

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY
BY ZOOM ON THURSDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present	Councillor S. Boyce Councillor J. Baldwin Councillor P Metcalf Councillor H. Johnson Councillor R. Richmond	(Chair)
	County Councillor M. Kiddle Morris District Councillor R. Atterwill District Councillor R. Duffield	
	Eight members of the public.	

1. Appointment of Chairman.

Councillor Metcalf proposed and Councillor Baldwin seconded the resolution that Councillor Boyce be elected chairman. All were in favour. The declaration of acceptance of office was duly signed and witnessed.

2. Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

3. To receive Declaration of Pecuniary Interests.

There were no DPI's .

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Metcalf seconded the resolution that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st. October 2020 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

5. Public participation.

5.1 County and District Councillors reports

County Councillor Kiddle-Morris had forwarded his report as below
Covid 19:

The Covid 19 infection rates are rising among the working population in Norfolk and there are concerns that this could lead to an increase in the infection rate among the over 60s which will impose a strain on hospital accommodation. As of the 23rd October the infection rate has risen to 89.2 per 1000k of population, the Breckland area has the highest rate at 171 per 100k. The Breckland rate of infection is mainly due to the outbreak in a food processing plant in Watton where nearly half of workers tested have proved positive. To prevent the transmission of the virus to the vulnerable members of the population it is important to follow the strict guidelines: Hands – Face – Space and the rule of 6. Norfolk remains in Tier One restrictions.

In advance of any serious second wave please remember to contact those people who needed support during the last lockdown to reassure them of support in the future if required.

Flu:

Flu causes the death of around 15,000 people in the UK each year. The most vulnerable group are those people over 65, the same group that are at most risk from

Covid 19. There has been an increase in the take up of the flu vaccine this year, but the message must be to all those who are at most risk i.e. those with underlying respiratory conditions plus those over 65 to get a flu jab.

Budget:

There is still considerable uncertainty in what government funding will be available for financial year 21/22. Additionally, the government has not stated whether the allowed percentage increase in the general precept will remain at 2% or be amended. There is also uncertainty as to whether a rise is permissible in the adult social care precept. Despite this uncertainty NCC are obliged to consult on its budget proposals for 20/21 making suppositions as to governments intentions. The consultation runs until the 14th December, details can be found on the NCC website. The Council will set its council tax at its February 2021 meeting.

Grass Cutting:

As part of the budget consultation (above) it is proposed to reduce grass verge cutting on "C" and "U" roads from 2 cuts per year to one. Also, it is proposed to reduce urban cuts from 5 to 4 per year.

Boundary Review:

The second Boundary commission consultation on proposed changes to the Councils Division boundaries closes on the 23rd November. A change from the initial consultation is that Brisley is added to the new Division "Launditch". Due to a delay in the process due to Covid any changes will not take place until the 2025 Norfolk Council elections.

Parish Partnership:

A reminder that bids for 50% funding for small highway improvements under the Parish Partnership scheme need to be submitted by the middle of December. If you have any queries, please contact me in the first instance.

County Farms:

The County Council is committed to maintaining the County Farm Estate in excess of 16,000 acres. The tenanted farms which vary in size provide a thriving and progressive estate which supports individual businesses and enables economic growth into the county's agricultural sector and indirectly into numerous related businesses. Any capital receipt from the sale of redundant buildings and land are reinvested in the estate. The County Farm estate was recently increased through the purchase of 163 acres.

The County Councillor added that Covid 19 up dates are being issued daily, and there is a shortage of staff in the Highways Section of Norfolk County Council. Norfolk County Council will not cut overhanging hedges without the land owners permission. The landowners need to be written to first.

District Councillor Duffield stated that there had been no progress on enforcement at Shorthorns nursery due to lack of staff. A six million pounds' business support scheme has been launched by Breckland. Support personnel are still working at Breckland. District Councillor Atterwill stated that the resources at Breckland Council are being primarily being used for Covid 19. A robust response to the Planning White Paper had been sent by Breckland Council and he hopes that the Planning White Paper never gets passed into law.

5.2 Public participation.

There were no matters raised by the public.

6. Fund raising for Beetley Play Area.

The Meeting was adjourned.

