

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE  
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. AT 7.30 P.M.**

**Present**

Councillor R. Richmond (Chair)  
Councillor J. Baldwin  
Councillor J. Billings  
Councillor P. Minchin.  
Councillor M. MacArthur.

**In Attendance**

A .Leigh. Clerk  
R. Wade. RFO  
3 Members of the Public.

1. **To Consider apologies for absence.** County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris this apology was accepted. District Councillor Roger Atterwill, this apology was accepted.
2. **To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.** Councillor Richmond items 9/10.1./ 10.2./10.3. all type A.
3. **To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 07/12/2023.** It was proposed by Councillor Billings that the minutes were true and accurate, it was seconded by Councillor Baldwin. All were in agreement.
4. **Finance.**
  - 4.1. **Budgets as circulated.** It was proposed by Councillor Minchin and seconded by Councillor Baldwin that the budgets as circulated were in order, all were in agreement.
  - 4.2. **Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated. 04/01/2024** T.H. Scott & Son £180.00, Electronic Business Solutions d/d £11.12 ,EON d/d £12.80 , Mrs A. Leigh £67.10 ( B.C.C. divers payments December ). **01/02/2024** Clerks salary £483.12 (January), R.F.O. salary £123.80 (January ) HMRC £151.60, Mrs. A. Leigh £135.50 (B.C.C. drivers payments January) Wave d/d £19.88. It was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor MacArthur that these were correct all were in agreement.
  - 4.3. **Update re Bank account.** The R.F.O. reported that the account address is now her home address. Also reported was that the Beetley Charity cheque which Barclays raised to close the account incorrectly will be cancelled. Barclays bank require signed minutes to confirm there is a Beetley Fuel account a meeting will be held to sign the December 2023 meeting minutes. These would then be sent to Barclays bank.
  - 4.4. **Update on the Charity Commission.** The R.F.O. reported there was no further update.
5. **Breckland Local Plan.** The Local Plan was discussed in depth. Councillor Billings and Councillor Baldwin went through the 4 questions which Breckland Council had requested that Town and Parish Councils make comments on. Question 1 Local Service Centres : It was agreed that the Criteria for Local Service Centres is acceptable. Question 2 Settlement Boundaries: It was agreed that Settlement Boundaries are retained. Question 3 Alternatives to Development Strategy: The order which was agreed was F,E,D,C,A,B. Question 4 Criteria for Site Assessment : There was agreement with this criteria but to add Flood Water and also how is the overall decision made. It was agreed that Councillor Billings and the Clerk would forward Beetley Parish Council's comments onto Breckland Council before the consultation closing date of February 19<sup>th</sup>.
6. **Reports from County and District Councillors. Public Participation.**
  - 6.1. **To receive reports from County and District Councillors.** No reports had been received.
  - 6.2. **Public comments.** A Parishioner raised the question on "Where would the 5,000 homes next to the Wensum be raised in the Local Plan". The Parish Council could not answer this.
7. **Matters for report**
  - 7.1. **Breckland Mobile Food Store.** Nothing to report.
  - 7.2. **Speedwatch Beetley.** The Beetley Speedwatch Co-ordinator reported that no sessions had been held during December and January due to the very cold and wet weather conditions. It is hoped to resume sessions towards the end of February.

**7.3. Old Beetley Flooding update.** Councillor MacArthur updated the meeting on this issue. An Officer from the Environmental Agency attended the site and stated that this was caused by the compaction of the land due to the pigs and the tractor which moves the pig food around. A meeting was held with the land owner and the Pig company it was agreed the pigs would be moved back up the field. 10 days was given for this to take place which was complied to and the ground where the pigs had been was cultivated and work was also carried out on the ditch. It is now connected to a drain which goes into the Black Water river. The water is now running clear so hopefully the flooding issue is resolved. Councillor MacArthur also reported that there was flooding on Holt Road, Sorrell Lane/Hall Road/Peacock Lane. Peacock Lane is a County Road so this is the responsibility of N.C.C. Unfortunately no photographs had been taken of this flooding and until it happens again and photographs can be taken it can not be reported to N.C.C. Highways. It was agreed that the Clerk contacts County Councillor Mark-Kiddle Morris and request his comments on this flooding issue.

**7.4. Breckland Development Strategy 16<sup>th</sup> January – Councillor Billings.** Councillor Billings attended this meeting and did not find it very informative.

**7.5. Tree on the “Patch” Old Beetley.** Ady’s woodcutting services had removed the lower branches.

## **8. Highways.**

**8.1. Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems.** The Clerk informed the meeting that she had contacted County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris regarding the verge encroachment on Fakenham Road between Halfpenny Lane and School Road as it was still outstanding. The coping and the damaged concrete post on the road bridge Fakenham Road East Bilney had been inspected and repairs would be programmed. The request from a Parishioner to extend the double yellow lines near to the school on Elmham Road would not be carried out but the existing yellow lines would be re painted in the Spring.

**8.2. To note any new problems within the Parish.** The Clerk had reported a pothole on Beech Road Beetley near to the Give Way sign on the Road.

**8.3. To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths.** Councillor Richmond stated the paths were very muddy but otherwise ok. Councillor Minchin had not been able to walk his. Councillor Baldwin had walked hers other than CRF16 and they were all satisfactory, she also reported that there was a large piece of concrete in the middle of the Ford and advised the meeting to take care. Councillor MacArthur reported his were all ok and that new way markers had at last been installed on Footpaths 11 and 13. Councillor Billings stated all were satisfactory other than FP4 the Drift East Bilney where the mesh had worn away from the 2 planks of wood which crossed the river . The Clerk would report this to the N.C.C. Countryside team.

