

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE  
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024. AT 7.30 P.M.**

**Present**

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

**In Attendance**

A .Leigh. Clerk  
R. Wade. RFO  
4 Members of the Public.  
District Councillor Roger Atterwill

1. **To Consider apologies for absence.** Joanne Baldwin, County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris, These were accepted.
2. **To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.** None received.
3. **To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 07/03/2024.** It was proposed by Councillor MacArthur that the minutes were true and accurate, it was seconded by Councillor Minchin, all were in agreement.
4. **Finance.**
  - 4.1. **Budgets as circulated.** It was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Billings that the budgets as circulated were in order, all were in agreement.
  - 4.2. **Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated.** EBM Managed Services £13.46 d/d, Parish Partnership £135.00, EON £14.74 d/d, HMRC £151.60, RFO salary (March) £123.80, Clerks salary £483.12 (March), Angela Leigh B.C.C. drivers payments March £134.80. It was proposed by Councillor Billings and seconded by Councillor Minchin, that these were correct, all were in agreement.
  - 4.3. **Reserves Statement.** The RFO explained the reason for a reserve and the Statement which had been circulate to all Councillors was acceptable by all.
5. **Breckland Local Plan.** Nothing to report.
6. **Reports from County and District Councillors. Public Participation.**
  - 6.1. **To receive reports from County and District Councillors.** No report had been received from the County Councillor. D.C. Roger Atterwill reported that the Local Plan had been discussed at the Members meeting 2 weeks ago and that the Officers were working on the draft plan. He was the only District Councillor who wanted to retain the Settlement Boundaries. Unfortunately the other District Councillors were not too pleased that Parishioners wanted to retain them. The draft Local Plan should have gone to committee on Monday but it had been pulled. Roger will be having further discussions next week. The draft plan will go to Cabinet possibly in April but more likely it will be May. A further consultation period of 6 weeks will then take place. Roger went on to say that the meeting with UK Power Networks representatives and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee went well. UK Power Networks had secured further funding for work to go on to improve the Power supply from going down in the Beetley area. This will be monitored. The mobile phone mast was also discuss which requires a battery backup system for when there are power out situations. UK Power Network agree that this is required for them also and are putting pressure on EE to take this forward. Roger had received correspondence from several Old Beetley Parishioners regarding a caravan being placed on a piece of land, Planning Enforcement had been involved and reported that there was no breach of planning. Roger informed the meeting that there had been discussions with Breckland Planning Officers concerning a new site for the Beetley and District Pre-School. The Planning Officers agreed that the site would be acceptable and there was a Developer involved .Unfortunately it still has a long way to go before any agreement is made. He will keep the Parish Council updated.

**6.2. Public comments.** None received.

**7. Matters for report**

**7.1. Breckland Mobile Food Store.** This service is now closed further details to follow soon.

**7.2. Speedwatch Beetley.** Mr. George Hayes Beetley Speedwatch Co-ordinator reported that there had been no sessions in March but planning to do some in April.

**7.3. Old Beetley Flooding update.** The advice from the Environmental Agency which had been put into place seems to be working. The pipe which goes under the road is only 4 inches which may cause problems due to the small diameter, this will continue to be monitored.

**7.4. Power lines East Bilney Townlands : Beetley Common.** The Clerk had received emails informing the Parish Council that tree work is required in both of these sites. The Clerk will be advised when the work is to take place.

**7.5. UK Power network-Breckland Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.**

Update in the District Councillors report, item 6.1.

**8. Highways.**

**8.1. Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems.** The Clerk informed the meeting that the Verge encroachment work on Fakenham Road Beetley was still outstanding which goes back to the request made on 31/08/2023 the Clerk will yet again contact County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris for a date when it will be dealt with. The damage to the Bridge on Fakenham Road East Bilney is still not repaired, the concrete capping stone has been put back into place but the damaged concrete post has not been replaced. Councillor MacArthur informed the meeting that the Peacock Lane Beetley problem was still outstanding and he had not heard anymore from County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris who was dealing with this.

**8.2. To note any new problems within the Parish.** Councillor Richmond requested the Clerk to contact County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris regarding the stretch of road from Church Road East Bilney through to Brisley Common to ask for the whole length of road to be repaired as it was in a very poor condition and required action to be taken.

