

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held for Beetley Parish Council in the Village Hall on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present**      **Councillor S. Boyce (Chairman)**  
                  **Councillor R. Richmond (Vice Chairman)**  
                  **Councillor J. Baldwin**  
                  **Councillor M. MacArthur**  
                  **Councillor T. Scott**

**In Attendance** **Clerk A. Leigh**  
                  **District Councillor R. Atterwell and District Councillor R. Duffield.**

**10 Parishioners**

1. To consider Apologies for Absence.  
Apologies where received from County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris and Parish Councillor Laura Cissell. These where accepted.
2. To receive Declaration of Pecuniary Interests.  
A DPI ( B ) was received From Councillor T. Scott regarding agenda item 4.2. Beetley Pre-School
3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> February.  
The minutes of the last meeting where accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Councillor Scott seconded by Councillor J. Baldwin and agreed by all.
4. Public Participation
  - 4.1 To receive reports from the County and District Councillors.  
District Councillor R. Duffield reported that he was disappointed that the Parish Councils opposition to Shorthorns planning application was not listened to and considered seriously by Breckland Council. District Councillor Roger Atterwill reported that Breckland Council Planning conditions are a "joke" and not monitored by the enforcement officers. He continued by outlining the online course that he and Parish Councillor Cissell had attended about Inspiring Communities and Social Prescribing as part of the mental health strategy. He also stated that the Breckland budget had been set and the Breckland precept for a band D house would increase by approximately £5 per annum.
  - 4.2 Public discussion on Beetley Pre-School

The Chairman explained his protocol for the debate and then read a statement of the chronology of the events that have led to the situation the Parish Council and the Pre-School are in today. The Chair of the Pre-School Building Development talked of the essential service which they supply to the younger members of the society who have been adversely affected by Covid. She expressed a willingness to consider options and requested an open dialogue with the Parish Council. The Parish Council Chairman then read a letter from a Parishioner who was angry with the Parish Council for even considering discussing the matter of the Pre-School and insisted on their right to pursue the Parish Council for compensation under the terms of the covenant. There was then another speaker from the Pre-School Building Development Committee who was new to the area and had a 2 year old daughter who attended the Pre-School. He talked about how the decisions of the Parish Council would create a legacy for future generations and the future of the community. He requested an open and honest dialogue .The Parish Chairman then read out another letter from a Parishioner who was also against the siting of the Pre-School on covenanted land. The Parish Council chairman explained the potential costs and the detriment and possible bankruptcy this could cause the Parish Council. District Councillor Atterwell understands that the covenant on the land causes the Parish Council considerable concern and wishes to help and understand the alternative sites available for the Pre-School. A Parishioner asked how much it would cost to waive the covenant and the Parish Council Chairman gave examples and explained who the money would be payable to. This is in addition to any legal or property costs. Councillor Richmond remembers the Parish Council previously talking to the Pre-School about alternative sites such as the Norse property, the School Memorial/garden area and other Parish land within Beetley. All of these alternatives where presented to the Pre-School and the Parish Council has had no response. Likewise the Parish Council has had no response to its requests for the Pre-School to indemnify the Parish Council against all costs and compensations pertaining to the Covenant as advised by their Solicitor. The Pre-School Manager explained that the current site is leased from Norfolk County Council who may want the site back to further expand the School, as both the School

and the Pre-School are overprescribed. The Pre-School have approached Norfolk County Council who seem to be impervious to their requests for help in re-locating the Pre-School. The Parish Council Chairman looked to the District Councillors to help and support the Pre-School in approaching Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council. The Parish Chairman thanked everyone for the discussion and suggested that the Pre-School look at previous correspondence from the Parish Council and contact the Parish Clerk should they need further clarification, explanation or discussion.

