

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY
BY ZOOM ON THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present Councillor J. O'Donovan (Chair)
Councillor S. Boyce (After Co-Option)
Councillor J. Baldwin
Councillor H. Johnson
Councillor R. Richmond

District Councillor R Atterwill
District Councillor R Duffield

Seven members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris.

2. To receive Declaration of Pecuniary Interests.

There were no DPI's .

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Councillor Baldwin proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th. July 2020 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Co-option to the Parish Council

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Johnson seconded the resolution that Mr. Stephen Boyce be co-opted onto the Parish Council. All were in favour. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Boyce to the Parish Council and the declaration of acceptance of office was duly signed and witnessed.

5. Resignations from the Parish Council

Letters of resignation had been received from Councillors Rose and Leigh and these were accepted. The Chairman thanked them for all of the work they had done for the Parish Council.

6. Public participation.

6.1 County and District Councillors reports

County Councillor Kiddle-Morris had forwarded his report as below

Covid-19:

The latest information from NCC on the measures and response to the Covid-19 outbreak in Norfolk has been forwarded to you all. The recent outbreak in the Banham Poultry facility in Attleborough is being addressed through the Norfolk Local Outbreak Control Plan. This is a multi-agency operation involving NCC Public Health, Public Health England, NHS and Breckland Council. So far (Monday) 96 people have been tested positive out of 477 tests carried out. All staff at the plant are being asked to self-isolate for 14 days if they have not tested positive and for 10 days if they have had a positive test. Households of those workers who have tested positive should isolate for 14 days. Contact tracing is taking place to alert anyone who has been linked to a Banham Poultry worker. Support for those families in isolation who need food and medicine supplies is being given by the Norfolk Assistance Scheme.

Local Government

A White Paper is expected this month which will outline the government's plans to reform local government. The proposals are widely expected to include the compulsory formation of unitary councils and to arrange several unitary councils into combined authorities which will be obliged to have an elected "mayor".

Waste Amnesty:

NCC are holding free hazardous waste disposal days during September and October at the recycling centres. The following are the dates and times for the nearest ones:

Dereham 2nd, 3rd, 4th October.

Hempton 9th, 10th, 11th October. Both centres are open from 9am to 4pm.

School Transport:

Changes in regulations regarding public transport mean that any bus or coach company offering fare paying transport to the public must use disability access buses (ie crouching buses). Unfortunately, this rule also applies to children whose parents purchase a discretionary seat on a home to school transport. Currently none of the school transport providers have purchased crouching buses. I have asked the local MP to make representations to government to reverse the decision, I await a response.

District Councillor Atterwill reported that there is a white paper on planning which could be devastating for some Parish Councils. He suggested that all Councillors read the white paper. There is also a local government re-organisation consultation but Breckland Council are still awaiting formal notification. This could lead to major changes e.g. one unitary authority or three unitary authorities.

District Councillor Duffield reported that having a planning and unitary changes at the same time could cause a massive muddle.

6.2 Public participation.

There were no matters raised by the public.

7. Matters to report.

7.1 East Bilney Almshouses.

Councillor Boyce reported that it was almost 100% certain that the Charity Commission will allow the sale of these as it has been impossible to find anyone to live in them because of their dilapidated state. A surveyor has been to site to value the property and his report is awaited which will be sent to the Charity Commission and then final permission to sell will be agreed. It is not known when the Charity Commission will give final permission. The money raised will be given to the Norfolk Almshouses Trust to renovate other Almshouses which are in a better state of repair.

7.2 Donation to Parochial Church Council

Councillor Boyce reported that £150 donated by the Parish Council was for the upkeep of the graveyards. There is expensive tree work needed within the grave yard and the parishioners who maintain the Beetley Church grave yard are moving.

7.3 Land at Beetley River Meadows

The parishioner who had requested to purchase a strip of land at the bottom of his garden has been advised that the Parish Council is not selling any land. The land had subsequently been strimmed up to the boundary fence by the grass cutting contractor as requested by the parishioner.

7.4 Letter from a parishioner's solicitor

A letter had been received requesting that the Parish Council provide further information. The Parish Councils solicitor had been contacted and a more detailed report will be given at the next meeting.

8. Highways.

8.1 Report on Highway matters

There were no matters to report.

8.2 New problems.

The drain on High House Road near to the Chapel continues to flood. A tree branch covered in ivy on Fakenham Road East Bilney near the conveyor belt had broken off and was causing a hazard. This has now been cleared. The footway along Fakenham Road to the bridge at the South end of the village needs clearing. Councillor Johnson reported that a hedge on Oakland Drive is an obstruction to the footway and he would contact the owner.

