**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 5th November 2026 AT 7.30 P.M.**

**Present**

Councillor R. Richmond (Chair).
Councillor J. Billings.
Councillor P. Minchin.
Councillor D. Howard.
Councillor P. Lawton.
Councillor M. MacArthur.

County Councillor Tom Dickerson
District Councillor None.
1 member of the Public.

**In Attendance** A. Leigh. Clerk
R. Wade RFO

1. **To Consider apologies for absence.** Parish Councillor James Bell, this was accepted.
2. **To receive Declarations of Interest.** None.
3. **To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st October 2026.** It was proposed by Councillor Minchin and seconded by Councillor MacArthur that the minutes were true and accurate, all were in agreement.
4. **Finance.**
   **4.1. Budgets as circulated.** It was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Mac Arthur that the budgets as circulated were in order, all were in agreement.
   **4.2. Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated.** Eon £18.91d/d, Angela Leigh (payment for Poppy Wreath) £40.00, NGF Play Ltd £639.90, Angela Leigh Beetley Community Car scheme payment to drivers October £98.00, Clerks salary (October) £535.83, RFO salary (October) £137.50, HMRC (October) £168.00, Ady's Wood Splitting Services Ltd., £285.00, J&A Luck Builders £40.00, Eon d/d 26.08, C.D. Grounds Services £596.10 It was proposed by Councillor Billings and seconded by Councillor MacArthur that these payments were correct. All were in agreement. The payments this month will be approved online by Councillor Richmond and Councillor MacArthur.
   **4.3. To discuss and agree the budget and precept for 2027/2028.** The budget and precept were discussed and it was proposed by Councillor Billings and seconded by Councillor Minchin that the precept should be set at £31559.22 an increase of 8% all were in agreement. The RFO will advise Breckland Council.
   **4.4. 2nd instalment of Parish Council precept.** The RFO advised the meeting that the second instalment was now in the bank account the amount is £14610.75
   **4.5. Finance Officers report.** The Finance Officer reported he had checked the accounts and all was in order.
5. **Reports from County and District Councillors. Public Participation.**
   **5.1. To receive reports from County and District Councillors.** County Councillor Tom Dickerson informed the meeting that there is a huge problem with the school bus contractors. One company had finished trading this week and one was 350K down on the last 6 months. The issue is not only the cost of fuel but the national insurance contribution for all of the drivers. There is an urgent meeting planned for tomorrow to discuss this issue. LGR for Norfolk was cancelled last month by the Minister but now a decision has been made to review it again in January. Councillor Dickerson passed on leaflets concerning heating oil grants which are available, these will be displayed on noticeboards and on the Parish Council website. Redundant road works signs are being collected which is excellent news. A new material made from recycled tyres is being used to repair pot holes. Councillor Richmond again requested that the gulleys in Old Beetley and East Bilney are jetted.

**5.2. Public comments.** None.

**6. Matters for report.**

**6.1. Speed Watch.** No report received.

**6.2. Beetley Common update.** The Clerk informed the meeting that several fallen trees had been removed to clear the footpaths and a Water Vole survey would be carried out by NWT. The conservation group supervised by the NWT officer Aaron Brown will continue which is to assist the seed bank regeneration.

**6.3. Litter Pick Fakenham Road Beetley & East Bilney.** This was carried out by Serco on the 26th September 2026.

**6.4. The Shrubland Beetley contribution to Beetley River Meadows play area section 106.** Councillor Billings had circulated an email to all Councillors concerning this contribution. He had discussed the 106 contribution from Clayland with Breckland planning department and they confirmed it had not been received. Councillor Billings requested the contribution is paid directly to the Parish Council. The Breckland Officer agreed this would be easier than it having to go via the 106-contribution route where many hoops have to be gone through. Councillor Billings will continue to liaise with the Breckland Officer and will keep the Council updated.

**6.5. Remembrance service/poppy wreath.** Councillor Richmond will attend the remembrance service at East Bilney Church and lay the poppy wreath on behalf of Beetley Parish.

**7. Highways.**

**7.1. Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems.** County Councillor Tom Dickerson will contact the Highway Engineer to progress the clearance of the overgown verge on Fakenham Road Beetley between High House Road and School Road. This has been ongoing for over two years.

**7.2. To note any new problems within the Parish.** None.

**7.3. Notification of Fakenham Road Beetley Carriageway Resurfacing.** The Clerk had received an email from District Councillor Roger Atterwill concerning a scheme which is being worked on but no dates are confirmed yet, a plan was also attached. The Clerk will contact Norfolk County Council to determine why Beetley Parish Council had not been advised directly by them.

**7.4. To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths.** All Councillors reported that the footpaths were satisfactory.

**8. Planning.**

**Applications.**

**8.1. PL/2026/1317/HOU The Old School House Beetley.** Demolition of the rear porch, conservatory and lean-to extension and construction of a single storey rear extension. Councillor Billings proposed and Councillor MacArthur seconded that there no objections be raised to this application. All agreed. The Clerk will input this decision on Breckland Planning Portal.

**Decisions made by Breckland Council.**

**8.2. PL/2026/1232/TRE 23 Fakenham Road Beetley.** TPO199/No5 Oak (T1) reduce crown by 2 metres. **APPROVED**

**9. Beetley River Meadows.**

**9.1. Monthly play equipment inspections.** The Clerk reported that the inspection for October had been carried out by NGF.

**9.2. RoSPA report update. – NGF works carried out. Goal Posts painted.** The Clerk reported that all of the repairs shown in the current years RoSPA report had now been dealt with.

**9.3. Water Vole survey.** A Water Vole survey will be carried out by Aaron Brown NWT officer.

**9.4. 2 x free standing Waste bins replaced.** Two free standing waste bins had been replaced one in the picnic area and one at the “Beach” area. Councillor MacArthur reported that the post of the dog bin near the “Beach” area was rotting and he would investigate the purchase of a new one.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the quotation as requested had been received for the 2027 Grass cutting contract. This was discussed and Councillor Billings proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded that this was accepted. All were in agreement. The Clerk would inform the Contractor of the acceptance.

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**10**. **Parish Council Matters.**

**10.1. Inspections: - Pavilion: Defibrillator.** Councillor MacArthur reported that he had contacted a company for a quotation who remove moss off roofs and also treat the roof tiles to stop re-growth. The insulation of the pipe work inside the Pavilion is not adequate so he will replace it. Councillor Mac Arthur reported that the defibrillator is in good working order.

**11. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion).** None.

**12. To confirm the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council will be held on Thursday 3rd December 2026 at 7.30 p.m. at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall High House Road Beetley.**

**The meeting closed at 20.59.**

**Signed as a true and accurate record……**

**Date signed……...**

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