

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON
THURSDAY 7 JULY 2016 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present

Councillor J Baldwin (Chair)
Councillor A Leigh
Councillor J Mayhew
Councillor R Richmond
Councillor M Rose
Councillor T Turner

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris
District Councillor R Richmond

One member of the public

In the part open to the public the member of the public explained that he wished to clarify some inaccuracies regarding 1 The Drift East Bilney. He stated that his family had 70 years of connection with East Bilney and he wished to maintain the rural appeal of the village. At present no decision had been reached over any development at 1 The Drift but the Parish Council would be kept informed.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor O'Donovan who had another engagement and these were accepted. Apologies for absence had also been received from District Councillor R Duffield

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

Councillor Leigh declared a DPI under Appendix A in Agenda Item 11.3 being the wife of the Clerk. Councillor Turner declared a DPI under Appendix A in Agenda item 7.4 having submitted a parcel of land in to the Local Plan.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 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 County Councillor reported that Norfolk County Council decided to consult on devolution. Three Councils in Norfolk had decided not to consult. The consultation will be from 8 July until 19 August. Information will be sent to all households for comment. The results will be forwarded to the Secretary of State who will then decide if devolution will continue and then Councils will have to sign up to it. This would allow it to pass through Parliament in time for an election for Mayor in May 2017.

District Councillor Richmond stated that Breckland Council had voted not to consult but the Council can go back in October and sign up for it. He confirmed that he had voted to stay in the consultation as there is only a few months left and it would be better to be able to discuss rather than be left out in the cold.

5. Community Car Scheme.

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Breckland Council which is reviewing the funding of all Community Car schemes. The contract that Beetley Parish Council agreed in 2011 was to receive £750 maximum payment from Breckland Council. In the last two years Beetley Parish Council had received £1200 and £1100 . The Clerk had spoken to Breckland Council and he informed it that the funding should be increased to £1200. He was informed that this would be considered by Breckland Council. Councillor Richmond informed the meeting that this problem had occurred in other Parishes and he will clarify with the Communities Officer.

6. Matters to Report.

6.1 Pavilion.

A quotation had been received that day for the repairs and all Councillors were given a copy. This will be discussed in September.

6.2 Bus Services.

Councillor Rose reported that 6, 7 and 4 parishioners had used the bus in Old Beetley in the first three weeks. The only problem was that an incorrect time had been given out by Norfolk County Council for the return journey but this had been amended in the Beetley Buzz. The service had worked well and the driver had offered to collect and return one parishioner from her house if it was raining.

Councillor Leigh stated that 4 used the service in East Bilney the first week, 5 in the second but was unable to be at the shelter for the third week. Unfortunately the bus was late on the second week. The details were placed in the Beetley Buzz to inform residents of Beetley that they could be picked up and returned on Fakenham Road.

It was hoped that the services would continue to be used.

6.3 To consider attendance at the AGM of Community Action Norfolk on Wednesday 20 July at 4 p.m.

Councillor Richmond will be attending.

6.4 To consider nominating a recreational space for Centenary Fields Programme.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that Beetley River Meadows be nominated to be included as a Centenary Field. All were in favour.

6.5 To consider a request to place a sign for Otters Mead at the junction of Holt Road and Elmham Road.

It was unanimously agreed not to grant permission for a sign on the Former Highways Surveyors Pit at the junction of Elmham Road and Holt Road.

6.6 To consider attendance at meeting with PCC 21 July at 1730 at Breckland Council.

Councillor Richmond will be attending.

6.7 To consider attendance at Norfolk ALC Summer Seminar 28 July 1000 to 1600 at Diss.

No one would be attending.

6.8 To receive a report from the devolution briefing.

The Chairman had attended this and reported that this was a very informative meeting with an excellent speaker from Norfolk County Council. The basic facts are that all information from local Councils would be fed back to one organisation to process and decide on the distribution of funds. Unfortunately there are still many questions that remain unanswered.

6.9 St Mary's C.P. School.

The Clerk informed the members that the school is proposing to convert to an academy which will be a Multi Academy trust with a number of local schools. At present this includes Beetley, Litcham and Great Dunham Primary Schools. The school is consulting on this but it was decided not to respond.

7. Planning.

7.1 Applications.

7.1.1 3PL/2016/0607/HOU-Blueberry Hill Halfpenny Lane-3 bay detached garage with workshop above.

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

7.1.2 3PL/2016/0767/HOU-Shillingstone Church Road-remove flat roof and erect hipped roof over, install new window to en-suite & minor alterations.

