

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BEETLEY VILLAGE HALL ON
THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER 2019 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present

Councillor J O'Donovan (Chair)
Councillor M Rose
Councillor H Johnson
Councillor A Leigh
Councillor J Mayhew
Councillor R Richmond

District Councillor R Atterwill
District Councillor R Duffield

6 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor J Baldwin and these were not accepted. Apologies for absence had also been received from County Councillor M Kiddle Morris.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

There were no DPIs.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2019 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Public Participation.

4.1 County and District Councillors Reports.

The District Councillors reported that the Local Plan had been adopted but there will be a review of the Local Plan starting in the New Year. There is likely to be a call for more sites as there may not be a 5 year housing supply later. Several members are unhappy about some of the wording and there is to be a briefing for all members on 16 December on the new Local Plan. If there is a strict policy in the Local Plan then the planners should stick to it but there should be better definition of the policies. It is unlikely that any planning applications for housing that have been called in to the Planning Committee will be heard before January. In answer from Councillor Richmond to a question there should be a 20% buffer on the housing supply i.e. 6 years but there is only 5.24 years which will be in force until October 2020. There should be a better policy for the growth of market towns in the north of the region and not have everything focused on A11 corridor. November. Breckland Lottery will give grants to local Community Projects if these are registered.

4.2 Public Participation.

There were no matters raised by the public.

5. Matters to Report.

5.1 Beetley Pre-School.

The Clerk informed the members that he had met with the solicitor who had advised not to proceed with the removal of the covenant on the land as this could cost in compensation and legal fees £46000 at best and £96000 or more at worst. Councillor Richmond queried

whether the Parish Council had received in writing from the Pre-School why new buildings could not be sited on the existing site. The Clerk replied that he had not received this. A lengthy discussion was had and it was explained that there must be free access to outside play for all children and this may be why a new building cannot be on 2 storeys. A parishioner stated that there is a strip of land that was gifted to the school that might be suitable. It was agreed to inform the Pre-School that the Parish Council will not be proceeding with the removal of the covenant.

5.2 Dates of Meetings 2020.

These were confirmed as follows:-

Parish Council Meetings

January 9th (provisional)

March 5th

May 7th

July 2nd

September 3rd

November 5th

February 6th

April 2nd

June 4th

August 6th (provisional)

October 1st

December 3rd

Annual Parish Council Meeting

May 7th

Annual Parish Meeting

April 2nd

5.3 Pavilion.

The broken tile had been repaired and the water turned off. The ivy needs clearing from the rear of the building and the moss clearing from the roof. There has been some water damage to the paintwork. Norse will be contacted to enquire if it will clear the roof of moss.

5.4 Action against Climate Change.

Councillor Johnson informed the meeting that free trees are available from the Woodland Trust and 450 trees could be obtained for planting at Beetley River Meadows. Councillor Richmond stated that the Parish Council is following good practice at the Meadows with its maintenance of the area. Councillor O'Donovan suggested that all households receive a tree but this is not possible from the Woodland Trust. It was agreed to have further discussions at the next meeting.

5.5 Registration of Land.

The Clerk reported that all has now been completed with the solicitor except for Fludges Meadow. It has not been possible to prove factual possession of this although it was registered as a Common to the Parish Council. It was agreed not to pursue further this small parcel of land.

5.6 Patient Participation Group.

Councillor Leigh had attended the North Elmham Group on 13 November and reported at great length on the discussions raising many points that had been reported to the Community Car Drivers. Medicines are still available but these may not be the same packaging as the patient has been receiving and the availability changes daily. Receptionists are having training regularly and the problem of obtaining results from blood test etc was raised. It is possible to book in advance a telephone call from a doctor at the weekend but his might not be with a doctor from North Elmham but one from Dereham. Councillor Leigh will continue to attend the meetings and report back to the Parish Council. The minutes will be placed on the website now that all have signed a consent to have their names published.

5.7 Dog attack on Beetley River Meadows.

The Clerk reported that a parishioner had reported that her dog and herself had been attacked by another dog which had slipped its lead. The Parishioner had requested that larger signs be installed stating that dogs should be on leads. The signs on display

currently state that dogs should be on a lead and it was agreed that larger signs would not prove any more effective.

