

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER 2011 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

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

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris
District Councillor R Duffield

Three members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Luck who was unwell and this was accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Richmond declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 12.1, having submitted parcels of land for inclusion in the Minerals and Waste Framework.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor O'Donovan proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1 September 2011 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. County and District Councillors Reports.

The District Councillor informed the meeting that initial discussions are being held with Great Yarmouth Borough Council on shared services which will again assist in making up the deficit in the budget.

The County Councillor stated that the £155 million deficit has now been cut to £135 million by savings within the Council. The subsidy for transport for children in full time education up to the age of eighteen will not now be cut. Fire stations and fire personnel are not being cut. There is to be no increase in Council Tax for 2012/13 and 2013/14 should also see no increase. In 2013 there will be an election for a Police Commissioner.

5. Matters to Report.

5.1 Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

The response was reported in the Beetley Buzz and other organisations have been written to but no replies have been received.

5.2 Breckland Town and Parish Council Forum 20 October.

Councillors Leigh, O'Donovan and Baldwin will be attending as will Councillor Richmond in his capacity as a District Councillor.

5.3 AGM of Norfolk ALC 1 October.

Councillor Rose thanked Councillor Fox for being her date for the day.

The main part of the meeting was on the Localism Bill and Code of Conduct which would give power to Councils to do anything as long as it does not break the law. The presentation on the Localism Bill was very vague and did not address the issues. The resolutions for the AGM took far too long to complete. All the information is to be circulated.

5.4 Bottle Bank.

Councillor O'Donovan reported that the banks have been moved after a few arguments and a note is to be placed in the Beetley Buzz reminding people of the sites for the recycling.

5.5 Code of Conduct training.

Councillor O'Donovan reported that this had been a good meeting and at the end of the day it is basically common sense that determines whether there is an interest to declare. The format will be changing in the next six months and it is necessary to wait and see what transpires.

5.6 Beetley Buzz.

Two volunteers had responded to the article in the Beetley Buzz, one of whom is assisting Councillor Luck and the other Councillor Fox, who has met her and distributed Oakland Drive and Gorse View with her.

5.7 Community Car scheme.

A meeting was held with the Co-ordinator and drivers and after an initial feeling of "an us and them" situation there was common desire to ensure the scheme continues to operate. A workshop is to be held at the NRCC offices and Councillor Rose and the co-ordinator will attend and a further meeting is to be held on 24 October. The Clerk is to clarify the requirements from the Parish Council insurance company. At the moment there appears to be three options:-

1. to continue as is and insist on the checks required by Breckland Council.
2. for the Parish council to have no involvement and for the scheme to run as a stand alone scheme
3. for the scheme to run with no input from Breckland Council but this may entail the Parish Council putting in place some checks.

A lengthy discussion followed and the worry from all the members was that checks would still need to be done to ensure that all risks have been covered. Any questions for the workshop are to be forwarded to Councillor Rose.

5.8 Gressenhall Parish Council

A letter from Gressenhall parish council was read out thanking the Parish Council for their assistance with the Minerals and Waste consultation.

This is to be forwarded to the Sub-Committee.

6. Planning.

6.1 Decisions.

The following decisions were noted.

6.1.1 3PL/2011/0751/F-10 Spinney Close-two storey extension to rear of property.

O Permission

The Parish Council had objected to this application following objection from a neighbour. Revised plans had been received by Breckland Council reducing the size of the extension and as this was almost small enough for it to be erected under permitted development the application had been approved. However the objection that the Parish Council had forwarded had obviously been considered.

6.1.2 3PL/2011/0709/F-4 Oakland Drive-demolition of existing garage, erection of single storey extension with garage attached to front and side of property.

N/O Permission

6.1.3 3PL/2011/0838/F-50 Elmham road-erection of pitched double detached Garage.

N/O Permission

6.2 Enforcements.

6.2.1 4 River View.

A reminder had been sent to the occupants reminding them of the need for planning permission.

6.2.2 Rosetta Cottage Hall Road East Bilney.

The Enforcement had contacted the Clerk to state that she had spoken to the owner and agreed with him that if all living facilities are removed from the caravan and it is only used for storage and painted dark green the caravan can remain. The Parish Council had replied that this matter could continue for several years but the

Enforcement Officer had replied that the caravan would be uninhabitable before the file is closed.

7. Beetley River Meadows Play Area.

7.1 Problems.

The risk assessment is to be done in November. A letter had been received from Jenny Hirsch who informed the Council that there is a large branch split from the trunk at the bottom end of the river and graffiti on the slide. Councillor Fox will investigate and the Clerk will obtain some Graffiti Remover. The letter also requested that the pots be removed and Councillor Fox proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that these be offered to the Village Hall. All were in agreement. Councillor Fox will raise this with the Village Hall Committee at its next meeting.

7.2 Gates.

The Clerk is still awaiting quotations for these from other local companies.

