

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON
THURSDAY 3 MARCH 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 T Turner

District Councillor R Duffield
District Councillor R Richmond

1 Parishioner

Prior to the Parish Council meeting there was a meeting with Norfolk County Council and Konect regarding a bus service through East Bilney. In attendance were Niki Park of Norfolk County Council, Steve Royal from Konect and six parishioners. Councillor Leigh outlined the current situation in that the Parish Council felt that the 1430 return from Dereham was too late and requested a return at 1230. Norfolk County Council confirmed that it had not received an answer from Konect on this. It was suggested that possibly not all days would be covered but Konect stated that if it was going to do it it would be every day. Steve Royal stated that it was "doable" but it needed checking and he would report to the Parish Council. There needs to be a 56 day consultation so if it is to start about the late Spring Bank holiday the notice needs to be raised prior to Easter.

After the meeting about East Bilney a service in Old Beetley was discussed and Norfolk County Council will consider the timings to coincide with the school bus and also possibly a dial-a-bus Norfolk County Council will confirm to the Parish Council any proposals.

In the public part of the Parish Council meeting a parishioner raised the matter of speeding along High House Road and who owns the verges in front of the properties. The Clerk stated that he would site the SAM2 sign to record the speeds and would check with Highways on the ownership of the verges.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Rose who was unwell and these were accepted. Apologies for absence had also been received from County Councillor M Kiddle Morris.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

Councillor R Richmond declared a DPI under Appendix A in Agenda Items 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.1.4 and 7.1.5 being the landowner on whose land the site is based. Councillor Leigh declared a DPI under Appendix A in Agenda item 11.3 being the wife of the Clerk.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Turner seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2016 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 Clerk read out the report from the County Councillor.

Budget:

The County Councils budget for the year 2016/17 was set at the meeting of full Council held on 22nd February. The Conservative opposition was able to make suggestions to the leader of the Council on a more benign budget that would save some of the front line services that had been threatened with cuts. The budget that was presented to Council was a result of negotiations between all parties. It was agreed to increase the Council Tax by 1.99% however, the Government has recognised that Norfolk has one of the fastest growing population of residents between the ages of 70 and 85 which is placing a huge financial pressure on care for the elderly and has allowed a further Tax increase of 2%, the proceeds of which, £6.2m, will be ring fenced for adult social services. Therefore the total Tax increase for 2016/17 will be 3.99%.

By raising the general Council Tax by 1.99% we have been able to prevent any library closures, reverse the proposed closure of fire stations, increase (by £1.5m) the highways pothole budget, restore recycling centres to their previous opening hours and restore all the proposed cuts to the Norfolk Museums Service and the Norfolk Record Office.

An additional £7m over the next 2 years has been given to Norfolk County Council by the Government. This was announced only a week prior to the Council Tax setting meeting and has not been subject to discussions by the Service Committees which will have to allocate the extra funding.

Devolution:

The Government is keen to devolve some powers to local areas and invited bids some time ago from interested counties to outline what powers they would like devolved.

Norfolk and Suffolk together proposed a combined authority which it was hoped would have control of infrastructure investment especially road and rail improvements, accelerating housing delivery, skills training, business support and health and social care provision. (Not a full list but it gives a flavour of what is intended).

The direction of travel with this project changes daily, if not hourly. In the latest talk with Government they have indicated that a Norfolk/Suffolk combined authority would be too small and have insisted that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Unitary should join Norfolk and Suffolk to form an "Eastern Powerhouse". Talks are continuing.

The proposed combined authority would not replace any of the County Councils or indeed the District Councils but would be a separate entity. The governance arrangements of the combined authority are unclear at the moment however government is insisting that it should be lead by an elected "mayor" who would be the single point of contact with Government.

District Councillor Duffield reported that the District Councils will only get the leftovers from devolution. It is more likely to go ahead if Cambridge and Peterborough Unitary are part of it. Breckland Council is trying to get the best for the area. He mentioned the appeals and that costs had not been awarded against Breckland Council. Councillor O'Donovan queried why business rates have been increased to existing businesses but new businesses are getting concessions. She stated that this appears unfair as after the initial period many of these businesses disappear never having paid a business rate.

