

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7th APRIL 2022 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

Councillor J. Baldwin
 Councillor L. Cissell
 Councillor R. Richmond (Chair)
 Councillor T. Scott
 Councillor M. Macarthur

In attendance

Clerk A. Leigh, RFO L. Jarrett.
 County Councillor Kiddle-Morris
 District Councillor R. Atterwill
 4 Parishioners

1. To Consider Apologies for Absence. Parish Councillor S. Boyce District Councillor R. Duffield. These apologies were accepted.
2. To receive declaration of pecuniary interests. None.
3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on March 3rd 2022. These were proposed by Councillor T. Scott and seconded by Councillor J. Baldwin.
4. 4.1. Budgets as circulated. These were proposed by Councillor Cissell and seconded by Councillor Scott.
 4.2. Balances and cheques for authorisation. These were proposed by Councillor Cissell and seconded by Councillor Scott all were in favour.

Finance Report:- 04.04.22

Barclays Community Account	£
Balance at 1 st March 2022	55,811.07
Less: Presented cheques authorised 03.03.22	
As per bank statement 31.03.22	
Less: Unpresented cheque from May £75	
Less: Presented payments authorised 04.04.22	
Actual total as at 04.04.22	

Amount available for S.137: 1213 x £8.41 = £10,201.33 - Spend to Date: £0

Cheques authorisation for 04.04.22			£
417	Mrs A Leigh	Clerk salary	399.65
418	Mrs L Jarrett	RFO Services March	120.00
419	HMRC	PAYE	129.80
420	Mrs A Leigh-BCCS Mar 2021	Community Car payment	174.10
421	Electronic Office Solutions	Photocopying	5.66
422	Ruby Lemon	Face Painting	176.00
423	NALC	Annual subscription	314.58
424	Norfolk Woods and Hedges Limited	Attend site, veteran oak	546.00
425	NPTS	Annual subscription	180.00
D/Debit	E-on	Electricity	12.79
		Total	£2,058.58

Play Area Fund		£
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
02.08.21	NCF Funding	£ 1,874.00
31.08.21	Plant sales	£ 230.00
10.09.21	Arnold Clark	£ 1,000.00
14.10.21	NGF Play Limited	-£ 21,883.04
13.11.21	Halloween Trail	£630.00
17.03.22	NGF Play Limited	-48,307.22
17.03.22	NGF Play Limited	-2,800.00
17.03.22	Whippy Vans Limited	-275.00
04.04.22	Ruby Lemon	-176.00
		£ 663.74

4.3. To report on the pay increase awarded to Parish Clerks. In the case of Beetley Parish Clerk the back dating of this award is not for the full period of April 2021 but rather to September 2021 when appointed. Agreed by all.

5. 5.1. Report from County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris reported that the County Council had set a balance budget for this year however it was very tight and there may be deficits to come even though the Council Tax has been raised by 2.99%. Report from District Councillor Roger Atterwill Breckland Council appears to be short of cash in the budget. There is an Early Intervention scheme and a Hardship Fund administered by Breckland Council and anyone within the Parish who are suffering hardships should contact District Councillor Atterwill personally for assistance to get onto the scheme. Breckland Council is sending out a Food Bus but at present Beetley has not been included on the route as this is set by the number of free school meals which are claimed within a Parish. There was also mention of the pollution to rivers from development and a ban has been put in place on any developments near water courses. Breckland Council has also put out a call for development sites to shape its development plan.
- 5.2. Public comments. None.
6. 6.1. Energy advice webinar. Councillor Cissell attended a webinar on Energy as this is cause of much focus at the present time. According to the advice it is not a good time to switch suppliers as it you may end up on a higher tariff. There is help and support available online at www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk
- 6.2. Breckland Landscape webinar. Councillor Cissell attended the webinar which was interesting but also very confusing.
- 6.3. Norfolk and Waveney Wellbeing webinar. Councillor Cissell attended this webinar and found it interesting and informative and came away with lots of useful information. The main one being the 5 ways to positive wellbeing are :- *Being Active, Giving and volunteering, Continuing Learning, Taking notice and living in the present and Connecting with others.*
- 6.4. Norfolk and Waveney Mind webinar. Councillor Cissell attended this webinar which pointed the way to go for help when feeling suicidal.
- 6.5. Countryside Access webinar. Councillor Cissell attended this webinar which talked about the destruction of the Norfolk habitat and the ensuing loss of wildlife. It was emphasised that planting more trees will improve bio-diversity. Norfolk County Council is encouraging wildlife highways and wildflower verges.

For fuller information and support please contact Councillor Cissell.

6.6. PPG Meeting. Councillor Richmond attended this meeting. Several excuses were given for the service that Parishioners currently receive through North Elmham surgery. The practice manager has been newly appointed and informed the meeting of a new telephone queuing system, however the surgery has gone down to one full time doctor due to being unable to attract doctors because of the Government doctor: patient ratio. District Councillor Atterwill wishes to call a meeting with our M.P. regarding these issues. The Chairman Councillor Richmond agreed.