A representative from the fund raising team informed the members that £500 had been raised on the Halloween trail. 105 children took part and the feedback has been very positive with requests for a Christmas trail. There has been tremendous support from the parish with £115 raised by a cake sale and £200 from a raffle run by a business in the parish. The money is to be taken to the Clerk for banking.

The team has sent out all quotes and the preference from them is for NGF Play although Action Play is also a contender. The aim is to raise 10% of the cost before applying for grants. The team feel that the first item to be replaced should be the multiplay which would include a gradual ramp suitable for children with limited mobility and a wide slide.

The Meeting was reconvened.

The Chairman requested that all Councillors look at the quotations and consider the options.

7. Matters to report.

7.1 Dog Fouling.

A parishioner had contacted the Clerk to inform him that there had been a big increase in dog fouling during the last lock-down. The parishioner had suggested sites for additional dog bins including Old Beetley, Green Lane /High House Road junction and East Bilney Church as well as at the end of the footpath at the end of East Bilney. The Clerk stated that in his opinion if the dog fouling is not picked up now it will not be picked up no matter how many dog bins there are. It was agreed to contact the dog warden, place an article on the website and to monitor the situation.

7.2 Remembrance Sunday.

The Chairman informed the meeting that there will be a small service at Bilney Church at 09.30. Face masks and social distancing will be mandatory. Only one person per organisation will be allowed and the Chairman will lay the wreath on behalf of the residents of Beetley Parish.

7.3 Site on School Road.

The site had been monitored and it was agreed to await any planning application. Councillor Metcalf will monitor the site.

7.4 Resignation of Jacqui O'Donovan.

A letter has been received from Jacqui resigning from the Parish Council for personal reasons. The Chairman expressed his thanks for all the work she had done for the Parish and wished her and her family well.

7.5 Website.

The Chairman reported that he hopes the new website be live before Christmas. There is space for each Councillor to have a photograph of themselves and a brief write up which is considered best practice.

8. Highways.

8.1 Report on Highway matters.

There is a road closure on Halfpenny Lane between the 16th and 18th November. There has been flooding on Elmham Road near to number 26 and this has been reported to Norfolk County Council. Breckland Council have raised works orders for Serco to complete a litter pick along the B1146.

8.2 New problems.

There were no problems reported. The Chairman reminded the members that anyone can report a highways problem on the Norfolk County Council website. The Clerk requested that he be informed of any problems so that if they are not resolved he can contact the County Councillor.

8.3 Footpaths.

8.3.1 Report from all Councillors.

Councillor Metcalf stated that her footpaths were satisfactory, as did Councillor Richmond and Councillor Johnson. Councillor Baldwin had not walked her footpaths.

8.4 Local Highway Partnership Scheme.

Councillor Richmond had met the Area Engineer who will produce a sketch and quotations for gateways and roundels in East Bilney. He also pressed the Area Engineer to have the flashing signs on Fakenham Road signs done which is the 2020/2021 scheme.

9. Planning.

9.1 Applications.

9.1.1 3PL/2020/1067/VAR-Domus Faba Bittering Street-variation of condition 2 on 3PL/2017/1096/HOU-to change the roof line from an apex style roof with barn hips at either end to a straight apex roof so that it matches the property and to move the double doors so that they are accessible from the current driveway.

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

9.1.2 3PL/2020/0750/F – Beetley & District pre-school Elmham Road – Replacement of current mobile unit with a purpose built pre-school building.- Additional Plan

District Councillor Atterwill stated that any comments had to be on planning matters. The Chairman replied that this had already been discussed at the previous meeting. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Councillor Metcalf proposed and Councillor Boyce seconded the resolution that an objection be raised as the site is not the correct location. This was passed by a majority decision, Councillor Baldwin objected to the resolution.

9.2 Decisions.

The following decisions were noted.

9.2.1 3PL/2020/0797/F – Land at Cedarville Holt Road – Replacement dwelling with detached garage/store/office building (Revised design of previous approval 3PL/2014/0120/Reduction in height of proposed dwelling and amended siting.) N/O Approved

9.2.2 3PL/2020/1004/F-Blue berry Hill Therapeutics, Halfpenny Lane-Timber frame single storey building for Therapeutic Treatment (revised siting). N/O Approved.