5. Proposed Bus service.

It was agreed to proceed on the basis of the meeting and the new information will be

circulated as soon as received so that the consultation could start. Steve Royal, the Operations Manager for Konect Bus will confirm to the Clerk what the bus service will be for East Bilney prior to Easter. Norfolk County Council will also reply to the Clerk regarding Old Beetley prior to Easter.

6. Matters to Report.

6.1 Pavilion.

A further site visit had been held with Norfolk Woods and Hedges and further boughs will be cut back. The quotations had been requested for the building work but so far only one had responded.

6.2 SNAP Meeting.

The meeting had been held on 10 February and the two priorities scheduled for the next two months are speeding traffic in Dereham and anti social behaviour in Dereham..

6.3 The Drift, East Bilney.

The Clerk reported that he had received several telephone calls and visits regarding the work being undertaken at No. 1 The Drift. The complaints have involved the possible development of the site, the change to the boundary lines, possible access onto The Drift and the burial of asbestos. The Clerk had informed all who had contacted him that at present the Parish Council does not know of any development and as all is taking place on private land nothing can be done. Both District Councillors have been involved and Breckland Council has looked into any breach of planning or environmental health and none has been found. The owner of the adjacent property has been informed of this. The dispute over the boundary lines is not a matter for the Parish Council and as the Drift is privately owned any access is a matter for the owners of the lane.

7. Planning.

7.1 Applications.

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

7.1.1 C/3/2016/3003-East Bilney Quarry- application for retrospective use of a site cabin as an office and mess facility.

7.1.2 C/3/2016/3002-East Bilney Quarry-variation of conditions 1 and 5 of permission C/3/2013/3009 to allow the continued use of the secured storage compound until 31 December 2029 and restoration in accordance with approved scheme for wider site.

7.1.3 C/3/2016/3006-East Bilney Quarry- variation of conditions 1 and 5 of permission C/3/2013/3011 to allow the continued use of the secured storage compound until 31 December 2029 and restoration in accordance with approved scheme for wider site.

7.1.4 C/3/2016/3005-East Bilney Quarry-use of a fenced security compound with Storage container, bund oil storage tank and floodlights.

7.1.5 C/3/2016/3004-East Bilney Quarry- variation of condition 1 of permission C/3/2013/3010 to allow the continued use of an area for the recycling of inert construction and demolition waste until 31 December 2029.

The Chairman decided to take all the above five applications together as they are all connected with the new site that has been granted permission.

Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that no objection be raised to these applications as it would be preferable to have the

processing plant remain in its current position. All were in favour.

Councillor Richmond rejoined the meeting.

7.1.6 3PL/2016/0100/HOU-55 Elmham Road-erection of a side single storey extension.

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

7.1.7 3PL/2016/0133/HOU-22 Ashley Road-extensions to either side of property and demolition of conservatory.

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

7.2 Decisions.

7.2.1 3PL/2015/1329/F-1 Beech Road-extension to existing house.

N/O Permission.

7.3 Appeals.

7.3.1 APP/F2605/W/15/3133390-Bittering Street-Erection of two detached four bedroom dwellings with garages and gardens.

O Dismissed

7.3.2 APP/F2605/W/15/3133379-Stoney Lane-Erection of two detached, two storey dwellings with associated garages and gardens.

O Dismissed

7.4 Consultation on the Breckland Local Plan Preferred Directions.

The response had all been forwarded to Breckland Council.

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 at the last meeting but this had not been cleared. He had contacted Breckland Council again and the flytipping had been cleared including some additional that had been tipped as well. The Highway Rangers will be in the Parish in April and the Clerk will request again for items to be dealt with. There will be road closure in Gressenhall and the diversion route will bring vehicles into Beetley at the southern end of the village. The Clerk had visited Common and Peacock Lanes with the County Councillor and he will contact the Highways Engineer to ensure the lane is repaired. The lane is classed as a farm track and as such is not liable for maintenance. It is hoped that some maintenance will be carried out.