5. Planning.

5.1 Applications.

**5.1.1 3PL/2022/0106/VAR The Shrublands Gressenhall Road Beetley. Variation of conditions 2,3,12 and 17 on 3PL/2020/1392/F. To allow for a detached garage to accommodate bat accommodation.**

Councillor Boyce advised those present that this application had been seen several times before recently and that this variation was to comply with the conditions placed upon the application to allow the detached garage of plot 1 a self-contained bat loft also details of the design and positioning of hedgehog houses tree plantings and bird boxes. This seems all in order and in compliance with the conditions imposed. Therefore it was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Scott that this application is accepted all were in favour.

**5.1.2 3PL/2022/0149/F. Hall Farm Barn Fakenham Road East Bilney. 2 no. self-contained holiday let rooms.**

Councillor Boyce advised the Parish Councillors that this planning application was for a new detached two bedroom self-contained unit in the front/yard garden of the Barn. This is a residential property that seems to be changing to a small business. Representation has been made to the Parish Council by two Parishioners objecting to this development on the grounds that it is outside of the settlement boundary, could be harmful to local flora and fauna and is an overdevelopment of a small site with limited access. The owners of the property and nearby resident opened a dialogue which the Parish Council hopes will continue, however the Parish Council would continue in its president of objecting to the building outside of the settlement boundary. This was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Richmond all were in favour.

**5.1.3 3PL/2022/0165/F. Vale Farm Barns, Stoney Lane Beetley. Proposed barn conversion and extension to form dwelling, detached garage/outbuilding, rebuild of existing outbuilding to form annexe, reroofing of existing pole barn, including change of use of agricultural land to domestic to use for domestic foul drainage/treatment plant.**

This planning application is a repetition of a planning permission from 2009 which was fully granted for which conditions were placed upon in 2021 and today the Parish Council have been asked to consider the final drawings of the conversion of three old farm buildings to dwellings. As a Parish Council we have objected to this before as it is outside of the settlement boundary and therefore all the previous objections still stand. This was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor MacArthur all were in agreement.

5.2 Decisions by Breckland Council.

**5.2.1 3CM/2022/0001/CM. Blueberry Hill Halfpenny Lane. FUL/2021/0059 Proposed new ASHP to replace the existing oil tank enlarging the parking/turning area and change gravel drive to resin bound gravel and use of caravan (County Matter) APPROVED.**

**5.2.2 3PL/2021/1524/F Shorthorns Garden Centre Elmham Road Beetley. Proposed mixed use garden centre and stationing of static caravans & utility blocks for residential use inclusive of all ancillary utilities. APPROVED.**

6. To receive a progress report on Beetley Play Area.

The Clerk reported that the play area refurbishment was nearly completed with an informal opening after the safety inspection is carried out next week. She asked for volunteers from the Parish Council to meet as a working group to discuss a formal opening and the use of surplus funds.

7. 7.1 Budgets as circulated

These were proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Scott all were in favour.

7.2 Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated.

These were proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor MacArthur all were in favour.

### Finance Report:- 03.03.2022

<b>Barclays Community Account</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2022	59,613.15
Less: Presented cheques authorised 03.02.22	
<b>As per bank statement 28.2.22</b>	
Less: Unpresented cheque from May £75	-75.00
Less: Presented cheques authorised 03.03.22	-985.46
<b>Actual total as at 28.2.22</b>	

Amount available for S.137: 1213 x £8.32 = £10,092.16 - Spend to Date: £58.00

<b>Cheques authorisation for 03.02.22</b>			<b>£</b>
406	Mrs A Leigh	Clerk salary	356.55
407	HMRC	PAYE	89.00
408	Beeston Bookkeeping	RFO Services November	150.00
409	Mrs A Leigh-BCCS Feb 2021	Community Car payment	52.70
410	Mrs A Leigh-Expenses	Expenses	333.80
411	Electronic Office Solutions	Photocopying	3.77
D/Debit	E-on	Electricity	12.90
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£998.72</b>

