

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON  
THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2017 AT 7.45 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

12 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.**

Councillor Richmond declared a DPI in Agenda items 5.1 and 5.6 having submitted a parcel of land into the Local Plan and Councillor Turner declared DPI in Agenda item 5.1 being the owner of the land.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2017 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 the current committee system is to be considered at the full Council meeting on 10 April to see if it is possible to revert to the Cabinet system. Elections are to be held on 4 May for all the County Council seats.

District Councillor Duffield reported that the flooring in the pavilion is due to be laid the following week.

District Councillor Richmond reported that at the full Council meeting that day he had spoken to the Leader and thanked him for staying to answer questions at the Town and Parish Forum which had eventually brought to light the problems of the allocated housing in Thetford. The utilities had not been put in place and there is reluctance for people to live there. This is why other areas have to have additional housing.

**5. Planning.**

**5.1 Request to the Parish council to change its decision on the land to adjacent to 78 Fakenham Road.**

The meeting was adjourned.

A parishioner proposed that the Parish Council formally withdraw their support for the land adjacent to 78 Fakenham Road and its proposal for a change in the Settlement Boundary to include site LP(007)003 and that this decision is reversed.

The rationale for the original change and inclusion at the PC meeting when it was discussed in 2016 was that the PC didn't want Breckland Council to force a change on the Parish for a piece of land that they didn't agree with, so offered up a piece of land as above.

As the current land bank for the area appears to be sufficient as acknowledged from a report to the Planning Committee on 12/12/16 this piece of land is not required and Breckland Council is unlikely to be forcing the Parish Council to include any other land areas within the Parish.

Also the Local Development Framework stated that the existing settlement boundary remains logical, in line with the criteria of PD05A and therefore should be maintained.

In addition, the amenity offered to this part of the village of this piece of agricultural land in its current form is very positive.

Also the various submissions relating to the planning application also highlight the positive aspects of the hedgerow and trees fronting the piece of land and also the extensive bird and diverse wildlife that inhabit this area.

Councillor Turner read out a statement regarding the site and stated that in 2002 the then owners requested that this land be included for housing. This site has been submitted in both the LDF and Local Plan. In October 2012 Beetley Parish Council passed a resolution that the parcel of land along Fakenham Road be included in the LDFG for development. In October 2016 the Parish Council re-iterated its request to amend the settlement boundary to incorporate the possible housing site. The land bank has been challenged and that PD05A can work for and against the Parish Council. The last paragraph of the parishioner's letter refers to a planning application and not the Local Plan.

Councillor Richmond felt that the Parish Council had been responsible in its response.

Councillors Richmond and Turner withdrew from the meeting.

The meeting was re-convened.

Councillor Rose stated that she was not in favour of changing the Parish Council's view as the Parish Council should be able to specify where development is to take place and not have housing in areas that are not acceptable to the Parish Council. Councillor Leigh stated that the Parish Council has always been against back garden development and if no area is submitted by the Parish Council in the duration of the Local Plan this could well happen. She also felt that this site is a natural infill and stated the houses to the south had been an infill when erected. Breckland Council had also felt that this site could be developed in the future as the numbering on Fakenham Road goes from 54 to 78 with numbering left for 12 houses. The parishioners present were asked if they felt that this was natural infill and there were no objections to this site. Both Councillors Mayhew and O'Donovan felt that this was a natural infill. The Clerk read out a challenge to the 5 year housing supply which stated that the number of houses built since October was short of the requirement and that the incorrect formula had been used. This challenge would mean that the targets for housing need to be amended and therefore there could be a further flurry of applications on inappropriate sites.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the Parish Council does not change its decision to support the site and to amend the settlement boundary. All were in favour.

Councillors Richmond and Turner rejoined the meeting.

## **5.2 Applications.**

### **5.2.1 3PL/2017/0204/HOU- St Fillians 40 Elmham Road-two storey side extension.**

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

**5.2.2 3PL/2017/0223/F-1 The Drift East Bilney-replacement of existing dwelling and garage.**

The meeting was adjourned.

A parishioner stated that there had been burial of asbestos on the site and that this should be recorded by Land Registry as contaminated land. She also stated that the building would overwhelm the plot and a bat survey should be carried. Another parishioner stated that the building is too large and there are drainage problems in the area which have been exacerbated by the new tarmac hard standing.

The meeting was re-convened.

Councillor Mayhew stated that the size of the dwelling is too large for the plot and that there are flooding and drainage problems adjacent to this site which would become greater if a dwelling of this size is erected. Councillor Leigh did not see why the building has to be demolished-why could it not be renovated. The dimensions given on the plans are not exactly correct as the footprint of the garage has been included twice and the new dwelling only utilises part of the old curtilage.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the application be objected to because of the size and that it is not necessary to demolish and there would be increased flooding risks. It would also be stated that a bat survey should be carried out. All were in favour.

**5.2.3 3PL/2017/0171/O- Conway 49 Elmham Road- new dwelling.**

Councillor Mayhew stated that this is garden development again and would result in another dwelling being squashed in. There has already been one dwelling erected in the garden of the property.