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

7.2 Decisions.

The following decisions were noted.

7.2.1 3PL/2016/0261/F-Garden Plot Adjacent Highfield Farm Church Road East Bilney-erection of dwelling and garage. O Refusal.

7.2.2 3PL/2016/0470/F- Woad Barn Rawhall Lane-change of use of workshop (B1c) at the Woad Centre to Residential (C3). O Withdrawn.

7.3 Appeals.

7.3.1 APP/F2605/W/16/3150789- 12 Beetley Grange Residential Development.

It was agreed to reiterate the response to Breckland Council to the Planning Inspector.

7.4 To consider attendance at Local Plan Working Group on 15 July.

Councillor Turner withdrew from the meeting.

The Clerk reported that the agenda for the meeting on 11 July which was concerned with settlement boundaries had not proposed any change to this although in the previous consultation a plot of land on Fakenham Road had been proposed for development and accepted. It was agreed to await the agenda for 15 July and see what was being proposed and then a written response sent as well as Councillor Mayhew and the Clerk attending the meeting.

Councillor Turner rejoined the meeting.

8. Highways and Transport.

8.1 Report on Highways Matters.

The Clerk reported that the update reports from Norfolk County Council are not comprehensible and the County Councillor is looking into this. The VAS sign in East Bilney had been reported as defective and this had been repaired. The vegetation near to the signs in East Bilney before the bridge on the south side had been cut back by East Bilney garage. Councillor Turner had cut back the vegetation round the VAS sign on Fakenham Road Beetley. The junction of B1145 and B1146 had been repaired.

8.2 New problems.

A Parishioner had contacted the Clerk regarding a problem with the verge outside her property on Elmham Road and the Clerk will visit the site to assess. She had requested a footway or trod at this point but it was felt that this would not be acceptable as there is a footway on the opposite side of the road. Norfolk County Council is to be requested to side out the footway along Fakenham Road to the entrance to Beetley River Meadows. The hedge on Elmham Road at No 1 needs cutting back and the owner will be written to. The hedge along the footway from High House Road to Halfpenny Lane needs cutting and the landowner will be requested to do this.

8.3 Footpaths.

The Clerk had contacted the landowner regarding the footpath FP14 from High House Road to Chapel Lane and FP10 from Field Lane to School Road to have these cleared. The blocking of the definitive line of FP6 in East Bilney had again been reported. Councillor Richmond had checked the footpaths in East Bilney and had found that these are generally in a poor state. FP7 from Church Road to the rear of the church is impassable, FP4 has heavy foliage both sides, FP2 is impassable and CRB1 is very good at the start but is blocked nearer to Brisley. CRB1 is the responsibility of the Parish Council and it was agreed to request Ady's Wood Splitting to clear this at the same time as he undertakes more maintenance on the Town lands. The remainder will be reported to Norfolk County Council. It was agreed to thank the landowners in Old Beetley and at East Bilney who maintain their paths correctly.

Councillor O'Donovan had attended the Parish paths seminar organised by the Norfolk Local Access Forum which is an advisory body established under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000. The speakers were the footpath warden for Dereham who gave information about his work. Matt Worden from Norfolk County Council explained the role of the highways department in rights of way. All highways are to be maintained which means that there is not a responsibility to improve or ensure safety. All questions seemed to be passed over although most attendees wanted answers to these. Norfolk Ramblers has the ability to clear high brambles at cost of travel and a donation. Unfortunately Councillor O'Donovan was not present at the Parish Council meeting so her notes were difficult to relay to the members. The Clerk informed the meeting that he had an offer to look into the old rights of way in the parish which are not on the definitive map. For this service there would be a charge of £25 per hour. The date for trying to modify the definitive map is 2026. It was agreed not to take up the offer.

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

The County Councillor has not had a response regarding a modification to the sign.

8.5 Speedwatch.

Councillor Leigh reported that a resident of East Bilney and Councillor Leigh had devised a flier that had been attached to the Beetley Buzz when it was delivered to residents in East Bilney.

Councillor Leigh had also spoken to several residents and 6 volunteers had so far come forward. The Speedwatch co-ordinator had been contacted and a meeting is being arranged with him. If it is necessary to hold this in the Village Hall it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the cost of hiring the hall.

9. Beetley River Meadows.

9.1 Report.

Councillor Mayhew reported that he had repaired the fence that had become detached from the rails. A resident had responded to the notice in the Beetley Buzz regarding litter and had offered to pick this up regularly. This was kindly accepted and the Clerk is to respond to her and to ensure that if she has to purchase any gloves or bags then the Parish Council will reimburse her. The Environment Agency had sent a leaflet to the Parish Council informing it of its maintenance programme and confirmed that the Wendling Beck had been weed sprayed which the Parish Council had requested. The leaflet will be circulated. It appears that no grass cutting had been undertaken for a month and the contractor will be contacted.

