7.1.1 3PL/2015/1329/F-1 Beech road-extension to existing house.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Turner seconded the resolution that no objection be raised but to comment that the Parish Council wondered if a rendered finish would be suitable at this location. All were in favour.

7.2 Decisions.

The following decisions were noted and the reasons for the refusals were read out.

7.2.1 3PL/2015/1073/F-Hall Farm Barn Fakenham Road East Bilney-convert outbuilding and connect to dwelling for existing residential use.

N/O

Permission.

7.2.2 3PL/2015/1261/O-12 Beetley Grange-Residential Development.

O

Refusal.

7.2.3 3PL/2015/1114/O-Adjacent to 65 Fakenham Road-erection of dwelling

O

Refusal.

The following item was taken as the last item on the agenda so that Councillors Richmond and Turner would not have to leave the meeting whilst it was being discussed.

7.3 Consultation on the Breckland Local Plan Preferred Directions.

Councillors Richmond and Turner withdrew from the meeting.

The Local Plan was discussed at length and the following was agreed as the response from the Parish Council.

The following questions which were related to policies were agreed as per the proposed policies of Breckland Council:- Questions 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20-42 inclusive.

Question 2 was decided that this should be agreed on Demographic and economic scenario not on the housing needs scenario.

Question 3 –the response should highlight the concerns of adequate spaces at schools and doctors surgery and that Beetley is in three separate villages.

Question 5- the Parish Council would respond when the consultation on settlement boundaries is published but would highlight that no mention is made of settlement boundaries for Old Beetley or East Bilney.

Question 9-agreed provided that the residents stay within the law on planning and that Breckland Council do not let the boundaries be stretched.

Question 18-it appears that there is no designated Open Space for Beetley and this will be queried.

The assessment of the proposed sites were all agreed with except that it would be pointed out that one is in Gressenhall and not Beetley.

7.4 Appeals.

7.4.1 Site Visits to Bittering Street and Stoney Lane.

Councillor Richmond had attended and had been allowed to speak by the Planning Inspector. All who had attended had been allowed to view their opinions. The decision is expected in the next month.

8. Highways and Transport.

8.1 Report on Highways Matters.

The Clerk had reported that there had been an instance of flytipping on School Road. He had requested that the Community Rangers clear the gully at the junction of B1146 and hall Road East Bilney, and reported a damaged junction sign on B1146 near to East Bilney Coachworks and that the marker posts at Church Road East Bilney had been damaged and need cleaning. Norfolk County Council had informed the Clerk that at this point the footway between Beech Road and Elmham Road does not need any remedial work but it will continue to be monitored. A complaint had been received about the parking on Church Road/School Road junction Old Beetley and Councillor Rose will talk to the owner of Dunwood. Considerable correspondence had occurred regarding Common and Peacock Lanes. Repairs have started on Peacock Lane but Common Lane has been damaged by the constant use of a tractor with a fork lift moving fodder. Norfolk County Council is unable to take any action against the landowner as it has no proof. It was agreed to write to the landowner concerned. Norfolk County Council had replied stating that Chapel Lane does not pose a problem at present that would necessitate siding out but it will continue to be monitored.

8.2 New problems.

The following will be reported to Norfolk County Council:-

1. The surface of the road on Church road Old Beetley outside Dunwood.
2. A pothole on high house Road.

A problem had arisen with 4x4 vehicles driving around Old Beetley on Fishers Lane and then onto Folly Lane. This will be in the extract of the minutes in the Beetley Buzz requesting that the police be contacted on the non-emergency number if it occurs again. It was reported that new gate had been sited at the Nurseries on Elmham Road and this will be reported to Enforcement at Breckland Council.

8.3 Footpaths.

Councillor Leigh reported that FP6 on East Bilney from River Lane had been blocked and where a hedge had been removed it is a mass of mud. Councillor Richmond who has responsibility for footpaths will investigate and if necessary Norfolk County Council will be contacted to ensure that this is reinstated as well as the finger post.

8.4 Local Highway Improvement 2016/17.

Confirmation had been received that the bid had been received and a decision will be made in March.

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

Nothing further had been received on this. It was queried if the new limit was enforceable and this will be clarified. It would only be on at school times and not holiday and the school will be requested to ensure that this is turned off at holiday times.

9. Beetley River Meadows.

9.1 Report.

A complaint had been received that the wider cutting of the paths was killing off the snowdrops. The parishioner had volunteered to move these so that they would again be on the edge of the paths. It was agreed to accept her offer and Councillor Mayhew said he

would assist. A complaint had also been received regarding the ruts caused when the dog bins are emptied. It was agreed to request Norse Eastern Ltd to deal with these when cutting starts. There are dogs being allowed in the play area and signs are to be erected and a note placed in the Beetley Buzz requesting that no dogs are allowed to wander into this area.

10. Open Spaces.

10.1 Problems.

The Clerk reported that he had complaints about driving across the open space near to the East Bilney bus shelter. He had seen the driver there and had requested that he does not drive across in future.

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 and Cheques for Authorisation.

Councillor Rose 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 10 15	30508.97
Receipts- Interest-2.61	
Breckland Community Car- 95.68	
UK Power Networks-Wayleave-79.32	
Interest-2.62	
Beetley Village Hall Play inspection-78.00	
Mr Day donation-5.00	<u>263.23</u>
	30772.20
Less cheques authorised 03 09 15- 130.00	
cheques authorised 01 11 15- 707.35	
cheques authorised 03 12 15-2020.94	<u>2858.29</u>
Balance at 31 12 15	27913.91
Less un-presented cheques authorised 03 12 15	<u>203.00</u>
Balance at 31 12 15	27710.91
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	<u>200.00</u>
Balance at 31 12 15	27910.91

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

Spend to Date : £25.00

Cheques for authorisation:

657	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car December	118.15
658	B J Leigh	Contract Jan 441.00 less 3 hours back pay overcharged @ 9.551 per hour-28.65-412.35 less PAYE 82.60	329.75
659	HMRC	PAYE Jan	82.60
660	Abacus	Monthly Contract- Nov	4.00
661	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car January	277.45

662	Beetley Village Hall	Hall Hire	36.00
663	Eastern Office Equipment	Stationery	14.95
664	Norse Eastern Ltd	Strimming of footpath	66.00
665	G & G Fencing	New fence for Basketball Pitch.	5304.00
666	Information Commissioner	Data Protection	35.00
667	Ms. Julia Bloomfield	Website maintenance 2015	55.00

11.3 Grass Cutting 2016.

Councillor Mayhew proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that the quotation from Norse Eastern Ltd for £1588.04 plus VAT be accepted for a three year contract. The increase for the next two years would be no more than 2%. All were in favour.

11.4 Donation to Norfolk Age UK.

It was agreed unanimously not to donate.

12. Correspondence received for circulation.

The following correspondence would be circulated.

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| 12.1 | Beetley and East Bilney PCC. |
| 12.2 | Mid Norfolk CAB. |
| 12.3 | LCR Winter 2015. |
| 12.4 | Dereham and district Team Ministry. |
| 12.5 | Clerks and Councils Directs January 2016 |

13. Matters for the Next Meeting.

- 13.1 **Speedwatch.**
- 13.2 **Clerk's salary.**
- 13.3 **Audit.**

14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 3 March 2016 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2244 hours.