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

**5.3 Decisions.**

The following decision was noted.

**5.3.1 3PL/2016/1554/O-Land adjacent to 78 Fakenham Road-residential development of 8 Houses.** O Refusal

**5.4 Enforcement.**

**5.4.1 To receive a report on the complaint to Breckland Council regarding a possible breach of planning.**

Nothing had been heard from Breckland Council regarding the toilet block on School Road. The Clerk had also reported a new access to Beetley Nurseries in contravention of the planning permission granted for the sales area.

**5.5 To receive a report regarding flooding on a field to the rear of Fakenham Road.**

The Clerk is to meet the Internal Drainage Board in May.

**5.6 Appeals**

**5.6.1 APP/F2605/C/16/3163533-Beetley Nurseries Elmham Road.**

The letter as circulated had been sent to the Planning Inspector.

**6. Matters to Report.**

**6.1 SNAP Meeting.**

Councillors Richmond, Leigh and the Clerk had attended and had managed to put the point of view of the Parish Council to the police. The three priorities for the next two months are

cycling on pavements in Dereham, speeding in villages and it was agreed by the police that this would be concentrated on Beetley, East Bilney and Yaxham, and Operation Gravity which is ongoing.

#### **6.2 Bus Services.**

There are no problems apart from the step stool and this will be raised with Norfolk County Council again. Three or four parishioners are using the bus from East Bilney each week and the bus from Old Beetley on a Friday is full.

#### **6.3 Pavilion.**

The floor should be laid the next week.

#### **6.4 Defibrillator for the Parish.**

The Clerk reported that he had met the Community HeartBeat Trust and it had confirmed the cost is about £1500 and the cost of electricity is about £20 per annum, consumables need to be replaced every two years at a cost of £35 and the battery after 4 years at a cost of £150. An application is to be made to the Lottery for funding.

#### **6.5 Digital Mapping.**

The clerk had downloaded all the new maps but now needs to purchase more ink for the colour printer.

#### **6.6 Registration of Land.**

The clerk had received the results of the search and there are several parcels of land not registered.

#### **6.7 Parking on the Trod at East Bilney.**

A letter had been sent to the parishioner requesting that parking does not occur on the trod as Norfolk County Council can not enforce no parking. A letter had been received from a parishioner which had been circulated to all Councillors.

The meeting was adjourned.

A lengthy discussion was held as it was felt that there is still, at times, obstruction although the parking is better than it was. The parishioner stated that parking had been on this land for years and there is no law to state that this is illegal. The Clerk explained that a footbridge had been looked into with the Highways engineer but he had stated that it was not feasible. No decision was made as to the future but the parking will continue to be monitored.

The meeting was re-convened.

#### **6.8 Community Car Scheme.**

Councillor Leigh reported that the proposed new reporting form had been withdrawn. This had been circulated to all Councillors. She stated that she would not continue as the co-ordinator if this had gone ahead. A new form had been circulated which does cause more work for the co-ordinators but not as onerous as the previous and there is less to send off to Norfolk Community Foundation. The Clerk reported that the funding from Breckland council will be paid in two tranches, one in April and the second in October. It is not clear how this will be checked as to whether there has been an overpayment or not.

#### **6.9 Town and Parish Forum 11 May.**

No one will be attending this as it is the same date as the next Parish Council meeting.

#### **6.10 Norfolk ALC Spring Conference 24 May.**

No one will be attending.

#### **6.11 Delivery of the Beetley Buzz.**

Councillor Leigh reported that a new lady who lives on Elmham Road would be doing High

House Road as the current deliverers are unwell at present. She also stated that she had been requested to stop delivering to Ferndale The Drift East Bilney.

## **7. Highways and Transport.**

### **7.1 Report on Highways Matters.**

The Clerk had received a telephone call from a resident who regularly collects litter from Elmham Road. There is a problem at present with what appears to be lunch wrappers being thrown onto the verge. It was agreed to put an article in the Beetley Buzz about this. The Clerk had also discussed the collection of the rubbish and the parishioner will contact Breckland Council to enquire if it can collect the rubbish when emptying the bins. It was agreed to write to the parishioner to thank her for clearing the litter. The marker posts near to the Alms Houses, the drain at the start of Hall Road East Bilney and the sapling near to the East Bilney sign had been reported and will be looked at. The Highways areas have changed and Beetley is now under Ketteringham and a new Highways Engineer, Paul Sellick. The tree opposite the bus shelter in East Bilney is being looked into. The Clerk had reported the flashing signs at the School which operate even in holiday time to Amey the street lighting contractor for Norfolk County Council, as the school have no information how to change the setting.

### **7.2 New problems.**

The Chairman will contact the owner of the field at the side of Bilney Hill to have the vegetation cut back as the sign is becoming obscured. The A47 consultation was not available at the library and Councillor Leigh had contacted Highways England who promised to send the pack out within 20 working days. This would mean it may be received after the consultation ends.

