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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

Councillor A Leigh (Chair)
Councillor A Luck
Councillor J Baldwin
Councillor J O'Donovan
Councillor R Richmond
Councillor M Rose

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris
District Councillor R Duffield

Six members of the public

Prior to the Parish Council meeting a discussion was held with Carla Beckett from Flagship Housing about the proposed Affordable Housing development on High House Road which was attended by five members of the public. The amendments to the design were explained as there were too many communal areas which would have incurred a service charge which would have to be added to the rent. By providing individual gardens this would reduce the rent payable. A new hedge is to be planted and a query was raised about the distance from the footpath. A planning application would be submitted as soon as possible, then tenders obtained followed by a funding request. The properties would be allocated to local people and if still empty to people from surrounding villages. A check would be made to ensure there is a local connection. The split of the properties between shared ownership and social rent was queried and this would be confirmed as there is a problem of obtaining mortgages at present. It is anticipated that the development would be finished by the middle of 2011.

1. Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declaration of Interest.

Councillor Leigh declared a prejudicial interest In Agenda Item 20 being the wife of the Clerk. Councillor Luck declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 6.1.21 as he has business contacts with the applicant and Agenda Item 14 being a trustee of the Village Hall. Councillor Richmond declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Items 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.3, 13.1, and 15 having submitted parcels of land for inclusion in the Local Development Framework and Minerals and Waste Framework.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Luck seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 December 2009 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour. The minutes were duly signed.

4. County and District Councillors Reports.

The County Councillor reported that the County Council portion of the Council Tax is to be raised by 1.9%. He reported on the Minerals and Waste consultation and gave the figures for the responses and informed that the old landfill site had been withdrawn and there is another minerals site. A new consultation will commence in June and the new site can be commented on now. The consultation on the Core strategy will commence at the end of February and the major change has been a strengthening of the Cumulative Effect policy. The Local Government review is due to be decided by 10 February and the rumour at

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present is that Norwich will obtain Unitary Status on its current boundaries. He explained the provision of gritting salt to the County Council had been withheld by the Government but there is adequate now to continue gritting all routes although a contingency plan had been formulated if there is a lack of salt. He suggested that the parish Council consider new routes for gritting for 2010/2011.

The District Councillor reported that there is to be no increase in the Council tax from Breckland Council. He raised concerns about parking on Elmham Road which had been worsened by the Acting Head teacher locking the gate to the car park at 0900. The Clerk explained that the gate must be locked to ensure the safeguarding of the children. The District Councillor also raised the matter of the School pantomime which he felt that some of the content had not been appropriate. The Chairman informed him that it is not a Parish Council matter.

5. Matters to Report.

5.1 Breckland Council Town and Parish Council Forum 24 February.

The Chairman and Councillor Richmond would attend.

5.2 Norfolk Police Open Meeting.

George Hayes reported that he had attended the meeting and the information from the meeting is to be circulated. The police budget is likely to be increased by 3% an additional £5 per household, which would maintain the police numbers and services at the present level. £15 million of savings will need to be found over the next 3 years. Overall the performance in the past year had been good and Norfolk is the safest place to live in the country.

6. Planning.

6.1 Applications.

Councillors Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

6.1.1 3PL/2009/1063/F- Land off Beetley Grange proposed new dwelling and garage

The meeting was adjourned.

Several parishioners spoke against the application and several letters of objection had been received by Breckland Council mainly objecting to possible further development along the rear of properties and the loss of an open space.

The meeting was reconvened.

Councillor Rose reported on her views which included that the site is outside the current settlement boundary and it could set a precedent for further development. Councillor Luck proposed and Councillor O'Donovan seconded the resolution that **an OBJECTION** be raised to the application. All were in favour. It was requested that if permission is likely to be given then this matter should be decided by the Development Control meeting.

Councillors Luck withdrew from the meeting.

6.1.2 SP/C/3/2009/3019-Stanfield Quarry: variation conditions 1 and 2 of Planning Permission C/3/2004/3017 to extend the time limit for working and restoration of Phase 7 until 27 11 2013

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Baldwin seconded the resolution that **NO OBJECTION** was raised to the application but a condition of any permission

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should be that there are to be no more extensions to ensure that the land is returned to agricultural use. All were in favour.

Councillors Richmond and Luck rejoined the meeting.

6.2 Decisions

- 6.2.1 3PL/2009/0867/O- Fakenham Road-single detached dwelling and garage O Refusal
- 6.2.2 3PL/2009/0944/O-Plot next to Southfields 65 Fakenham Road- proposed new dwelling O Refusal
- 6.2.3 3PL/2009/0827/F-15 Wood Drive-single storey extension N/O Permission

6.3 Settlement Boundary.

It was agreed to consider ready for the next stage of the consultation any possible changes to the settlement boundary.

7. Open Spaces.

Councillor Luck had walked the footpaths and there are no problems apart from a tree lodged in a bough at the Common. The Clerk had received two phone calls from a parishioner objecting to walkers crossing her land and sledging on the land without permission and damaging fencing. The Clerk advised her to contact the police.

8. Highways and Transport.

Two instances of fly tipping had been reported, on School road Old Beetley which had been cleared and the build up of rubbish along the B1146. The water leaks in Hall Road and Church Road, Old Beetley had been repaired. The VAS sign to the south of Beetley had been damaged by a vehicle and this had been removed for repair. The pothole outside East Bilney Coachworks had been repaired promptly. A request for a grit bin on Oakland Drive had been received by the Clerk and he is awaiting a visit from the Highways Engineer. It was agreed to inform the residents of Elmham Road to contact the police non-emergency number if there were continual problems with parking. The gate is locked to the car park to ensure the safety of the children and to ensure a prompt start to the school day and to monitor more carefully the time of attendance at the school.