7. 7.1. Highways. The Clerk reported that the potholes reported outside of the Methodist Chapel Beetley has been assessed by Norfolk Highways as not requiring action at present but will be monitored. The Dog Bin for Old Beetley has been delivered and passed onto Parish Councillor MacArthur to be installed.

7.2. The Clerk updated the meeting on the East Bilney Flooding issue. A site meeting was held which was very productive and with clear outcomes which have since been further refined. The flooding occurred because drainage ditches have become filled in. Norfolk County Council Highways are going to work with the residents and the Parish Council on the problem, however everyone should be aware the B1146 at East Bilney may be closed for a period of time.

7.3. New problems within the Parish. None.

7.4. To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths. All footpaths appear to be in satisfactory state.

8. **Planning Applications.**

8.1.1. **3PN/2022/0008/UC 6 Highfields Meadow East Bilney change of use of agricultural building.** This is a conversion of a small farm office into a single bedroom dwelling however, this is outside of the settlement boundary. As is the past the Parish Council has always objected to planned dwellings outside of the settlement boundary. The Parish Council's objection was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Cissell. All were in favour.

8.1.2. **3PL/2022/0256/O Land adjacent to Hare Bells School Road Old Beetley.** This is an outline planning application for a new bungalow beside the bungalow called Hare Bells. This plot is again outside of the settlement boundary however, this can be seen legally as an infill between two dwellings and this site did have a previous single storey wooden dwelling on it. It was noted that this road is very narrow and occasionally floods at this point. The Parish Council decided to object to this development on the grounds that it was outside of the settlement boundary, possible flooding issues and road capacity. This was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Scott all were in favour.

8.2.1 **Decisions by Breckland Council.**

3PL/2022/0106/VAR The Shrublands Gressenhall Road Beetley. This was a variation of conditions which has been approved.

8.3.1. **Enforcement Matters.**

Councillor Cissell reported that a Parishioner had made a complaint to the Parish Council regarding a possible building infringement in East Bilney. This has been passed onto the enforcement department at Breckland Council to investigate.

9. **Beetley River Meadows.**

9.1. A Parishioner has volunteered to assist Councillor Scott with the Play Area safety checks, the Parish Council would like to thank the Parishioner, Councillor Scott will get in contact with the Parishioner. There was also discussion regarding the erosion of the River Bank at the "Beach" area, Councillor Scott agreed to take photographs for Norfolk Wildlife Trust. This will enable a remedial plan to be drawn up.

9.2. Official Opening of Beetley River Meadows play area. The Clerk confirmed that the Ice Cream van has been booked along with a Punch and Judy and a Face Painter. The Chairman will supply ribbons, balloons and a large bowl of fruit. Bunting has been donated by a Parishioner and the Community Lottery Fund. Two local children have volunteered to open the Play Area and their parents have given permission for their photographs to be used.

10. **Open Spaces.**

10.1. Nothing new to report.

10.2. Beetley Common. The Clerk reported several trees had come down and have been dealt with by the Parish Council's tree surgeon.

10.3. Rural Payments Agency. They have contacted the Council as they need a new point of contact from the Council. Councillor MacArthur volunteered.

11. Parish Council Matters.

11.1. Inspections. Councillor Scott will meet with the builders at the Sports Pavilion to look at remedying the cracks that have appeared in the brick work above the window. Councillor MacArthur reported that the Defibrillator is ok. The Clerk reported that the RoSPA annual safety inspection of the play area at Beetley River Meadows will take place during June.

11.2. Upgrading the Clerks computer. This will cost approximately £220 plus VAT and was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Baldwin and agreed by all.

11.3. Code of Conduct wording. This was a slight amendment to bring the wording into line with other Parish Policy documents. This was proposed by Councillor Cissell and seconded by Councillor Scott and agreed by all.

11.4. Beetley Scouts site. Councillor Richmond and the Clerk attended a meeting at the Scout site to confirm the boundaries. This will enable the Scouts to build an Iron Age Round House.

12. Correspondence.

12.1. Beetley Pre-School. The Clerk had received a letter from the Pre-School to which the Chairman had responded both had been previously circulated to Parish Councillors. District Councillor Atterwill has contacted County Councillor Kiddle- Morris about the Norse site at Gressenhall Museum and is awaiting a reply about the availability. There was also some discussion about the Village Hall Playing Field however, like the School field these are protected by a covenant (Fields in Trust).

13. Matters for the next meeting. (not for discussion).

Website accessibility.

14. The next meeting of Beetley Parish Council is to be held on Thursday 5th May 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

This will be the Annual Parish Council meeting, where the Parish Councillors decide on the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on the same evening at 7.00 p.m. where organisations from within the Parish can present their reports and Parishioners can ask questions of the Chairman and the Clerk. (N.B. Organisations should submit short written reports to the Clerk by noon Tuesday 19th April at pcbeetley@gmail.com to be made available to all at the meeting.)

The Meeting closed at 21.20