9.3 Appeals

9.3.1 APP/F2605/W/20/3253587-Land at Beetley Grange, Beetley Dismissed

9.4 Enforcement regarding School Road.

The Clerk had reported unauthorised work on the plot by the felling of trees, removal of the badger set removal of hedge and erection of a gate.

10. Beetley River Meadows.

10.1 Report on the Area.

There were no problems reported.

10.2 Grass cutting 2021

The Assistant Clerk reported that it had been a joy to work with the current contractor during 2020. There had been no adverse comments from anyone. The

quotation for 2021 had been received and circulated. Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Johnson seconded that the quotation from F.T. Grounds Maintenance Ltd., for £2100.47 be accepted. All were in favour.

10.3 Norfolk Wildlife Trust

A representative from NWT explained that it had purchased land from Dereham in need relief charity and the aim is to improve biodiversity and access management. It is a nature reserve and it is to be linked with Hoe Roughs by 1.5 metre x 11 metre visibly a timber bridge. The fencing will be improved for cattle and a nature trail developed. The river is to be narrowed to speed up flow and trees planted to provide shading to reduce the weeds in the river. A map will be sent to the Clerk for him to forward to the Councillors. A planning application will be submitted and discussions will take place with the Environment Agency and Natural England. A letter of support from the Parish Council would be appreciated. All were in favour of the development.

11. Open Spaces.

11.1 Report.

The Clerk requested that the hedge along Fakenham Road at East Bilney Townlands be cut in January/February. All were in Favour.

11.2 Tree Planting.

210 trees have arrived which is a mixture of species together with canes and guards. Councillor Johnson will send a plan of the planting to the Clerk for onward transmission to all Councillors. The Assistant Clerk stated that there needs to be a maintenance programme so that the trees have the best possible chance of survival. The Assistant Clerk will discuss with the grass cutting contractor after they have been planted.

12. Finance

12.1 Budget.

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

12.2 Balances and cheques for authorisation.

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Baldwin 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 28 08 20	13876.76
Plus	<u>0.00</u>
	13876.76
Less cheques authorised 02 04 20-1464.00	
cheques authorised 09 08 20-378.57	
cheques authorised 03 09 20-1280.35	
D/Debit E-on 08 09 20 -8.45	3131.37
Balance at 30 09 20	10745.39
Less unpresented cheques authorised 01 10 20	<u>2623.74</u>
Balance at 01 10 20	8121.65
Float for Community Car co-ordinator	<u>250.00</u>
Balance at 10 09 20	8371.65

Amount available for Section 137: 1213 x £8.32 = £10092.16
Spend to Date: 18.00

Cheques for authorisation:

288	B J Leigh	Monthly Contract October 557.55 less PAYE -163.80	721.35
289	Mrs A Leigh	Drivers Payments Community Car-September	63.40
290	Community Heartbeat Trust	New pads	97.20
291	Norwich Office Supplies	Photocopy paper.	31.08
292	Norfolk Parish Training & Support	Subscription Sept 2020- March 2021 – 97.70 Training for Councillor Metcalf- 40.00 training for Councillor Boyce-40.00	177.70
293	F.T.Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grass Cutting September	360.07

12.3 Appointment of signatory for bank account.

It was agreed unanimously that the Chairman be the third signatory.

12.4 Clerks National Pay Award.

The award has been agreed and the increase for the Clerk is from £12.39 per hour to £12.73 per hour. This is backdated to 01 04 2020. The increase for a year will be £183.60.

13. Appointment of Vice Chairman.

The Chairman proposed and Councillor Baldwin seconded the resolution that Councillor Richmond be elected as Vice Chairman. The declaration of acceptance of office was duly signed and witnessed.

14. Councillors responsibilities.

14.1 Footpaths.

These had been circulated and agreed with the exception of 3 in Old Beetley for which a volunteer was requested.

14.2 Pavilion.

Councillor Johnson will inspect this on a monthly basis.

14.3 Bottle Bank.

Councillor Baldwin will check this.

14.4 Defibrillator.

Councillor Metcalf will check this on a monthly basis.

14.5 Check on Financial Documents.

Councillor Baldwin confirmed she would do this twice yearly.

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

15.1 Parish Precept.

15.2 Casual Vacancy.

15.3 Charity meeting.

16. Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as Thursday December 3rd 2020 at 7.30 pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 21.45.