**8.3. To consider a request from a Parishioner for a 20 mph speed limit Fakenham Road Beetley.** The Parishioner who had requested this was present at the meeting and a lengthy discussion took place on this request. The Beetley Speedwatch Co-ordinator who was also present joined in this discussion. He requested that the 30 roundall on Fakenham Road near the 30 mph sign to be repainted as it had worn away. The Clerk will pass this request onto County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris. Beetley Speedwatch Co-ordinator suggested that he was willing to discuss with the Parishioner a way to improve the signage as he felt that it would take several years to obtain a reduction to a 20 mph speed limit. He would then come back to the Parish Council with suggestions to be put to N.C.C Highways. District Councillor Roger Atterwill suggested that this should be discussed with Westcotec who are the company who supply and install signage for this purpose. He also stated that when the suggestions had been approved by the Parish Council the County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris should be involved for him to take forward with the Highway Engineer. Councillor Billings stated that when he had attended the Minerals and Waste planning application meeting regarding a new quarry extraction site (put in by Longwater Gravel) it was discussed that due to an increase in HGV's going through Beetley the speed limit should be decreased. It was suggested by the Planning Committee that County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris could use some of his allocated budget to pay for a decrease of the 30 mph speed limit on Fakenham Road to make it a safer road. It may therefore be possible for his budget could be used towards new signage.

**8.4. Parish Partnership Scheme bid.** The Clerk would post the cheque and the completed acceptance form to N.C.C. Highways.

**8.5. To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths.** All Councillors present had walked their footpaths and all were ok albeit they were very muddy. Councillor Billings reported that the bridge at the end of The Drift East Bilney had still not been repaired. N.C.C. Countryside have agreed to replace this bridge but this work is still outstanding.

**9. Planning.**

**Applications.**

**9.1. 3PL/2024/0196/HOU Martyrs Cottage Church Road East Bilney. Proposed wooden Summerhouse within curtilage 2500 mm (w) x 1800 m (d) x 2500 mm (h).** It was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor MacArthur that no objection is made to

this application. All were in favour.

**Decisions made by Breckland Council.**

**9.2. 3PL/2024/0105/HOU Peacock Farm Annexe Peacock Lane Beetley.** Proposed Front and Rear extensions to Residential Annexe. **APPROVED**

**9.3. 3NM/2024/0009/NMA 6 Fakenham Road Beetley.** Amendment to 3PL/2023/0683/HOU moving of first floor window in bedroom 3. Cantilevered open porch area rather than corner post within existing footprint ( Non Mat Minor Amend ) **APPROVED.**

**Planning Inspectorate Appeal Decision.**

**9.4. APP/F2605/W/23/3326947 3PL/2023/1367/F Land off Elmham Road Beetley NR20 4BP**

The development proposed is erection of 10 no. holiday cabins with associated facilities.

**THE APPEAL IS DISMISSED.**

**10. Beetley River Meadows.**

**10.1. Monthly Play Equipment inspections.** Councillor Billings had inspected the play equipment and had made tightened up some screws on the climbing frame and he will contact NGF regarding this and one or two other issues. He passed the inspection sheets to the Clerk for filing.

**10.2. Request regarding a Laurel Bush.** An email had been received by the Clerk from a Parishioner whose garden backs onto Beetley River Meadows asking for the Parish Council to cut back the branches which were over hanging his fence. This matter was discussed and agreed that he had the right to cut back any branches overhanging his fence but the Parish Council would not pay for this or carry out any maintenance on the Laurel Bush. The Clerk would inform the Parishioner of this decision.

**11. Parish Council matters.**

**11.1. Inspections :- Pavilion, Defibrillator.** Councillor MacArthur reported that the Pavilion and the Defibrillator had been checked and were both o.k.

**11.2. Biodiversity duty update.** Councillor MacArthur is currently working on a policy for the Parish Council to adopt.

**11.3. Beetley Community Car Scheme.** The Chairman took the meeting "out of committee" to allow the Beetley Community Car Co-ordinator to address the Parish Council. The Co-ordinator informed the meeting that an agreement had been sent from Breckland Council concerning the Community Car scheme with several actions being required to obtain funding from them. She had contacted all of the volunteer drivers and they were not happy with what they would need to do. Therefore the Co-ordinator had not signed the agreement so there would be no funding from Breckland Council and she asked if the Parish Council would contribute more to enable the scheme to continue. This scheme is very much appreciated by the Beetley residents who would not want it to be discontinued. The Chairman put the meeting back "into Committee" and a discussion was held and it was suggested the Parish Council would contribute 20 pence per mile to the drivers and there would be a slight increase to the users to cover the 45 pence per mile the volunteer drivers are paid. The Co-ordinator agreed to put into place some checks to be carried out by herself on an Annual basis to ensure the volunteer drivers were legally covered for driving. It was proposed by Councillor Billings and seconded by Councillor Minchin that this suggestion should go forward, all were in agreement. The Co-ordinator thanked the Councillors for their backing which will enable the scheme to continue.

**12. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion).** Nothing was put forward.

**13. To confirm the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council will be held on Thursday 9th May 2024.** Please note one week later than normal due to the Election of the Police and Crime Commissioner. **The Annual Parish meeting will commence at 7.00 p.m.** followed by the **Annual Parish Council Meeting in Beetley Village Hall High House Road Beetley.**

**The meeting closed at 20.50**

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

**Date signed.....**