<b>Play Area Fund</b>		<b>£</b>
04.01.20	Christmas Tree Trail	£ 1,300.00
25.03.20	Donations (Farrier, Middleton)	£ 2,000.00
11.11.20	Halloween Trail	£ 706.00
01.04.21	Parish Council (ring-fenced)	£ 3,000.00
14.04.21	Easter Egg Hunt	£ 365.00
20.04.21	Fleet Sense	£ 1,000.00
16.07.21	Lottery Funding	£ 60,000.00
19.07.21	Bruce Wake Charitable Trust	£ 2,000.00
12.08.21	NCF Funding	£ 1,874.00
31.08.21	Plant sales	£ 230.00
10.09.21	Arnold Clark	£ 1,000.00
<b>14.10.21</b>	<b>NGF Play Limited</b>	<b>-£ 21,883.04</b>
13.11.21	Halloween Trail	£630.00
		<b>£ 52,221.96</b>

8. Matters for Report.

8.1 Old Beetley dog bin

It has been requested that the Parish Council places a dog bin in Old Beetley as there are none at present this has been discussed at previous meetings and the Clerk reports that the cost will be £206 plus VAT. Councillor MacArthur agreed to install this bin it was proposed by Councillor Baldwin and seconded by Councillor Scott all were in favour.

The next four items were deferred to the next meeting as Councillor Cissell had sent apologies.

8.2 Energy advice webinar

8.3 Breckland landscape webinar

8.4 Norfolk and Waveney Wellbeing webinar

8.5 Norfolk and Waveney Mind webinar

9. Highways.

9.1 Re-Classification of Roads in Old Beetley.

Councillor MacArthur explained that the application to Norfolk County Council Highways had been returned with an explanation that this was not a solution to the racing of 4x4 and quad bikes and that a permitted bridle way would not prevent motor vehicle use of the lanes.

9.2 Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems.

The Clerk reported Raw Hall Lane pothole has been repaired. The overgrown tree near the school in Beetley a letter has been sent but action has ensued. The Bridge repair at Beetley, Fakenham Road, has been classified as non-urgent, the clerk informed us.

9.3 East Bilney flooding. The clerk reported that Norfolk County Council informed the County Councillor, who sent onto the Parish Clerk their findings. NCC had not informed the Parishioners who had been flooded, so the Clerk, as a courtesy, informed them prior to this meeting.

9.4 To note any new problems within the parish.

9.5 To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths. Councillor Boyce reported a large tree down along FP18 near the river, this is going to be a large job and has been passed to Nick Saunders along with the Oak tree on Beech Road next to the postbox. Councillor Richmond reported that his footpaths are OK but there may be some future remedial work needed on the boardwalk. Councillor Baldwin reported that footpath 9 needed 3 new fingerposts and Councillor MacArthur agreed to collect the spare posts that we have and get a local farmer to help him re-instate these. Councillor Scott and Councillor MacArthur both reported that their footpaths were all OK. Other than the fingerpost on Holt road on footpath 12 which highways have been requested to deal with.

10. Beetley River Meadows.

10.2 Grass Cutting Contract Beetley River Meadows Area 2022. The clerk informed the meeting that FT Ground Maintenance had submitted a quote for the Meadows on a tri-annual cut at a cost of £463.84 per annum. This was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Scott. All were in agreement.

11. Open Spaces.

11.1 To receive a report and note any problems. None at present.

11.2 To receive a report on East Bilney townlands. No problems since the fallen tree has been removed from near the boardwalk

12. Parish Council Matters

12.1. Inspections.: Defibrillator The chair asked if Councillor MacArthur would take on the monthly check of the defibrillator. He agreed to do so. Councillor Scott reported loose bricks on the pavilion which he has agreed to repair.

13. Correspondence. The clerk reported that Councillor Atterwell regarding nominations for the Queens Honours List for 2023, it was agreed to nominate a parishioner who has been involved with the play area. The Chair has also written to a parishioner regarding the stile on Church Road, East Bilney.

14. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion). Pre-school possibly.

15. To confirm that the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council is to be held on Thursday April 7th 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9:19pm

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Signed by Robert Richmond, Vice Chair,  
As a true and accurate record of the meeting on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2022