### **7.3 Footpaths.**

#### **7.3.1 Report**

The Clerk had received a response regarding the replacement of the footpath posts. Norfolk County Council will not allow a Parish Council to replace near to a highway. The Clerk had replied that the posts that are missing are all on private land. It was agreed not to proceed with replacing these by the Parish Council. The stiles had also been reported and the reply had stated that as there is no livestock in the fields these will not be replaced as it is the responsibility of the landowner. It was agreed to leave to rot away.

#### **7.3.2 Maintenance morning.**

As the posts are not going to be replaced this is not necessary.

#### **7.3.3 Walking of all Footpaths.**

The Clerk raised this as there are some footpaths that are not walked/ checked. He will prepare a list for these to be checked by Councillors.

### **7.4 20m.p.h. Speed Limit at Elmham Road/ Fakenham Road Crossroads.**

The County Councillor reported that a price is being obtained from Wescotec but he is concerned that this is for new signage not a wrap around sign and he will contact the Highways Engineer.

### **7.5 Local highway Partnership.**

#### **7.5.1 Local Highway Partnership 2016/17.**

The Clerk reported that the Highways Engineer had eventually agreed to extend the trod to the Cottage and will be improving the footway at the bridge.

#### **7.5.2 Local Highway Partnership 2017/18.**

The bid for a new bus shelter on Gressenhall Road had been refused as it is classed as a maintenance scheme not an improvement. Councillor Richmond will inspect the current shelter to see if any further maintenance is needed.

#### **7.5.3 Local Highway Partnership 2018/19.**

Councillor Leigh suggested that if this goes ahead for another year a trod alongside the B1146 to the bus shelter at East Bilney be applied for. There is also a need for a bus shelter on B1146 near to Beech Road and this will also be considered. A search is to be made to attempt to find the owner of this parcel of land.

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris withdrew from the meeting.

## **8. Beetley River Meadows.**

### **8.1 Report.**

There are no problems at present as the boughs have been moved. The only concern is the speed of the Serco vehicle crossing to empty the bins and Breckland Council will be contacted regarding this.

### **8.2 Cutting of Viewing Areas for the Duck Race.**

The Chairman confirmed that these will be cut free of charge by Norse and Councillor Mayhew will contact the Pre-School to confirm how many are needed.

### **8.3 New fencing around the Play area.**

Two quotations had been received which had been circulated.

Councillor Richmond proposed and councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that the quotation from Norse for £3001.60 plus VAT be accepted. All were in favour.

## **9. Open Spaces.**

### **9.1 Report.**

No problems were reported.

### **9.2 Norfolk Rivers Trust.**

The Clerk and the Beetley Common Advisory Committee had met on site with the Trust. The proposal from them is to drop some trees in to the river to promote better habitat. Localised flooding could occur. The Committee had raised concerns about the felling of trees, equipment moving across the Common and the flooding. Councillor Richmond stated that he was against the felling of trees

It was agreed unanimously not to proceed with any work with the trust.

### **9.3 East Bilney Town Lands.**

The Clerk circulated a financial statement since its inception. This showed that the expenditure had been £11546.45 and the income £12016.57. Councillor Richmond and the Clerk will visit the site to consider the maintenance for this year.

## **10. Finance.**

### **10.1 Budgets.**

The budget sheets and financial information had been circulated.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that these be approved. All were in favour.

### **10.2 Balances and Cheques for Authorisation.**

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Rose 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 01 17	23765.60
Plus Interest-2.06	
Norfolk Community Foundation C/Car-87.04	<u>89.10</u>
	23854.70
Less cheques authorised 02 02 17 -	<u>740.42</u>
Balance at 28 02 17	23114.28

Less	unpresented cheques authorised 06 10 16-6.00	
	unpresented cheques authorised 01 12 16-90.00	
	unpresented cheques authorised 02 03 17-1433.01	<u>1529.01</u>
	Balance at 02 03 17	21585.27
	Float for Community Car co-ordinator	<u>250.00</u>
	Balance at 02 03 17	21835.27

Amount available for Section 137 : 1148 x £7.57 = £8690.36

Spend to Date : £0.00

Cheques for authorisation:

768	B J Leigh	Contract Mar 501.38 less PAYE 90.40	410.98
769	HMRC	PAYE Mar	90.40
770	Mrs A Leigh	Community Car-Mar	286.30
771	Abacus Copiers	Monthly Contract	28.42
772	Eastern Office Equipment	Stationery	14.95
773	Elmham Surgery	Medical for Community car Driver	42.30

### **10.3 Change of Bank to Barclays.**

The Clerk reported that he had had no success in getting an update. The Chairman stated that she would contact Barclays bank.

### **10.4 Internal Auditor.**

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that Max Bergin be appointed the Internal Auditor. All were in favour.

### **10.5 Councillor to Monitor Financial Transactions.**

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that Councillor Rose be appointed. All were in favour.

### **10.6 Registering Land.**

Councillor Mayhew proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that the Parish Council first time registers all the outstanding parcels of land All were in favour.

## **11. Correspondence received for circulation.**

The following correspondence would be circulated.

11.1 **LCR Spring 2017**

11.2 **Parliament Week**

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

### **12.1 Broadband.**

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

This was confirmed as Thursday 11 May 2017 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 22.20 hours.