8.3 Footpaths

The only problem raised was by Councillor O'Donovan who stated that the footpath she walks is overgrown.

8.4 Enhanced Saturday Bus Service

An additional service into Dereham is to be provided on a Saturday stopping in East Bilney. The new timetable is now on display at the East Bilney bus shelter. The Tuesday and Friday Saunders services to Dereham remain the same as does the Wednesday Saunders service to Norwich.

9. Planning.

9.1 Applications.

9.1.1 3PL/2020/0750/F- Beetley and District Pre-school Elmham Rd- replacement of current mobile unit with a purpose preschool building

The meeting was adjourned.

A representative of the Pre-School informed the meeting that an extension had been requested until the 24th October. This is to enable further clarifications on the objections raised and to provide more information on the plans.

A parishioner objected to the application as the site is outside of the settlement boundary. He stated that the Parish Council gave assurances that the land which had been transferred to the Parish Council would only be used as a car park and playing field. This has obviously now changed. Road safety would not improve as the School would have to find more parking places as three spaces are lost on the car park. The parking on Elmham Road will not improve. The idea that the parking will improve is a myth and not a solution and surrounding roads will have to be used for parking. There will be a loss of privacy to his property as the Pre-School would give direct viewing to a bedroom and bathroom. A six-foot fence will not provide privacy as it will still be possible to look into the windows. The open door policy will increase noise pollution and there will be loss of privacy as I am a writer and I will not be able to do this in the future from home.

Another parishioner stated that the plans are sparse on detail such as landscaping and fencing. There is no mention of the covenant and there is no mention of the promotion agreement that should have been entered into between the Parish Council and the Pre-School. This is a new build not a replacement, and the size will allow increased numbers of children which will mean increased noise which will have a serious detrimental effect on nearby residents.

District Councillor Duffield stated that there had been a lot of correspondence from objectors. He said that the Parish Council should look at the covenant and the cost of removing it. If this application is approved the Pre-School will still need the permission of the Parish Council.

District Councillor Atterwill stated that the application should be considered against the Local Plan It is outside of the settlement boundary although HOU4 will allow development alongside the settlement boundary. The application should be considered against planning matters e.g. Highways design and siting. The covenant is not a planning matter.

The meeting was reconvened.

Councillor Baldwin stated that she could not think at that moment and would speak later. Councillor Boyce stated that as a former head nursery teacher the

facilities are vital for the community. The Parish Council took out a covenant not to build on the land. The Beetley School site has at least three sites suitable for the Pre-School. It would be better if the building was sited on N.C.C land. The Parish Council would be bankrupted if it has to pay compensation to have the covenant removed. I am against this application. Councillor Richmond stated that the Parish Council had taken solicitors advice and cannot take this forward as it is unworkable. Siting on N.C.C. land should be looked at as it is a good way forward. Councillor Baldwin stated she had attended all four meetings which the Pre-School had held and more should be done on the current site. Councillor Johnson said that the Parish Council is getting into a legal wrangle, and the Parish Council had taken advice. I am against as the legal matters are too complicated. Councillor O'Donovan summarised the points and stated that different sites should be looked at. The District Councillors both stated that the Parish Council should object on planning grounds. Councillor Boyce said do not proceed and that he could not understand why the Pre-School was continuing a pointless exercise as the Parish Council is not going to give permission. Councillor Baldwin said that the building should be further back on the field which would give easier access to services.

Councillor Boyce proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that an objection be raised to the application. All were in favour.

9.1.2 3PL/2020/0797/F- Land at Cedarville, Holt Rd, Beetley- replacement dwelling with detached garage/store/office building (Revised design of previous approval- 3PL/2014/0120/F)

Councillor Boyce informed the meeting that Breckland appeared worried that this was a previous quarry site. The previous dwelling has been demolished and there may have been rule breaking according to Breckland Council. Breckland Council are to place strict conditions on any permission granted. As long as there are strong conditions there will be no problem. Councillor Johnson was against providing a licence to remove newts and bats as too many of these are being lost in the countryside. Councillor Richmond stated that as this is an amendment and as Breckland Council is going to place conditions there is no problem.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Baldwin seconded the resolution that no objection be raised. Councillor Johnson was against the resolution.

9.1.3 3PL/2020/0215/F- White Mill, Green Lane, Change of use of site for 16 holiday lodges, reception building, hardstanding/roadways, play areas tennis and badminton courts (Amendment)

Councillor Boyce stated that the access is onto Holt Road which is a Highways safety issue. The development would affect the amenity of local residents.

Councillor Richmond stated that this is outside of the settlement boundary and it is unthinkable to come out onto Holt Road.

Councillor Boyce proposed and Councillor Johnson seconded the resolution that an objection be raised. All were in favour.

