

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

Councillor A Leigh (Chair)
Councillor R Campbell-Smith
Councillor G Hayes
Councillor A Luck
Councillor R Richmond
Councillor M Rose

4 members of the public

The first part of the meeting was opened to the public to propose any alterations to the proposed response to the consultation from Breckland Council on the Local Development Framework. The chairman read out the following statement that laid out the Parish Council's proposals.

The Parish Council has considered the guidelines that have been in operation for the last 10 years and believes that there is no need to materially change these. The guidelines have meant that development has been able to be controlled to ensure that the Parish does not extend too far in any one direction. The parish council feels that to allow a large development within the parish would be detrimental to the parish and has therefore concluded that there should be no guidelines in East Bilney. This would mean no new development would be allowed to take place unless there is a compelling need for agricultural or forestry reasons but not for speculative development. The guidelines that are in place currently for Old Beetley and Beetley would remain with the exception of drawing the guidelines around the old council houses on High House Road. The members have considered, when agreeing this change, the need for the provision of affordable housing for the parish and the requirement by law for the site to be an exception site that abuts the guidelines. As the site that is preferred by all parties is that on High House Road the inclusion of the old council houses in the guidelines would mean that the site meets the criteria for development for affordable homes.

The sites that have been promoted for development have all been classed as unreasonable by Breckland Council due to size or location with the exception of the site in School Road Beetley which would become conforming if there is a change of policy.

Therefore all sites that do not fall within the guidelines have not been approved by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council however would like to take into consideration before reaching its final recommendation the views of the parishioners and I therefore invite you to make any comments on the proposals.

The non-conformity of the travellers' site was explained as if there was a change to the policy of building travellers' sites not on the A11 corridor then the site may conform. The policy change to the new Local Development Framework would take place in 2010 at the same time as any change to a unitary authority could take place.

Alan Abram expressed his positive reaction to the affordable housing site and stated that the other sites could be developed in the future.

1. Apologies for absence.

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Silk who was recovering from an operation and this was accepted. An apology had also been received from District Councillor Duffield.

2. Declaration of Interest.

Councillor Richmond declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Items 5.3.1, 7.1, and 8.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Hayes proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7 August 2008 having been circulated be approved. The minutes were duly signed.

4. Matters to Report.

4.1 CAG Meeting 2 September.

Councillor Hayes reported that he had been unable to attend the meeting but had received a report that 30 people had attended. From the previous meeting Charles Close had been targeted and as much as possible had been achieved and it was now to be left to the residents, George Eliot way had been closed and Bullock Park Shipdham had had new play equipment installed and would be ongoing. The new targets for the next two months would be anti-social behaviour in Litcham Church Street and youth engagement leading up to Halloween and Bonfire Night and continuing through to Christmas. Yaxham speed watch had been very successful and a respect zone had been established at the Cherry Tree Car Park.

4.2 Dereham Citizens Advice Bureau AGM 18 September.

Councillor Richmond would attend this meeting.

4.3 Breckland Council Forum/Open Evening 14 October.

Councillor Hayes would attend this meeting.

4.4 Norfolk Association of Local Councils AGM 20 September.

Councillor Silk may attend this meeting.

5. Portfolio Holders Reports.

5.1 Planning.

5.1.1 Applications.

i 3PL/2008/1213/U-Rawhall Farmhouse Rawhall Lane-change of use from a domestic house to a holiday let. This had been withdrawn.

5.1.2 Decisions.

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

| | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| i | 3PL/2008/0977F-Woods End Barn Holt Road | Permission |
| ii | 3PL/2008/1087/F-Springfield 67 Fakenham Road | Permission |
| iii | 3PL/2007/1037/O-Flint Cottage Fakenham Road East Bilney | Refusal |

5.1.3 Enforcements

There were no enforcement notices.

