

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE  
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024. AT 7.30 P.M.**

**Present**

Councillor R. Richmond (Chair)  
Councillor M. MacArthur.  
Councillor P. Minchin.  
Councillor P. Lawton (co-opted 03/10/2024)  
District Councillor R. Duffield  
County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris.  
No members of the Public.

**In Attendance**     A .Leigh. Clerk

1. **To Consider apologies for absence.** Rebecca Wade RFO, Parish Councillor John Billings (family bereavement) 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 05/09/2024.** It was proposed by Councillor Minchin and seconded by Councillor MacArthur that the minutes were true and accurate, all were in agreement.
4. **To consider the co-option onto the Council. Mr. Peter Lawton.** Councillor Richmond proposed Councillor MacArthur seconded all agreed that Mr Peter Lawton was co-opted onto the Council. Councillor Lawton duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Clerk also signed.
5. **Finance.**
  - 5.1. **Budgets as circulated.** It was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Minchin that the budgets as circulated were in order, all were in agreement.
  - 5.2. **Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated.** G&G Fencing £102.00, EBM Managed Services Ltd., £16.67 D/D, F. T Grounds Maintenance Ltd £503.96 (Annual Grass land cut) £325.63 (monthly cut), Clerks salary (September) £483.12, R.F.O. salary (September) £123.80, HMRC (September) £151.60, Angela Leigh (Community Car drivers September pay) £92.00, EON £18.44 D/D. It was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor MacArthur that these were correct all were in agreement.
  - 5.3. **Charity Account update.** The RFO had received two letters from Barclays bank and these had been circulated to all Councillors. A discussion took place and it was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor MacArthur that the RFO should open a Charity account with Unity bank, all were in agreement. The outstanding cheque for the Beetley Charity had been received from Barclays bank this will be banked into the new Charity account when opened.
  - 5.4. **Removal of Councillor Paul Minchin as a cheque signatory from the Unity Bank account.** At the last meeting Councillor Minchin agreed to be the Internal Audit Control Officer for the Parish Council. Therefore he cannot be a cheque signatory. It was proposed by Councillor Lawton and seconded by Councillor Richmond that he would not be a signatory, all were in agreement.
  - 5.5. **Change of Bank update.** Two accounts are now open with the Unity bank, a current account and a savings account. This month's cheques were raised on the Unity bank cheque book.
6. **Reports from County and District Councillors. Public Participation.**
  - 6.1. **To receive reports from County and District Councillors.** County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris had sent a report to the Clerk which had been circulated to all Councillors. He highlighted parts of the report. The devolution deal which had been set up with the previous Government has been lost and the current Government is requesting that Norfolk and Suffolk amalgamate and have one Mayor. He stated that Diss will be surrounded by electricity pylons and there are 8000 acres of

Solar Farms proposed between Narborough and Swaffham, with the possibility of more in the Breckland area. The Government are now proposing 917 houses per year are to be built against 661 previously allocated. Parish Councillor Minchin asked if the dualling of the A47 was still going ahead. The County Councillor confirmed it was. District Councillor Duffield reported that the Breckland Local Plan is now suspended and Breckland Council have written to the Government stating that productive farmland would be lost due to the increase required for house building and the creation of Wildlife sites. The land is very important for growing food and this would be lost.

**Public comments.** None.

## **7. Matters for report**

**7.1. Speedwatch Beetley.** The Clerk informed the meeting that there had been four sessions carried out during September in total covering both the Fakenham Road and Elmham Road, overall 36 vehicles were recorded above the limit of which 27 were on Elmham Road. The highest speed recorded was 52 mph in a 30 mph zone on the Elmham Road. It appears that the new sign on Fakenham Road is having a positive effect in making drivers more aware of the limit and causing them to reduce their speed. The Speedwatch Co-ordinator has informed the Police enforcement team about the excessive speeds on Elmham Road and they are going to put speed monitoring equipment in place sometime in the near future.

**7.2. SNAP meeting 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024.** Councillor Richmond informed the meeting that he had attended the meeting on line and it was well attended. The main points were anti-social behaviour in Dereham and thefts in local shops. A "Shop Watch" system had been set up in Dereham to hopefully decrease the theft from Dereham shops.

**7.3. Litter Pick B1146.** The Clerk reported that a Serco team had carried out a litter pick on the 18<sup>th</sup> September on the B1146 Fakenham Road Beetley and East Bilney.