5.8 Scout Hut.

The Clerk had received a request for the Scout Hut to be hired out for a band practice on a Monday night and this was agreed.

6. Highways and Transport.

6.1 Report on Highways Matters.

The Clerk reported that the badger had eventually been removed and the District Councillor was thanked for his assistance. Norfolk County Council had been contacted again regarding the oak trees on Beech Road near to FP17. The Clerk had reported to Norfolk County Council the flooding on High House Road near to Fakenham Road where this had occurred previously and Norfolk County Council had confirmed that it had been investigated and it was going to resolve the problem. The Clerk had reported that a vehicle had driven into the chevron on B1146 just north of Church Road East Bilney. Norfolk County Council had again been contacted regarding the damaged signs on B1146 just south of River Lane East Bilney.

6.2 New problems.

The hedge at the junction of Tavern Close and Fakenham Road is now obscuring the repeater sign and visibility is impaired causing a high way safety problem.

6.3 Footpaths.

The Clerk had contacted the Countryside Access Officer to state that a new finger post on FP2 is in an odd position and there is still no way marker at the junction of FP3 and Brisley FP13.

The Clerk had received an e-mail from Spire Solicitors to state that the land over which the permissive path from Beetley River Meadows to Green Lane is to be sold by Gooch's Charity to Norfolk Wildlife Trust who has stated that it would be willing to enter into a similar agreement for a permissive path. The Clerk had checked the original agreement from 1998 and a clause in this agreement states that prior to any sale a formal footpath should be dedicated with Norfolk County Council. The Clerk had replied to this effect and also querying if Spire could act for the Parish Council in the matter. Spire had replied that it could not act for the Parish Council and that the Charity had not realised it had to dedicate a public footpath. In the light of previous correspondence with the Charity the Clerk had replied that he was surprised that the Charity did not realise that this clause was in the agreement as the Secretary of the Charity had always been very adamant about the clauses. It was agreed to respond to Spire to state that a footpath should be dedicated.

6.4 Blocking of Footpath 6.

The Clerk had contacted the Countryside Access Officer to state that now is an ideal time to divert the path as the dedicated route is walkable with no crops restricting access.

6.5 Local Highway Partnership 2019/20.

Westcotec had provide a quotation for new 20mph flashing signs on Fakenham Road and Elmham Road. Councillor Rose proposed and Councillor Johnson seconded the resolution that a bid be submitted for new signs on Fakenham Road at a cost of £3928 of which Norfolk County Council will fund £1964.

7. Planning.

7.1 Applications.

7.1.1 3PL/2019/1305/HOU-8 Spinney Close-roof conversion with dormer windows to existing garage roof to provide living accommodation.

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

7.1.2 3PL/2019/1383/VAR-45 Beechcroft Elmham Road-amendment to condition 2, approved plan on 3PL/2018/0608/HOU-installation of velux windows on the side roof of the garage.

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

7.1.3 3PL/2019/1360/HOU-Chrisfield 11 Elmham Road-proposed single storey front extension and associated alterations.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that no objection be raised although a comment was to be made regarding the building being to the front of the dwelling. All were in favour.

7.1.4 FUL/2019/0051-Union House Norfolk Rural Life Museum, Litcham Road, Gressenhall- Installation of 8.5m high activity tower (10.1m to top of the flagpole) with slides and rope bridges and replacement, installation and repositioning of new and existing play equipment and associated ancillary works.

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

7.1.5 3PL/2019/1062/O-Land adjacent Whitemill off Green Lane-Reduction in site area and a reduction in proposed plots from 4 to 3.

Councillor Johnson proposed and Councillor Rose seconded the resolution that an objection be raised as the members could see no reason to change the original comments. All were in favour.

7.2 Decisions.

The following decisions were noted and the any conditions placed on the application were noted

7.2.1 3PL/2019/1208/LU-Beck Farm Fakenham Road East Bilney-Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed Use or Development-Class Q permitted development rights for change of use of farm building to single dwelling pursuant to prior approval application 3PN/2019/0010/UC

Refused

7.3 Enforcement

7.3.1 Droning Noise.

This was deferred to the next meeting.

