

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2008 AT 7.30 P.M.**

**Present**

Councillor A Leigh	(Chair)
Councillor G Hayes	
Councillor A Luck	
Councillor R Richmond	
Councillor M Rose	
Councillor D Silk	

7 members of the public

During the public part of the meeting Mr Bennett brought to the attention of the members a problem with cyclists speeding along the footpath from Birch Avenue to Beetley Meadows. He requested whether it was possible to position a staggered barrier on the footpath to ensure that the cyclists had to slow to prevent a possible accident occurring. The members agreed to contact Norfolk County Council initially to determine the owner of the footpath.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Campbell-Smith who was on holiday and this was accepted. An apology had also been received from District Councillor Duffield.

**2. Declaration of Interest.**

Councillor Luck declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8.1. Councillor Richmond declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Items 5.3.1, 7.1, 7.3, 9, 11.1, and 11.2.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

Councillor Luck proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 July 2008 having been circulated be approved. The minutes were duly signed.

**4. Matters to Report.**

**4.1 Recycling Payments.**

The Clerk reported that in addition to the standard payment a further £100 per ton had been received for the textiles. It was agreed that a further bin could be sited at the Village Hall and the Clerk would establish the costs involved. However it was felt that some of the problems with bags appearing beside the container was due to bags of too large a size being used for the depositing of textiles. It was agreed to place a small article in the Beetley Buzz requesting that small bags be used.

**4.2 EDF Cables above the Play Area at the Village hall.**

The Clerk reported that he had met the Network planning engineer from EDF to discuss the problems with the cables that had parted in a high wind. EDF had agreed to replace the cables with a single cable but it would not be for about 9 months and in the interim period EDF would fix spacers to the cables to prevent an accident occurring.

**4.3 NRCC AGM 16 July.**

Councillor Richmond had attended the meeting which was attended by about 50 people and he reported that there are eight rural forums funded by defra. There is deprivation in rural Norfolk and Affordable Housing is desperately needed. The countryside is very important to the economy to provide food which is becoming in short supply. Funding is available up to £10000 for refurbishment and is not match funding. The Matthew Taylor report had highlighted the plight of villages and the need for Affordable Housing.

**4.4 Norfolk Annual Emergency Preparedness Study Day 7 October.**

No one would be attending the meeting.

#### **4.5 Complaints against Councillors**

The Clerk explained that the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 meant that complaints against Councillors would in future be dealt with by the Standards Committee of Breckland Council.

#### **4.6 General Meeting of NCAPTC 28 August.**

No one would be attending this meeting which was to change the name of the organisation to the Norfolk Association of Local Councils

### **5. Portfolio Holders Reports.**

#### **5.1 Planning.**

##### **5.1.1 Applications.**

- i 3PL/2008/1037/O Flint Cottage Fakenham Road East Bilney-demolition of garage and erection of new dwelling.

The meeting was adjourned for public participation.

Mr Plunkett a neighbour explained that he had written to Breckland Council objecting to the application on the grounds of loss of privacy and that the development is outside the guidelines. The applicant explained that they had tried to counter any objections with the design. A further letter of objection had been received from the neighbour to the other side stating that there would be loss of privacy to his property.

The meeting was reconvened.

#### **OBJECTION**

The proposed dwelling is outside the guidelines, would increase traffic onto the Fakenham Road at a dangerous bend, and the neighbours had objected to the loss of privacy and the members felt that the new dwelling would be too squashed into the plot.

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

- ii 3PL/2008/1087/F Springfield 67 Fakenham Road –brick and toiled car port.

#### **NO OBJECTION.**

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that no objection be made provided the garage is constructed prior to the commencement.. All were in favour.

- iii 3PL/2008/0977/F Woods End Barn Holt road-erection of single storey shed.

#### **NO COMMENT**

The members agreed to make no comment regarding this application but wished Breckland Council to clarify if the shed is in front of the building line. No comment was made as the members felt that there was no where else to position a shed on the site but wished for clarification from Breckland Council.

