

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7th November 2024. 2024. AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present

Councillor R. Richmond (Chair)
Councillor M. MacArthur.
Councillor P. Minchin.
Councillor P. Lawton
Councillor J. Billings
District Councillor Atterwill.
1 member of the Public.

In Attendance

A .Leigh. Clerk
R. Wade RFO

1. **To Consider apologies for absence.** County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris, District Councillor R. Duffield. The apologies were accepted .The proposer for these apologies was Councillor Richmond the seconder was Councillor MacArthur, all were in agreement.
2. **To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.** None received.
3. **To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 03/10/2024.** It was proposed by Councillor Lawton 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 Minchin and seconded by Councillor Richmond that the budgets as circulated were in order, all were in agreement.
 - 4.2. **Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated.**

Angela Leigh Poppy Appeal wreath and donation £40.00 (S 137 payment), Wave £23.40 d/d, NPTS £56.00, Clerks Salary (October) £483.12, RFO salary (October) £123.80 HMRC, (October) £151.60, Angela Leigh (Community Car Drivers October pay) £118.85, Clerks backdated pay award £154.61, RFO backdated pay award £39.72, Utility bank service charge £4.40, Eon £18.63 d/d, Ady's Woodsplitting Servies Ltd., £170.00 ,F.T. Grounds Maintenance Ltd., £325.63 (Monthly cut).It was proposed by Councillor Billings and seconded by Councillor MacArthur that these were correct, all in agreement.
 - 4.3. **Charity Account update.** The R.F.O. reported that as agreed a Charity bank account with Utility bank would be set up, this should be raised within a month.
 - 4.4. **Change of bank update.** The R.F.O. reported that 2 bank accounts are now set up and it proposed by Councillor MacArthur and seconded by Councillor Minchin that £10,000 should be transferred from the current account into the savings account. All were in agreement. It was agreed that Councillor Billings and Councillor MacArthur should authorise the payments which the R.F.O had set up online and also authorise the £10,000 transfer.
5. **Reports from County and District Councillors. Public Participation.**
 - 5.1. **To receive reports from County and District Councillors.** County Councillor had emailed a report to the Clerk and it had been circulated to all Councillors. District Councillor Atterwill reported that Breckland's Car Parking charges consultation is now open. There is Breckland Household Support fund now in operation which will assist with the cost of living to cover Fuel, Food etc., It is a £300 one off payment and if any Parishioner wanted to apply he would assist with completing the paperwork. The new Breckland Planning Portal is not working too well at present, hopefully it will soon be rectified.
 - 5.2. **Public comments.** A Parishioner informed the meeting that a footpath sign had fallen down and was obscured by vegetation. The Parishioner would forward a photograph to the Clerk to be forward onto Norfolk County Council's Countryside section for repair.

6. Matters for report

6.1. Speedwatch Beetley. The Clerk informed the meeting that there had been only one session carried out on the Elmham Road due to non-availability of volunteers. Four vehicles were recorded above the speed limit the Highest speed recorded was 37 mph. The Constabulary Enforcement Team were seen on at least one occasion on the Fakenham Road. The hour change in availability of light will mean a slight change when sessions are done over the next few months.

7. Highways.

7.1. Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems. The Clerk reported that she had received an email from County Councillor Mark Kiddle Morris concerning the outstanding Highway issues. The Church Lane East Bilney to Brisley Common road surface had HRA patch repairs carried out. He had requested this road is considered for surface dressing which would not be programmed until 26/27 (at the earliest) as the capital projects for 25/26 had already been allocated. Also requested was Field Lane should be inspected, this had been carried out. The road meets the inspection criteria for an unmade road. The siding out of the footpath (verge encroachment) on the B1146 between School Road and High House Road had been programmed. The Highways team have noted that the adjacent hedge requires cutting back in certain places. A letter to the landowners should be sent by the Parish Council requesting this in the first instance. If the hedge is not cut back then Highways would take further action. The Clerk is to establish the owners of the hedge.

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

7.3. To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths. Councillor Billings reported that he had walked his footpaths and that FP2 and PF3 had brambles growing over them and he would cut them back. Councillor Lawton reported that CRF16 had a signpost which had fallen over and he had picked it up and ensured it was pointing in the correct direction. The Clerk would inform N.C.C. Countryside section of this and ask for it to be fitted securely. Councillor Richmond reported his were all ok. Councillor MacArthur reported that his had no problems. Councillor Minchin had not been well enough to walk his but he would walk them by the next meeting. It was suggested that the Parish Council should purchase a long reach hedge cutter to assist with tidying up the footpaths, Councillor MacArthur would obtain prices and circulate to all Councillors.