**8.4. Parish Partnership Scheme update.** The Clerk reported that the bid as agreed at the last meeting had been submitted to N.C.C.

Councillor Richmond left the room and Councillor MacArthur took the Chair.

- 9. Minerals and Waste. Application number FUL/2022/0021 Land South of Rawhall Lane Beetley. New sand and gravel Quarry – Longwater Gravel Co. Ltd.** Councillor Billings had represented Beetley Parish Council at the Planning meeting when this application was discussed. He put forward the Parish Councils objection to this application but it was approved. The Hours of work which had been applied for was reduced from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. which was in line with Middleton Aggregates. The Chairman of the meeting stated that County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris would be allowed to use District funding to have a 25 mph speed restriction passed the School. The Parish Councillors thanked Councillor Billings for attending this meeting.

## **10. Planning.**

### **Applications.**

**10.1. County Matter. FUL/2023/0029. Land South of Field Lane East Bilney. Extension to Quarry with installation of a ground Conveyor with Culvert to accommodate the Conveyor. Middleton Aggregates Ltd. Breckland Planning Application number 3CM/2024/0001/CM. – Applicant N.C.C.** It was proposed by Councillor Baldwin and seconded by Councillor Minchin that No objection be raised, all were in favour.

**10.2. County Matter. FUL/2023/0030. East Bilney Quarry Rawhall Lane East Bilney . 4HH Variation of conditions 1,2,3 and 4 of Planning Permission Ref C/3/2010/3028 to extend the period of time for the completion of operations and to adopt revised bunding for the Quarry**

extension and revised restoration phasing for the original Quarry. (Application under s.73 to allow the continued operation of the Quarry without compliance with Conditions Nos. 1, 2 and 20 of Planning permission ref C/3/2014//3019 to allow a further 11 years to complete operations and restoration ): Middleton Aggregates Ltd. Breckland planning application number not given. It was proposed by Councillor Minchin and seconded by Councillor Baldwin that no objection is raised, all were in agreement.

**10.3. County Matter. FUL/2023/0031. East Bilney Quarry Rawhall Lane East Bilney. Extension to East Bilney Quarry with installation of ground conveyor with culvert to accommodate the Conveyor (Application under s.73 to allow the continued operation of the conveyor without complying with conditions Nos.1,2,3,7,9,10,11,12,13,23,24 and 25 of Planning Permission ref C/3/2014/3018 for further 11 years including the use of the Conveyor culvert ,use of the access from Field Lane and restoration). Middleton Aggregates Ltd. Breckland planning application number 3CM/2024/0003/CM - Applicant N.C.C.** It was proposed by Councillor Baldwin and seconded by Councillor Minchin that no objection be raised, all were in favour.

Councillor Richmond returned to the meeting and took back the Chair.

**Decisions by Breckland Council.**

**10.4. 3NM/2023/0112/NMA – 3PL/2020/1243/F North End Farm 7 Elmham Road Beetley. Amendment to 3PL/20201243/F step in roof and floor levels of Cart Lodge to suit site levels. Addition of external doors to Sout-West and North-West elevations (Non Mat Minor Amend) PERMISSION GIVEN.**

**10.5. TRE/2023/0326/TCA Five Cat Cottage 15 Hall Road Beetley. Crown reduction 12m (Tree Work App CA) APPROVED.**

**10.6. 3PL/2023/1127/HOU Meadow Lodge The Drift East Bilney. Proposed single storey and two storey rear extensions with balcony and glass balustrade and internal alterations. APPROVED**

#### **11. Beetley River Meadows.**

**11.1. Monthly play equipment inspections.** Councillor Billings had carried out the inspection and had produced a new inspection sheet following on from his play equipment training. It was agreed that this should be used in the future.

**11.2. 2024 Grass Cutting contract.** This had been agreed and the first cut will be in April.

**11.3. Trees.** Ady's woodcutting services had removed 2 Ash trees which had die back, A Willow tree which was overhanging the river the branches had been cut back. A Tree which had fallen onto a bench in the Picnic area had been removed. A tree fallen on the River side footpath had also been removed.

**11.4. Beetley & District Pre-School Duck Race – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024.** It was agreed that this should take place and the Clerk is to inform the Pre-School of this and that there are no B.B.Q.'s to be used. B.B.Q.'s had been used last year which was a potential fire hazard. There are now notices stating that no Open Fires or B.B.Q.'s are allowed on Beetley River Meadows.

**11.5. Beech Road Notice board.** The Clerk reported that part of the noticeboard had rotted, Councillor Billings will arrange a repair.

#### **12. Parish Council matters.**

**12.1. Inspections:- Pavilion : Defibrillator.** Councillor MacArthur reported that the stop cock in the Pavilion and associated works had been carried out. Councillor MacArthur will fit some new insulation onto the new pipework. The Defibrillator had been checked and was in order.

**12.2. East Bilney Townlands hedge cut.** The Clerk reported that the hedge on Fakenham Road East Bilney along the edge of the Townlands had been cut back. This is carried out Annually.

**12.3. To consider a donation to Dereham Cancer Care.** It was agreed to donate £40.

**12.4. Biodiversity duty.** Councillor Richmond had spoken to NPTS regarding this. Beetley Parish Council is acting responsibly with the work which is carried out on The Common, East Bilney Townlands and Beetley River Meadows. Councillor MacArthur will develop a policy which will include the work that is being carried out on Parish land.

#### **13. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion).** Litter picking along Fakenham Road Beetley and East Bilney.

**14. To confirm the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council will be held on Thursday 7th March 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in Beetley Village Hall High House Road Beetley.**

**The meeting closed at 21.55.**

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

**Date signed.....**