

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 4th June 2026 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

Councillor R. Richmond (Chair)
Councillor M. MacArthur.
Councillor P. Minchin.
Councillor P. Lawton.
Councillor D. Howard.
Councillor J. Bell (after co-option)

County Councillor Dickerson.
District Councillor Duffield
2 members of the Public.

In Attendance

A. Leigh. Clerk
R. Wade RFO

1. **To Consider apologies for absence.** Parish Councillor John Billings, District Councillor Atterwill, Councillor Minchin proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded that these apologies are accepted.
2. **To receive Declarations of Interest.** None.
3. **To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th May 2026**
It was proposed by Councillor Howard and seconded by Councillor Minchin that the minutes were true and accurate, all were in agreement.
4. **To consider the co-option of James Bell onto Beetley Parish Council.** Councillor Howard proposed and Councillor Minchin seconded that James Bell is co-opted onto the Parish Council The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by James Bell and the Clerk.
5. **Finance.**
 - 5.1. **Budgets as circulated.** It was proposed by Councillor Minchin and seconded by Councillor Lawton that the budgets as circulated were in order, all were in agreement.
 - 5.2. **Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated.** C.D. Grounds Services £376.10, M. MacArthur (Pavilion door handles) £9.80, RFO (Norton, Windows annual subscription) £49.99, BCCS (Drivers pay May) £37.60, Clerks salary (May) £518.58, RFO salary (May) £133.00, HMRC (May) £162.80, Unity Bank service charge £7.00, E.On £18.33.
It was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Minchin that these payments were correct, all were in agreement. The payments this month will be approved online by Councillor Richmond and Councillor MacArthur.
 - 5.3. **Recycling payment.** Not yet received.
 - 5.4. **Agar update.** The RFO reported that the AGAR documentation is on the Parish Council's website it was displayed on the 3rd June and will remain until the 14th July this is the statutory period required.
 - 5.5. **E-on Energy tariff – Pavilion.** It was agreed that a one-year fixed price tariff is taken on. Councillor Mac Arthur proposed and Councillor Minchin seconded. All were in agreement.
6. **Reports from County and District Councillors. Public Participation.**
 - 6.1. **To receive reports from County and District Councillors.** County Councillor Tom Dickerson informed the meeting that he was the new Highways and Transport N.C.C. portfolio Holder. There is need to make changes to cut the expenditure but Front - Line services would not be cut. Councillor Richmond asked if the Parish Partnership scheme is still being retained and it is. The Governments devolution deal is very challenging but there is no further information at present. A trial for the repair of pot holes has been given to the French Kier group and there will be 4 teams delivering this service which will last for 6 months.

1 R.R.
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French Kier have been awarded a 7-year contract for the maintenance of the Highways. The Highway budget is less than it was 2 years ago. There will be 3 verge cuts this year. Councillor Bell informed him that there are several trees obscuring the road signs on Fakenham Road which are on NCC land. County Councillor Dickerson will take this forward to get them cut back. The Chair thanked the County Councillor for his input in a recent complaint which the Clerk had received concerning HGV vehicles going through Beetley. This issue had now been resolved as Longwater Gravel Company have circulated a new route map to all of the Contractors who are using their gravel pit. If any further complaints are received the Clerk is to let the County Councillor know. He has 17 Parish Councils to cover and hopes that he will be able to attend all of the Parish Council meetings in the future, the Clerk is to contact him if there are any issues which he can be of help with.

6.2. Public comments. None.

7. Matters for report.

7.1. Speed Watch. No report had been received.

7.2. Shed on Village Hall playing field. The Village Hall Committee are waiting for a quotation to remove the shed and its contents. The Clerk will be updated when the work is agreed.

8. Highways.

8.1. Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems. The Clerk reported that she had informed NCC that the Gressenhall sign on Fakenham Road had been bent and the response was that the repair would take approximately 6 weeks. No other problems are outstanding at present.

8.2. To note any new problems within the Parish.

8.3. To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths. All footpaths are in order. The sign on footpath 14 is still waiting for a permanent repair. The Clerk will contact NCC to have a permanent repair done. It was agreed that Councillor Bell would inspect some of the footpaths, this will be discussed at the July meeting.

9. Planning.

Applications.

9.1. PL/2026/0696/HOU Beechcroft 45 Elmham Road Beetley. Extension to existing garage by open-sided carport with pitched roof. Councillor Richmond proposed, Councillor MacArthur seconded that there is no objection to this application, all were in agreement.

Decisions made by Breckland Council.

9.2. PL/2026/0468/HOU Copse Edge 46 Elmham Road Beetley. Proposed single storey Extension to side/rear (including replacement of flat roof over existing utility room).

APPROVED

Enforcement Request ID 785

9.3. Work at Waterside Old Beetley.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Councillor Billings on his return from holiday for an update on this matter for the next meeting.

10. Beetley River Meadows.

10.1. Monthly play equipment inspections. Councillor Howard passed the inspection sheets to the Clerk for filing. It was agreed that Councillor Bell would share the monthly play inspections with Councillor Howard. It was agreed that they both should attend the CAN Play Equipment Inspection course. The Clerk would arrange this. The Clerk and Councillor Howard are to meet Aaron Brown NWT Officer and the grass cutting contractor at 8 a.m. on Wednesday 10th June to discuss this year's cutting of the grassed area.

10.2. RoSPA report update. The Clerk reported there was no further update the inspection will be carried out in June.

11. Parish Council Matters.

11.1. Inspections :- Pavilion : Defibrillator. Councillor MacArthur reported that the Pavilion was neat and tidy and the handle repair was in progress. A window latch is required to be replaced which he will do also, he will purchase and fit a new cabin hook to the outside door. Beetley United football club are liaising with him regarding an additional new bench for the inside. The Defibrillator is in good working order.

11.2. Date to meet at Beetley Common 10th June @ 9.30 a.m. The Clerk reminded the Councillors that the Clerk and the NWT Officer would be at the Common and hopefully some of the Councillors will be able to attend.

11.3. Beech Road Beetley noticeboard repaired/replaced lock. Councillor MacArthur informed the meeting that he had serviced the lock but there is further work to be carried out. Councillor Bell offered to manufacture some signs saying Beetley Parish Council to place on the 3 noticeboards which are in use.

11.4. Annual Insurance update. The Clerk had contacted the insurers regarding the forthcoming year but had not yet received any response. Councillor MacArthur raised some queries on the Building cover and the Clerk would ask the insurance company to amend.

12. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion). Footpath allocations. Councillor Mac Arthur gave his apologies for none attendance at the next meeting.

13. To confirm the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council will be held on Thursday 2nd July 2026 7.30 p.m. at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall High House Road Beetley.

The meeting closed at 20.59.

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

Robert Richmond.

Date signed.....

2nd July, 2026.