##### **5.1.2 Decisions.**

The following decisions were noted and the conditions placed upon the permissions.

- i 3PL/2008/0907F-Lakeside East Bilney Permission
- ii 3PL/2008/0811/F-Beetley Nurseries Permission
- iii 3PL/2007/2028/F-Mill Hose Mill Lane Gressenhall Refusal

##### **5.1.3 Enforcements**

**i Dunwood Church Road Old Beetley**

The Clerk reported that he had received a complaint from the owners of Dunwood stating that they should have been informed that the Clerk had contacted Breckland Council regarding the change of application. The members felt that as the item was on the agenda placed on the notice boards this was sufficient.

**5.1.4 Appeals.**

**i 65 Fakenham Road**

It was agreed to write to confirm that the Parish Council objection was on highway safety grounds.

**5.2 Open Spaces.**

**5.2.1 Update.**

The footpath walk on 16 July had been very successful and enjoyed by all.

**5.2.2 Cutting of Beetley Meadows.**

The meeting was adjourned for public comment.

One parishioner commented that he could no longer run alongside the river and Mr Bennett suggested that the contractor would have been better cutting the area with a shovel. Several other adverse comments had been received from parishioners.

The meeting was reconvened.

Councillor Luck reported that he agreed with all that had been said. It was therefore agreed to terminate the contract with J.P's Maintenance and employ RG Maintenance to cut the area and to decide following the cut what more needed to be done.

**5.2.3 ROSPA Report.**

This was noted and it was agreed to contact Breckland Council to find out if funding was available for the necessary work.

**5.2.4 Beetley Meadows Gates.**

The Clerk reported that he had received an e-mail from the owners of 2 Beetley Meadows stating they were fully aware of the Parish Council's concerns having had the previous letter passed to them. The gate has now been padlocked and is not used.

**5.3 Communications.**

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

**5.3.1 Update.**

Beetley Buzz 24 had been published and one parishioner had shown an interest in assisting with the editing. Val Dark is leaving Beetley and it was agreed to present her with some flowers to thank her for all her assistance. The web site had not progressed as the partner of the web site creator is ill.

Councillor Richmond rejoined the meeting.

**5.4 Highways and Transport.**

**5.4.1 Update.**

A parishioner had complained about Tim Deighton lorries using High House Road. The lorries are going to TBL from Longwater Gravel and after speaking to the contractor the Chairman obtained a promise that the lorries would be re-routed.

**5.4.2 Speed limit on Holt Road.**

Councillor Rose raised the possibility of a 50 m.p.h speed limit along Holt Road from Corner Nurseries to North Elmham. Norfolk County Council would be contacted.

### **5.4.3 Signage on Sorrel lane.**

Breckland Council is to be contacted to enquire if a sign could be placed at the Holt Road junction to attempt to stop traffic using the lane inadvertently when Hall Road was the road that the vehicles wished to use.

## **5.5 Affordable Housing.**

### **5.5.1 Site Visit with Breckland Council.**

Councillors Richmond and Rose together with the clerk and together with Mr A Abram and Mr N Abram had met Lee Webster and David Spencer of Breckland Council on 11 July and toured the village looking at potential sites. Breckland Council have now accepted that the site on High House Road is the most suitable.

### **5.5.2 Update.**

Flagship wish to attend the meeting in October to discuss the proposals in more detail and this was agreed.

## **6. Correspondence received for circulation.**

- 6.1** Breckland Town and Parish newsletter
- 6.2** Breckland Information on Planning matters
- 6.3** Breckland Agendas
- 6.4** Breckland Environment Strategy
- 6.5** Norfolk Record Office newsletter
- 6.6** Clerks and Councils Direct
- 6.7** LCR July 2008
- 6.8** Breckland local assessment
- 6.9** NRCC AGM Pack
- 6.10** Norfolk County Council-Unitary Review
- 6.11** Boundary Committee-Unitary Review
- 6.12** Dereham Local Action Group minutes, agenda

## **7. Finance.**

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

**7.1** The budget sheets and financial information had been circulated and Councillor Luck proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that these be approved. All were in favour.