5.2 Open Spaces.

5.2.1 Update on Beetley Meadows.

The area had been cut twice by RG maintenance and Rodney Bennett was thanked for all the hard work he had put in and several favourable comments had been received from parishioners regarding the state of the area. It was agreed to have the area cut again in the next two weeks.

5.2.2 Positioning of Gates on Footpath 4.

The Clerk reported that after a telephone conversation with the landowner about the removal of the stiles on the footpath from The Drift East Bilney to Fludge's Lane he had contacted Countryside and it has been agreed that kissing gates could be installed provided there is no objection from the Parish Council.

The meeting was adjourned for public comment.

Mrs Cissell the landowner stated that there are three accesses to the footpath which crosses her land. There have already been instances of bicycles on the path and as the horses are to be brought back to the fields alongside the footpath she had requested further safeguards for both the horses and walkers. An electric fence would not be suitable as this may be touched by dogs. She was also concerned that there is now easy access to the fields for horse thieves as theft of horses is a growing problem.

The meeting was reconvened.

Councillor Leigh proposed and Councillor Luck seconded the resolution that **NO OBJECTION** be raised to the siting of kissing gates and Countryside are to be informed accordingly.

5.3 Communications.

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

5.3.1 Update.

Beetley Buzz 25 had been published. Val Dark had been presented with some flowers to thank her for all her assistance. A letter of thanks from her was read out. The web site is still in abeyance.

Councillor Richmond rejoined the meeting.

5.4 Highways and Transport.

5.4.1 Update.

Norfolk County Council had confirmed that it owned the footway on Birch Avenue and that the drain covers would be seated correctly. Norfolk County Council also stated that it was concerned that there was insufficient space to site a barrier so a site visit is to be requested to discuss the matter. The drain in Beetley Meadows which is proud of the surrounding area needs to have topsoil placed around to level it or to have trees planted to stop the trip hazard. Councillor Luck and The Clerk are to investigate further. The Clerk had contacted OFWAT regarding the delay in repairing water leaks and these had now been repaired. It was noted that the mail box on Beech Road had been removed after it was found lying on the ground and Royal Mail should replace this by 12 September.

5.5 Affordable Housing.

5.5.1 Update.

Flagship had not confirmed that a representative would be attending the meeting in October to discuss the proposals in more detail.

6. Correspondence received for circulation.

There was no correspondence for circulation.

7. Finance.

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

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

Councillor Richmond rejoined the meeting.

7.2 Balances.

Councillor Luck proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that the balances and cheques for authorisation be approved. 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> | <u>1960.49</u> |
| Balance at 18 July 2008 | 4467.54 |

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

Spend to Date : £0.00

The following cheques were authorised for payment.:

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 278 | B J Leigh | Service contract-August 258.00 | 258.00 |
| 279 | Abacus Copiers | Monthly Contracts | 23.45 |
| 280 | Norfolk Woods and Hedges | Removal of fallen tree | 88.12 |
| 281 | A D Leigh | Flowers for Val Dark | 9.99 |
| 282 | Mrs J Overall | Community Car | 112.69 |

7.3 Wreath for Remembrance Sunday.

Councillor Campbell-Smith proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that a wreath be purchased from Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal at a cost of £16.50. This would be a S137 payment. All were in favour.

8. Village Guidelines and Site Specifics.

Councillor Richmond withdrew from the meeting.

Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Campbell-Smith seconded the resolution that all the individual sites be objected to and the guidelines remain as at present with the exception of adding guidelines round the council houses on the north side of High House

Road. All were in favour.

Councillor Richmond rejoined the meeting.

9. Matters for the next meeting.

9.1 Payment for additional hours to the Clerk.

9.2 Precept 2009/10

9.3 Footpath Cutting 2009

9.4 Dog Bin in Old Beetley.

9.5 Urgent matters.

10. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 2nd October 2008 to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall at 1900 when there would be a presentation from Flagship Housing followed by a Parish Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 2039 hours.