7.4. Verge cutting Beetley Parish. A discussion took place concerning the poor cutting of the verges last Summer. It was agreed that the Clerk contacts M.P. Dennis to enquire which verges they cut in the Parish on behalf of N.C.C. The Clerk will also contact the RFO to enquire how many quotations need to be sought.

8. Planning.

Applications.

8.1. PL/2024/0751/HOU Little Oaks 50 Elmham Road Beetley. Proposed installation of roof windows to side elevation. It was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Minchin that no objection is raised, all were in agreement.

8.1.1. Additional Application. Peacock Farm Peacock Lane Beetley. 3AG/2024/0026/AG Steel Framed Agricultural Class 11 building for housing Agricultural Machinery/straw. This was discussed, all agreed that no comment needed to be made.

Decisions made by Breckland Council.

8.2. 3PL/2024/0711/HOU Waterside Church Road Beetley. Creation of balcony area and Installation of a safety balustrade system to an existing roof (3mx3m) (Householder) **REFUSED.** Norfolk County Council Minerals and Waste.

8.3. Application to Committee 27/09/2024: Ful/2023/0029 Land to South of Field Lane East Bilney. Extension to quarry with installation of a ground conveyor with culvert to accommodate convey. Middleton Aggregates. **APPROVED.**

Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

8.4. 3PL/2024/0711/HOU : Appeal reference APP/F2605/D/24/3354248. Waterside Church Road Old Beetley. Creation of balcony area and installation of a safety balustrade system to an existing flat roof (3m x 3m) This appeal was noted by all.

9. Beetley River Meadows.

9.1. Monthly Play Equipment inspections. Councillor Billings had carried out an inspection in October and passed the paperwork to the Clerk. The Clerk informed Councillor Billings that the last

inspection on file was dated June, he would check his paperwork for a July inspection. September inspection had not been carried out as he was on holiday.

9.2. Bank erosion. Councillor's Richmond, MacArthur, Billings, Minchin and the Clerk had a meeting with the Grass Cutting contractors at the "beach" regarding the bank erosion. It was agreed that the Grass Cutting contractors would repair the erosion in November when they were cutting back the small trees on the Grassland area (as agreed with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust Officer) and use the branches for the repair.

10. Parish Council matters.

10.1. Inspections :- Pavilion, Defibrillator. Councillor MacArthur reported that the water heater in the toilet of the Pavilion was not working. Councillor Billings would contact his electrician and ask that he contacts Councillor MacArthur to arrange a meeting regarding the repair/replacement. The Pavilion was clean and tidy and it was good to see that the Beetley Football team were keeping to the agreement made. The inspection sheet was passed to the Clerk to file. The Defibrillator was in good working order.

10.2. Remembrance Service East Bilney Church. The Clerk had passed the poppy wreath to the Chairman who would attend the service and lay the wreath on behalf of Beetley Parish. The Clerk would also attend.

10.3. Biodiversity Policy Action Plan. Councillor MacArthur had produced a draft plan concerning Beetley River Meadows, which he circulated to the Councillors. Councillor Minchin proposed and Councillor Lawton seconded that this be adopted. All were in agreement. Councillor MacArthur will email this to the Clerk. It was agreed that a meeting in the New Year is set up with Ady to discuss a plan of action for Beetley Common. A meeting in the Spring is also to be held at East Bilney Townlands to take forward an action plan for this area.

10.4. Norfolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan Publication of proposed main modifications and additional modifications. The Councillors noted this.

10.5. Beetley Community Car Scheme. The Clerk informed the meeting that the scheme would not be operating for 5 weeks. The last date will be Friday 29th November and re-open on Monday 6th January. A message will be on the Co-ordinators answer phone to advise customers. The Co-Ordinator will inform as many customers as possible.

11. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion). 2025/2026 budget, Parish precept.

12. To confirm the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council will be held on Thursday 28th November 2024 7.30 p.m. (This is in lieu of a December meeting) at Beetley & East Bilney Village Hall High House Road Beetley.

The meeting closed at 21.04.

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

Date signed.....