9.1.4 3DC/2020/0130/DOC-Land at Roosting Hill Quarry-(Cattle shed)- Discharge of conditions 3&4

Councillor Boyce stated that all conditions have now been met so no further objection should be made. Councillor Richmond agreed with Councillor Boyce.

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

9.1.5 3NM/2020/0050/NMA- Hall Farm Barn- Change of roof covering, addition of Garage door, addition of 2 roof lights and the repositioning of approved roof light

Councillor Boyce said that it is nice to be asked but all have already been installed.

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

9.2 Decisions.

The following decisions were noted.

9.2.1 APP/F2605/W/20/3249898- Land at Green Lane, Beetley Construction of 3 dwellings Appeal- DISMISSED

9.2.2 APP/F2605/W/20/3248744- Beetley Nurseries Elmham Rd, Construction of 2 storey dwelling and garage- Appeal- DISMISSED

9.2.3 3PL/2020/0558/F- Blueberry Hill, Halfpenny Lane, Beetley- Construction of timber framed single story therapy business- APPROVED

10. Beetley River Meadows .

10.1 Fund raising for Beetley River Meadows Play Area.

The meeting was adjourned.

A Parishioner stated that she wished to see more equipment at the Play Area and was willing to look into raising funds. The parishioner would also look into products and provide play equipment for older children e.g. zip wires as there is a need to make a safe and scintillating play space for children.

The meeting was reconvened.

Councillor Johnson requested that the Parish Council be kept informed. The Parish Council thanked the parishioner for the offer to raise funds and the way forward would be to have a sub- committee which should include a Parish Councillor. This sub- committee would report to the Parish Council when necessary. The money raised would be ring fenced in the Parish Council accounts. Councillor Boyce fully supports this and feels it is a brilliant idea to make sure the money is placed in the Parish Council accounts. NGF play should be involved in the project as they are a local provider. Councillors Richmond and Baldwin agreed with all that had been said. District Councillor Atterwill offered to assist as he has been involved in fund raising and providing equipment at Swanton Morley. He added that a zip wire is good fun. The Chairman asked Councillor Baldwin if she would be on the sub-committee, she replied that she would have to consider this as she has a lot on at the moment. The Chairman stated that this was a fantastic idea and the sub-committee is to be organised as soon as possible.

10.2 Report on the Area.

A parishioner informed the meeting that all items raised on the RoSPA report had been rectified. The Parish Council thanked Richard Duffield and NGF play for ensuring all of the maintenance was undertaken quickly. Councillor Johnson raised the matter of children digging out the bank at the "beach" it was queried how do you stop children playing in the river and digging out the banks as it is natural for children to play in the river and unfortunately children will be children. District Councillor Atterwill stated that the Parish Council should contact the environment agency and get guidance as to what can be done to restore the bank. Two trees had fallen and these have been cleared. The Chairman was worried that parishioners would not be able to walk the footpath by the "beach". Councillor Baldwin stated that now the School is open the problem may reduce. A parishioner stated that the River Authority had been contacted but has no money for maintenance. The parishioner also stated that the footpath could be cut further away from the river to enable parishioners to walk safely. District Councillor Duffield stated that if the culprits are seen the Police should be informed.

11. Open Spaces.

11.1 Report.

A parishioner informed the meeting that the saplings at the base of the Oak tree on Beech Road near to the post box had been cleared by the grass cutting contractor. A resident had thanked the contractor for clearing these.

11.2 Beetley Common.

A parishioner informed the meeting that the Beetley Common Advisory Group had disbanded. Adys Wood Splitting had agreed to check the Common regularly. This he has done and some maintenance has been carried out.

12. Finance

12.1 Statement and balance of accounts.

Councillor Baldwin proposed and Councillor Johnson seconded the resolution that these be approved. All were in favour.

12.2 Norfolk Parish Training and Support.

Councillor Baldwin felt that the Parish Council should proceed with becoming a member. Councillor Richmond thought it was a good idea going forward. Councillor Boyce stated that the Parish Council would know where to go to for advice. Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Baldwin seconded the resolution that the Parish Council become members of Norfolk Parish Training and Support. All were in favour.

12.3. Website.

The accessibility issues of the current site need sorting in September. A new website will allow as wide an access as possible. Councillor Boyce proposed and Councillor Baldwin seconded that a new website be set up. All were in favour.

13. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion).

13.1 Vacancies on Parish Council.

13.2 Appointment of Vice Chairman.

13.3 Parish Councillors roles.

13.4 Footpath allocation.

13.5 Beetley Buzz.

13.6 Appointment of Assistant Clerk.

14. Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as Thursday October 1st, 2020 via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 21.15.