## **8. Highways.**

**8.1. Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems.** The Clerk reported that surfacing on part of the B1146 in East Bilney is at present taking place with a road closure in the evenings for 3 days. The outstanding Highway problems as reported last month are still outstanding, Church Road East Bilney to Brisley Common road surface in poor condition. Field Lane very overgrown and verge encroachment on the footpath between School Road and High House road. The Highways Engineer had responded but not with an acceptable reply. The Clerk had sent a further email to him requesting clarification. County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris stated he would take these issues up with the Highway Engineer and respond to the Clerk. These issues had been going on for several months.

**8.2. To note any new problems within the Parish.** None identified.

**8.3. Parish Partnership to consider bids for next year.** This was discussed and it was agreed not to place a bid this year. The Clerk would inform Norfolk County Council of this decision.

**8.4. To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths.** All Councillors reported that the Footpaths were very muddy but otherwise ok.

**8.5. Re-allocation of footpaths for Councillors.** It was agreed that Councillor Lawton would take over Councillor Baldwin's footpaths. The Clerk would issue a new list to all Councillors. Councillor Lawton requested a footpath map showing footpath CRF16 the Clerk would forward one to him.

**8.6. Verge cutting Beetley Parish.** Due to the poor verge cutting in Old Beetley it was agreed that the Parish Council would consider taking the verge cutting of the Parish over from Norfolk County Council. The Clerk would contact the Highways department and ask for a map showing all of the verges which are cut by them. The Clerk would also enquire how much money would be passed over from Norfolk County Council for the Parish Council to take on the verge cutting.

## **9. Planning.**

### **Applications.**

**9.1. 3PL/2024/0711/HOU Waterside Church Road Beetley.** Creation of balcony area and installation of a safety balustrade system to an existing rear flat roof (3mx3m). Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Minchin seconded that there is an objection raised due to the inaccuracy of the wording of rear flat roof and the plan showing the balcony to the side of the property, also the potential intrusion of privacy to neighbouring properties all were in agreement.

### **Decisions made by Breckland Council.**

**9.2. 3PL/2024/0032/PNE Hillcrest Bittering Street Beeley.** Prior approval for proposal to erect

a single storey rear extension projecting from the original rear wall by 6.07m deep, with a maximum height of 3.40m and eaves height of 3.40m. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development ) (England) Order 2015 (as amended)-Schedule 2, Part 1 Class A (prior approval)

**NO PRIOR APPROVAL.**

**Norfolk County Council Minerals and Waste.**

**9.3. To note 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. **County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris informed the meeting that this had been approved.**

**10. Beetley River Meadows.**

**10.1. Monthly Play Equipment inspections.** Due to Councillor Billings being on holiday and a Family bereavement there had been no inspections carried out for 2 months.

**10.2. Bank erosion.** The Clerk informed the meeting that she had discussed the bank erosion at the "Beach" with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust Officer and the Grass Cutting Contractors on site. It was agreed the Parish Councillors, the grass cutting contractors and the Clerk would meet later in the month at the "Beach" to discuss the repair.

**10.3. Grassland Management Programme.** The Clerk informed the meeting that she had met the Norfolk Wildlife Trust Officer at the grassland area and he was very pleased with the work which had been carried out. The grass cutting contractors also attended. There are several small trees on the area which had been cut this year requiring removal. The NWT Officer asked that the stumps be treated to kill them and the trunks and branches should be piled up at the edge of area for biodiversity. It was also noted that the Adders had moved further down the Meadows this year and that there were many insects and small mammals in the Meadows. A quotation for the Stump treatment would be supplied by the Grass cutting contractors to the Clerk.

**11. Parish Council matters.**

**11.1. Inspections :- Pavilion, Defibrillator.** Councillor MacArthur reported that he would inspect the Pavilion in the next day or two.

**11.2. Neighbourhood Plan for Beetley Parish.** After a lengthy discussion took place and it was agreed not to have a Neighbourhood Plan at present but it could be reviewed at a later date.

**11.3. Biodiversity Policy Action Plan.** Councillor Mac Arthur explained the draft action plan and to take it forward the Clerk would send a list to all Councillors of the land which the Parish owned. It would then be discussed what action could be taken for each area at the next meeting.

**11.4. Police and Crime Plan Consultation. To consider a response.** This consultation was it was agreed to make no response.

**12. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion).** Verge cutting, Biodiversity Action Plan.

**13. To confirm the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council will be held on Thursday 7th November 2024 7.30 p.m. at Beetley & East Bilney Village Hall High House Road Beetley.**

**The meeting closed at 21.24.**

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

**Date signed.....**