9. Affordable Housing.

All were in favour of the revised plans.

10 Beetley Meadows Play Area

It was agreed to proceed with repair to the whole of the safety surfacing but it was felt that an additional price should be obtained for the proposed equipment and safety surfacing. The risk assessment had been done but it was noted that the rubber buffers had still not been fitted to the gates. Councillor O'Donovan is still pursuing the supply of furniture from other sources but it was agreed that this must be rugged to withstand possible vandalism.

11. Website.

It was agreed to hold a meeting at Riverside Cottage on 10 February to progress this.

12. Correspondence received for circulation.

- 12.1 Norfolk Link December 2009
- 12.2 Letter from June Overall
- 12.3 Clerks and Councils Direct January 2010

- 12.4 Norse information

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- 12.5 LCR Winter 2009
 12.6 Information from Open Police Meeting
 12.7 Letter from Beetley with East Bilney Parochial Church Council

13. Finance.

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

13.2 Balances.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor O'Donovan 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 09		25285.59
Receipts-	Interest-0.04	
	Rent received-150.00	
	Forestry Commission-558.00	
	EDF-Wayleave-64.32	
	Breckland Community Car-397.80	
	Litcham Parish Council-24.40	
	Beeston with Bittering Parish Council-10.00	
	Brisley Parish Council-20.62	
	Gressenhall Parish Council-44.00	<u>1269.18</u>
		26554.77
Less cheques authorised 01 10 09-50.00		
Less cheques authorised 05 11 09-2542.00		
Less cheques authorised 03 12 09-2257.80		<u>4849.80</u>
Balance at 31 12 09 21704.97		
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 03 12 09		<u>367.00</u>
Balance at 01 01 10 21337.97		

Amount available for Section 137 : 1099 x£6.15 = £6758.85

Spend to Date : £66.50

Cheques for authorisation:

102	B J Leigh	Service contract-Jan-267.00	267.00
103	Abacus Copiers	Monthly Contract-Nov-68.00 Monthly Contract Dec-17.25	85.25
104	RG Maintenance	Repair to gates at Beetley Meadows	506.00
105	Daynes	Computer ink & Stationery	150.26
106	P Silk	Community car	50.80
107	Norfolk Games and Frames	Hen see saw	609.50
108	Dereham Watton & Holt Citizens Advice bureau	Donation	50.00
109	Mrs A Leigh	Gifts for Community car Co-ordinator & Buzz editor & Christmas cards	32.00
110	SLCC	25% of membership	33.75
111	Beetley Village Hall	Donation	475.00
112	P Silk	Community Car	53.80
113	Good Directions Ltd.	Battery for Millennium Clock	58.75

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13.3 Laptop.

George Hayes informed the Parish Council that he had possibly found a laptop which would cost between £50 and £100 and he would give it to the Clerk when all the leads had been located.

Councillor Luck withdrew from the meeting.

14. Village Hall.

The rainwater pipe had been cleared and the committee is looking at an astro-turf 5-a-side pitch but are not proceeding with the upgrade of the play equipment at present. The Christmas function raised £443. Sketchers are confirming what is included in their budget figure of £50,000 for the refurbishment but more thought must be given to fundraising.

Councillor Luck rejoined the meeting.

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting

15. Minerals and Waste Sub-Committee

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

The Clerk reported that about 400 representations were received by Norfolk County Council for each of the minerals sites in the parish and of these 375 were in the form of standard letters. 410 representations were received for the waste sites of which 375 were in the form of standard letters. These would have been the tick sheets distributed a response of about 50% of all that had been distributed.

A new minerals site had been proposed on the field over which the conveyor belt travels and this will be discussed at the next Sub-Committee meeting on 17 February.

Councillor Richmond rejoined the meeting.

16. Parish Owned Land.

16.1 Scout Hut Lease.

The Clerk had met with the solicitor who advised that there is no restriction within the lease for the Scout group to assign the lease. It was felt that this clause should be added but did not agree that a further rent review should be written into the contract during the period of the lease as this was for the benefit of the community and follows the guidelines of the governing document of the Charity.

16.2 School Car Park and Playing Field.

The Clerk reported that following his meeting with the solicitor the Parish Council as owners of the land are liable for the maintenance. The Parish Council could sell the land although several members were against selling any further parcels of land. The solicitor advised that if giving away land a consultation with the parish might be advisable. It was agreed to circulate all the documentation and await the outcome of a meeting at the School.

17. May Meeting.

As the General election may be held on the first Thursday of May the meeting planned for that evening may have to be moved to the second Thursday.

18. Matters for the next meeting.

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There were no matters raised for the next meeting.

19. Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude members of the public and press in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be conducted.
All were in favour.

Councillor Leigh withdrew from the meeting.
Councillor Luck took the chair.

20. Clerk's Contract.

The Clerk had raised his concerns that the hours allocated to him are not sufficient to administer efficiently a parish the size of Beetley. After an amicable discussion it was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Rose that the Clerk's hours be increased to 40 and the hourly rate be raised to £9.20 with effect from 1 March 2010.
All were in favour.

The Clerk thanked the members for their understanding in this matter and the cordial manner in which the discussion had taken place.

Councillor Leigh rejoined the meeting and resumed the Chair.

21. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 4 March 2010 to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall at 1930.

The meeting closed at 2220 hours.