8. Open Spaces.

8.1 New problems.

The Clerk had met Norfolk Woods and Hedges at East Bilney Town Lands. Nick Saunders recommends that where the trees have failed to establish, mainly on the marshy areas, replace the trees with species that are better suited i.e. alders and willows. The minor ragwort problem will be controlled in these areas as the trees grow and reduce the light on the ground as has happened in the rest of the plantation. It is not economic or practicable to try and chemically eradicate the remaining ragwort. It is also not economic to cut between the rows of trees now as weed and grass growth is no longer a threat to the established trees and will be suppressed in any case as the trees continue to develop. The walkways that have been cut within the plantation can be maintained for access and the trees on these walkways pruned to allow access. The area just inside the entrance can be mown and cleared for aesthetic purposes.

The cost of this work would be £175.00 plus VAT and the cost of replacing the trees in the affected areas will be £1.50 per tree to include a replacement stake and guard where necessary.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that the quotation and recommendations be accepted. All were in favour.

The footpath posts and signs have been obtained from Norfolk County Council and Councillor Richmond agreed to store these. A date is to be arranged to erect these when the sites have been identified.

9. Highways and Transport.

9.1 General.

Norfolk County Council confirmed that the blocked pipe on Peacock Lane is to be investigated. No reduction in the speed limit on Holt road near to Peacock Lane is to be implemented. However the Highways Engineer will be writing to the adjacent landowner requesting that the hedge be further reduced in height to the north.

A sign is to be erected on Holt Road to inform highway users of the location of the Common.

The standing water on Fakenham Road had been reported and the grips are programmed to be cleaned out. The manhole to the rear will be investigated to identify if it is part of a highway surface water system or foul water. If it serves service water it will be jetted and works programmed to ensure the system is free from obstructions.

The water leak on Fakenham road has not yet been repaired and the Clerk has contacted Anglian Water again and checked that the leak on Elmham road had been reported which it had.

The Highways and Community rangers will be visiting the parish at the end of October and any matters for their attention are to be sent to the Clerk.

The sandbags at folly Bridge need attention and this will be reported as there are pieces of iron sticking up which could be a safety hazard.

9.2 Local Highway Improvements.

The cost of a new path from FP15 to school car park is to be investigated.

10. Website.

10.1 Update.

The Clerk reported that there was a problem with the website and Norfolk ALC is trying to resolve this. The piece about the website is to be inserted once the problem has been resolved.

10.2 New additions.

None were requested.

11. Correspondence received for circulation.

- 11.1 Crime figures August
- 11.2 Norse Landscape Development
- 11.3 LCR Autumn 2011
- 11.4 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies
- 11.5 CPRE- How to respond to planning applications
- 11.6 Norfolk ALC AGM Details

12. Finance.

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

12.2 Balances.

Councillor O'Donovan 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 07 11	22772.10
Receipts-	
Interest-1.95	
Breckland Community Car-46.15	<u>48.10</u>
	22820.20
Less cheques authorised 07 07 11-	<u>368.00</u>
Balance at 31 07 11	22452.20
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 01 09 11	<u>968.37</u>
Balance at 01 09 11	21483.83

Amount available for Section 137 : 1118 x£6.44 = £7199.92

Spend to Date : £00.00

Cheques for authorisation:

236	B J Leigh	Contract September	368.00
237	Abacus Copiers	Monthly Contract July & August	75.77
238	Mrs P Silk	Community car	75.40
239	C.G.M.	Grass Cutting-August-144.65 Repairs to Fencing-330.00	474.65
240	Norfolk Woods and Hedges	Removal of bough at Beetley River Meadows.	90.00
241	The Beetley Charity	Rent Transfer	50.00
242	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Donation	20.00
243	Mazars	External Audit	162.00

244	Bennetts (Dereham) Ltd	Purchase of Fridge	149.99
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12.3 Precept 2012/13.

The projected figures were distributed and a decision is to be made at the next meeting.

12.4 Donation to the Village Hall.

As no figures were available this was deferred to the next meeting.

12.5 Dereham CAB.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Fox seconded the resolution that £60 be donated. All were in favour.

13. Village Hall.

13.1 Report from the Village Hall Committee

Councillor Fox reported that nothing firm came out of the meeting. The Chairman queried what has happened about the Fields in Trust and a decision is awaited on this. The Chairman suggested that at the next meeting it should be discussed if the Parish Council should fund with the Village Hall new curtains and carpets. This matter is to be raised at the next Village Hall committee meeting to see if it is in agreement as well as the maintenance of the hall with specific reference to the ladies toilet and the light in the meeting room.

14. Affordable Housing.

14.1 Open Meeting.

This is on 26 October from 1500-1900 and Councillors Leigh, Richmond and Fox and the Clerk will be in attendance.

14.2 Naming of the road.

Breckland Council had confirmed that the name of the road will be Abram Court.

15. Matters for the Next Meeting

15.1 Curtains and Carpets.

15.2 Community Car Scheme

16. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 3 November 2011 at 7.30 p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2134 hours.