Councillor Richmond rejoined the meeting.

### **7.2 Balances.**

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the balances and cheques for authorisation be approved with the exception of the cheque for J.P's Maintenance. All were in favour.

## **Balances :-**

### **Business Base Rate Tracker Account**

Balance at 19 March 2008	15794.83
Plus Interest <u>103.16</u>	

Balance at 19 June 2008

15897.99

### **Community Account**

Balance at 19 June 2008		6230.04
Receipts	Breckland Comm. Car	<u>197.99</u>
		6428.03
Payments authorised 12 06 08	613.96	
Payments authorised 03 07 08	<u>1346.53</u>	1960.49
Balance at 18 July 2008		4467.54

Amount available for Section 137 : 1100 x£5.86 = £6446.00

Spend to Date : £0.00

Cheques for authorisation:

270	B J Leigh	Service contract-July 258.00	258.00
271	Abacus Copiers	Monthly Contracts	22.95
272	Daynes Office Interiors	Stationery	15.26
249	Mrs J Overall	Community Car-March	92.00
254	Mrs J Overall	Community Car-April	104.36
260	Mrs J Overall	Community Car-May	87.08
266	Mrs J Overall	Community Car-June	112.54
273	JP'S Maintenance	Beetley Meadows regular Cut	100.00
274	Beetley Village hall	Room Hire-2007-2008	138.75
275	Susanne Rutter	Internal Audit	20.00
276	Beetley Common Advisory Committee	Donation	85.00
277	Playsafety Ltd	Safety inspection	141.00

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

### **7.3 Projects Account.**

Councillor Luck suggested that a projects account be opened but after discussion it was agreed to budget for projects and leave all the balances in one account.

Councillor Richmond rejoined the meeting.

### **7.4 Treasury Stock.**

Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor Luck seconded the resolution that the treasury Stock held for the Richard Farrers Charity be cashed. All were in favour.

### **8. Village Hall.**

Nothing to report.

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

### **9. Village Guidelines and Site Specifics.**

Councillor Hayes proposed that the guidelines be kept in Beetley and Old Beetley as per 1999 with the addition of guidelines around the 6 Council Houses on High House Road which would mean the site for the Affordable Housing would abut the Guidelines. This was

agreed by a majority decision. There should be no guidelines for East Bilney and this was agreed by all. The letter detailing the sites for the Open meeting was agreed and would be displayed on all notice boards together with the map. All sites not within the guidelines would be opposed.

Councillor Richmond rejoined the meeting.

**10. Boundary committee Review of Local Government.**

**10.1 Reports from meetings attended.**

The members who had attended the meeting on 7 July reported that the proposals had been announced that day for a single unitary authority and a brief presentation was given by Breckland Council and the consensus of the meeting was that Breckland and the parishes are against. It is likely that council tax will rise in Breckland and car parking would no longer be free.

The meeting at Carrow Road had been a good meeting and well attended and the main thrust of the meeting was that the status quo is not an option at this stage of the consultation.

The meeting in Dereham was badly chaired and taken over by Breckland and little new was learnt.

Councillor Hayes and the Clerk would draft a reply.

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

**11. Minerals and Waste Sub-Committee.**

**11.1 Meeting on 5 August.**

The Committee had met and had decided to concentrate the objections on the criteria, policies and assessments made by Norfolk County Council. A letter had been sent to all District Councillors and a further letter is to be sent to County Councillors and M.P. All the documentation for the extension to the site at East Bilney is to be requested under the F.O.I. Act.

**11.2 Payment of Extra Hours to the Clerk**

This was deferred.

Councillor Richmond rejoined the meeting.

**12. Matters for the next meeting.**

**12.1** Invite to Hannah Gordon in November.

**12.2** Footpath cutting 2009

**13. Chairman's Soapbox.**

Nothing from the Chairman at this meeting.

**14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.**

This was confirmed as Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008 to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall at 1900 when there would be an Open Parish Meeting followed by a Parish Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 2156 hours.