7.3.2 Flint Cottage Fakenham Road East Bilney.

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Breckland Council regarding the developer working on a Sunday but as no condition had been placed on the permission this had to be treated a noise nuisance matter. District Councillor Atterwill had contacted the Planning Enforcement Manager who had confirmed that the only way forward was through noise nuisance but it does not appear as if the developer had submitted details for the pre-commencement conditions and he would be investigating. The parishioner immediately adjacent had also complained regarding being woken at 0830 on a Sunday morning. The Clerk had also contacted the Planning Officer for the application as no chimney for the flue had been built inside the dwelling as the plans stated as the developer had decided to fit the flue externally. The Planning Officer had confirmed that he had contacted the agent to request a S73 application for the amendment, especially as the proximity of the oil tank was a key objection and neighbours should have the opportunity to comment upon the amendments on a formal application.

7.4 Appeal.

An appeal had been lodged against the decision by Breckland council to refuse permission for the construction of single-storey three-bedroom dwelling at The Cottage Fakenham Road East Bilney. It was agreed to send a representation stating

the objections the Parish Council has together with a photograph of the splay visibility.

8. Beetley River Meadows.

8.1 Report.

A bolt on the trim trail has broken and Councillor Mayhew will replace. The multi-play unit had been removed and the holes will be filled with woodchip. Councillor Johnson will speak to the parishioner regarding his hedge which is not cut back to the boundary.

8.2 Multi Play Unit.

The quotations for a new unit will be circulated.

9. Open Spaces.

9.1 Report.

Confirmation had been received that the hedge at East Bilney Town Lands will be cut in January/ February.

9.2 Beetley Common

Maintenance needs to be undertaken at the Common where the new trees were planted and the Clerk will contact the contractor and arrange to meet with him and Councillor Johnson.

9.3 Tree Preservation Order.

An objection to the new TPO for Scots Pine at 48a Elmham Road had been received by Breckland Council and this will be heard at a Planning Committee meeting.

10. Finance.

10.1 Budgets.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that the budget sheets which had been circulated be approved. All were in favour.

10.2 Donation to Beetley PCC.

Councillor Johnson proposed and Councillor Leigh seconded the resolution that £150 be donated to assist with the cutting of the churchyards. This was passed by a majority decision.

10.3 Balances and Cheques for Authorisation.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Mayhew seconded the resolution that the balances and cheques for authorisation which had been circulated be approved. All were in favour.

Balances

Barclays Community Account

Balance at 30 09 19	24909.28
Plus	
Litcham Parish Council-13.06	
Horningtoft Parish Council-13.06	
Tittleshall Parish Council-13.06	
Beeston with Bittering Parish Council-13.06	
Harpley Parish Council-13.06	
Weasenham Parish Council-13-06	
Breckland C/Car Grantt-600.00	<u>678.36</u>
	25587.64
Less	
Cheques authorised 05 09 19-85.50	
Cheques authorised 03 10 19-1875.68	<u>1961.18</u>
Balance at 31 10 19	23626.46
Less	
unpresented cheques authorised 07 11 19	<u>2686.26</u>
Balance at 07 11 19	20940.20

Float for Community Car co-ordinator
Balance at 07 11 19

250.00
21190.20

Amount available for Section 137: 1213 x £8.12 = £9534.18

Spend to Date: 30.00

Cheques for authorisation:

213	B J Leigh	Monthly Contract November 557.55 less PAYE 106.20	451.35
214	HMRC	PAYE November	106.20
215	Mrs A Leigh	Drivers Payments Community Car-November	129.50
216	Beetley PCC	Donation	150.00
217	B J Leigh	Monthly Contract December 557.55 less PAYE 106.20	451.35
218	HMRC	PAYE December	106.20
219	B J Leigh	Christmas Cards and Gifts for volunteers.	23.02
220	Beetley Village Hall	Hall Hire	36.00
221	Norfolk Citizens Advice	Donation	200.00
222	Society Of Local Council Clerks	Membership	161.00
223	Justin Steward	Removal of Multi Play Equipment.	200.00

10.4 Precept.

Councillor Mayhew proposed and Councillor Johnson seconded the resolution that the precept be set at £16750. All were in favour.

11. Correspondence received for circulation.

The following correspondence would be circulated.

11.1

Play area Quotations

12. Matters for the Next Meeting.

There were no matters raised for the next meeting.

14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

This was confirmed as Thursday 6 February 2020 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2147 hours.