10. Open Spaces.

10.1 Problems.

The Patch at Old Beetley had not been cut for a month and the contractor will be contacted. The Beetley Common Advisory Committee had contacted the Clerk to inform him that a tree had fallen across a path. He confirmed with the Committee that it could be removed.

10.2 East Bilney Town Lands.

It was agreed unanimously to have another cut done at the Town Lands by Ady's Wood Splitting Services for £180 as before. UK Power Networks is to be contacted regarding the damage it has caused to the Town Lands with their vehicles and that no permission had been sought for them to go onto the land.

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 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 30 04 16 | 26415.71 |
| Plus Interest-2.12 | |
| Breckland Recycling 1449.59 | <u>1451.71</u> |
| | 27867.42 |
| Less cheques authorised 03 03 16-2800.00 | |
| Cheques authorised 12 05 16-993.38 | <u>3793.38</u> |
| Balance at 31 05 16 | 24074.04 |
| Less unpresented cheques authorised 12 05 16-78.20 | |
| unpresented cheques authorised 02 06 16-2598.16 | <u>2676.36</u> |
| Balance at 02 06 16 | 21397.68 |
| Float for Community Car co-ordinator | <u>250.00</u> |
| Balance at 02 06 16 | 21647.68 |

Amount available for Section 137 : 1148 x £7.42 = £8518.16

Spend to Date : £0.00

Cheques for authorisation:

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------|
| 702 | B J Leigh | Contract June 441.00 less PAYE 78.40 | 362.60 |
| 703 | HMRC | PAYE June | 78.40 |
| 704 | Mrs A Leigh | Community Car June | 158.80 |
| 705 | Eastern Office Equipment | Stationery | 14.95 |
| 707 | Abacus Copiers | Monthly Contract | 19.76 |
| 708 | Beetley Village Hall | Hall Hire | 54.00 |
| 709 | Ady's Wood Splitting Services Ltd | Maintenance at East Bilney Town Lands | 180.00 |
| 710 | B J Leigh | Contract July 441.00 less PAYE-78.40 | 362.60 |
| 711 | HMRC | PAYE July | 78.40 |
| 712 | Robertson's Mole Control | Mole Clearance | 120.00 |
| 713 | Beetley Village Hall | Income from Textile Bank | 1049.14 |

11.3 Clerk's Salary.

Councillor Leigh withdrew from the meeting.

The Clerk stated that he felt that in the light of recent appointments of clerks with his experience he would like to be on a higher Spinal Column Point. The new pay scales for the National Salary Award had been circulated.

Councillor Mayhew proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that the Clerk 's salary be increased to SCP25 with effect from 1 August for 43 hours per month. Three hours of this will be claimed back from the Transparency Fund. The rate for the year to 31 March 2017 would be £11.66 per hour and from 1 April 2017 £11.777 per hour. In addition the Clerk would received £200 for the use of his home as office and £50 for the use of the telephone and broadband and any mileage at 45 pence per mile. All were in favour.

Councillor Leigh rejoined the meeting.

11.4 Distribution of the Income from the Textile bank.

Councillor Rose requested that this be deferred until the September meeting so that all figures for the repairs to the pavilion and possible additional funding needed for the Community Car could be assessed. She also would like to know what the Village Hall want to use the income for. Councillor Richmond felt that this money should be paid to the Village Hall now. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had passed a resolution to transfer the income to the Village Hall in November 2013.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the distribution be deferred. This was defeated on the casting vote of the Chairman- Councillors Leigh, Rose and Mayhew voted to defer and Councillors Baldwin, Richmond and Turner voted against deferring.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Turner seconded the resolution that the income from the textile bank of £1049.14 be sent to the Village Hall. This was carried on the casting vote of the Chairman- Councillors Baldwin, Richmond and Turner voted for the resolution and Councillors Leigh, Rose and Mayhew against.

12. Correspondence received for circulation.

The following correspondence would be circulated.

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 12.1 | LCR Summer 2016. |
| 12.2 | Clerks and Councils Direct July 2016. |
| 12.3 | Beetley Common Advisory Committee. |
| 12.4 | Environment Agency. |

12. Matters for the Next Meeting.

- 12.1 Pavilion.**
- 12.2 Bus Service.**

14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 1 September 2016 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 22.33 hours.