8.2 New problems.

The following will be reported to Norfolk County Council:-

The Old Beetley sign on Church Road has been damaged.

A parishioner had contacted the Clerk to enquire about litter picking in the parish as there appears to have been a build up on many roads. The Clerk had informed her that to arrange a litter pick on the roads needed a risk assessment and this precluded the undertaking before. She said she would pick up the litter when out walking and put in her wheelie bin. It was agreed to highlight the amount of litter in the Beetley Buzz and request that parishioners clear up if they are out walking.

8.3 Footpaths.

Councillor O'Donovan reported that the hedges are encroaching over FP15 from High House Road. The Clerk had contacted the County Councillor regarding FP6 in East Bilney from River Lane as a fence has now been erected blocking the definitive line of the path. It is believed that the Highways Inspector has been on site this week. The footpath to the rear of the church at Old Beetley needs to be monitored to ensure that it is passable.

8.4 20m.p.h. Speed Limit at Elmham Road/ Fakenham Road Crossroads.

It was confirmed that this would not be enforceable. The County Councillor will be contacted to enquire about the signs.

8.5 Speedwatch.

No report was given.

9. Beetley River Meadows.

9.1 Report.

The snowdrops had been moved. The new gates had been fitted but the posts to the side of the gates are not satisfactory and NGF Play will be contacted. The Clerk will obtain some dog signs for the play area.

10. Open Spaces.

10.1 Problems.

The bus shelter had been checked and a post and brace had rotted through. It was agreed to obtain a price for a temporary weld and to look into a new shelter as a possible Highway Partnership deal for 2017/18. The future maintenance of the East Bilney Town Lands needs to be considered so that arrangements can be put in place before the area becomes overgrown.

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 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 31 12 15	27913.91
Receipts- Interest-2.24	
Breckland Community Car- 121.18	
Transparency Code-123.84	
Tittleshall P.C.-27.83	
Beeston with Bittering P.C.-27.83	
Horningtoft P.C.-27.83	<u>330.75</u>
	28244.66
Less cheques authorised 03 12 15-203.00	
cheques authorised 04 02 16-118.15	<u>321.15</u>
Balance at 31 01 16	27923.51
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 04 02 16	<u>6204.75</u>
Balance at 04 02 16	21718.76
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	<u>200.00</u>
Balance at 31 12 15	21918.76

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

Spend to Date : £25.00

Cheques for authorisation:

668	B J Leigh	Contract Feb 441.00 less PAYE 88.20	352.80
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669	HMRC	PAYE Feb	88.20
670	Abacus	Monthly Contract- Jan	16.63
671	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car February	215.55
672	Eastern Office Equipment	Stationery	14.95
673	Anton Crisp	Hedge Cutting at Town Lands	192.00
674	B J Leigh	Postage-September 2015-February 5 2016-11.53 Mileage-September 2015-January 2016 74 miles @ .45 per mile-33.30 Telephone April 2015- March 2016-48.00	92.83
675	Village Hall	Hall Hire	36.00
676	Norfolk Parishes Training Partnership	Introductory Course for Councillor T Turner	45.00

Councillor Leigh withdrew from the meeting.

11.3 Clerk's Contract.

Councillor Turner proposed and Councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that the Clerk's contract for 2016/17 will remain at SCP20 at 9.90 per hour for 43 hours per month plus £200 for the use of home as office. The mileage rate is also to remain at 45 pence per mile but the telephone charge is to increase to £55 per annum. All were in favour.

Councillor Leigh rejoined the meeting.

11.4 External Audit.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that the Parish Council does not opt out of the new arrangements for the audit for smaller councils. All were in favour.

12. Correspondence received for circulation.

The following correspondence would be circulated.

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| 12.1 | Norfolk ALC |
| 12.2 | Clerks and Councils Direct March 2016 |
| 12.3 | Queen's birthday Medal. |

13. Matters for the Next Meeting.

13.1 Councillors Responsibilities on the Website.

14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 7 April 2016 to follow the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.00p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2115 hours.