

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 3rd September 2026 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

Councillor R. Richmond (Chair).
Councillor M. MacArthur.
Councillor P. Minchin.
Councillor D. Howard.
Councillor J. Bell

County Councillor Tom Dickerson.
District Councillor Roger Atterwill.
3 members of the Public.

In Attendance

A. Leigh. Clerk
R. Wade RFO

1. **To Consider apologies for absence.** Parish Councillor P. Lawton, Parish Councillor J. Billings. Apologies accepted.

2. **To receive Declarations of Interest.** None.

3. **To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd July 2026**

It was proposed by Councillor MacArthur and seconded by Councillor Howard that the minutes were true and accurate, all were in agreement.

The Chairman took the meeting out of Committee. A Parishioner gave his comments to the meeting concerning planning application PL/2026/1068/FMIN land at Beetley Grange. The Councillors will consider these comments when the planning application is discussed. The Chairman thanked him for his comments. Another Parishioner informed the meeting about a very large boundary hedge from his neighbour's property which was encroaching onto his garden. He also gave details concerning the electricity had been turned off to his freezer which had resulted in the food defrosting. District Councillor Atterwill will take this forward with the landlords of the property and will contact the Parishioner. The Chairman thanked the Parishioner and District Councillor Atterwill.

The Chairman put the meeting back into Committee.

4. **Finance.**

4.1. Budgets as circulated. It was proposed by Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillor Minchin that the budgets as circulated were in order, all were in agreement.

4.2. Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated.

July payments made: AWA d/d £26.41, APF Safety Services Ltd., £462.52, M. MacArthur £3.78, E.ON d/d £17.65, RoSPA £142.80, Ady's Woodsplitting Services Ltd., £210.00, Beetley & East Bilney VHMC £42.00, M. MacArthur £7.75, A. Leigh Beetley Com Car drivers payments July £68.30 & Back pay £93.60, Clerks salary (July) £518.58, RFO salary (July) £133.00 HMRC (July) £162.80, Unity bank service charge £7.00. Sept payments made E.ON d/d £18.80, Beetley & E. Bilney Village Hall (recycling) £276.69, C.D. Grounds Services £801.10, A. Leigh Beetley Com Car drivers payments August £76.70, Clerks salary (August) £518.58, RFO salary (August) £132.80, HMRC (Aug) £163.00, Mid Norfolk Conservation Volunteers £175, Unity bank service charge £7.00, C.D. Ground Services, £376.10, C.D. Ground Services £110.00. It was proposed by Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillor Howard that these payments were correct. All were in agreement. The payments this month will be approved online by Councillor Richmond and Councillor MacArthur.

4.3. Recycling payment. The payment had been received from Breckland Council £276.69 textiles (Village Hall textile bank) £275.14 Glass (New Inn Restaurant Glass bank). The £276.69 payment for the textiles has been passed onto the Village Hall Management Committee.



4.4. AGAR update. The RFO reported that the documentation had been passed onto the next review stage on the 20th August and the questions asked had been answered.

5. Reports from County and District Councillors. Public Participation.

5.1. To receive reports from County and District Councillors. County Councillor Tom Dickerson informed the meeting there are a lot of changes going on in County Hall there is a new C.O and there is a pot hole trial going on for a week to deal with pot holes more efficiently. Highways are trying to catch up with the back log of potholes. The County Council are opposing the Breckland Local Plan, LGR is also being opposed the first hearing will be in late September. The Local Members fund has gone but the Partnership scheme is still available. Parish Councillor Bell informed him that a sign on footpath 16 was laying on the ground, he would take this forward and request it is reinstated.

District Councillor Roger Atterwill informed the meeting that School Road Old Beetley was being dealt with by the enforcement Officer and the inspector is going to site. Hopefully he will be able to report at the next meeting. The new Planning Scheme of Delegation will commence on the 31st October he will no longer be able to call in applications to go to the Planning Committee the Chairman and the Director of planning will be making the decisions, scheme 2 Items he can suggest to go to committee but the decision will be with the Chairman and the Director. There will be more information sent out shortly. The LGR meeting in the Corn Exchange Kings Lynn, he will be attending it will give the opportunity for Breckland Councillors and KLWN Councillors to discuss this. At present there are 103 Councillors and it will reduce to 73. This will be 7 villages per Councillor which is more manageable. He will report back at the next meeting. The recent reports in the press regarding a 250K business rate to help a business stay in the Breckland area he was happy with. Breckland will receive more business rates when the company concerned has new premises which are to be built and move in.

5.2. Public comments. None.

6. Matters for report.

6.1. Speed Watch. The Clerk read out the report received from the Speedwatch co-ordinator. "Ours is one of 85 Community Speedwatch teams in Norfolk & Suffolk. August was a quieter month with many team members off on holiday, and very hot weather. We find that most drivers adhere to the speed limit and have recorded 12 who exceeded it: details were forwarded to Norfolk Constabulary. We find most speeding occurs after 5 pm and will be scheduling future Sessions around that time." The Clerk had responded and thanked him for the report and to pass on thanks from the Parish Council to all volunteers who kindly give up their time to help promote safer driving in the Parish.

6.2. Shed on Village Hall Playing field update. Report received from the Village Hall Committee was that the person they had contacted in removing it was no longer interested and they are thinking of other options. The Clerk will continue to monitor the action required.

6.3. Training report from Councillor Howard, Councillor Bell on the Play Area Inspection course attended 26th August. Councillor Bell on the Councillor Induction course attended 29th June 5th July. Both Councillors informed the meeting that the play inspection course had been very informative and they had gained a lot from it. Councillor Bell reported that the Councillor Induction Course was very beneficial.

6.4. Local plan Regulation 19 consultation. Councillor Billings to report. The Clerk had circulated the reports from Councillor Billings to all Councillors and asked that they contact him to discuss if necessary. These reports were about the call for Gypsy & Travellers sites and the proposed Fakenham Road development.

6.5. Beetley Common update. The Clerk informed the meeting that 6 diseased Ash trees had been removed and the footpaths are now safe to walk. The conservation work overseen by Aaron Brown, County Wildlife Sites adviser had gone very well over the year. The team of volunteers which worked with him had worked hard and will return again next year for 3 visits which he will organise in the Summer. The cost for this work was £175 which the Parish Council feel is money well spent and exceptional value for money.

7. Highways.

7.1. Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems. The Clerk reported that there were no ongoing problems. The issue which was raised with Highways 2 years ago concerning the verge encroachment onto the footpath on Fakenham Road between School Land and High House

Road the clerk had emailed the County Councillor to look into it again. The County Councillor would inspect it on his way home after the meeting.

7.2. To note any new problems within the Parish. Flooding on Fakenham Road. There were no new problems at present. There had been flooding on Fakenham Road during a recent down pour of rain which resulted in water running down the drive way of a property on Fakenham Road. Councillor Richmond had contacted County Councillor Tom Dickerson and requested that all of the Gulleys on Fakenham Road should be jetted. This was dealt with by Highways the next day.

7.3. To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths. Councillor MacArthur reported all of his were ok. Footpath 13 has now been cleared of the maize crop and the footpath is now walkable. He also reported that on footpath 8 near to the bridge was overgrown with brambles and he had cleared them away. A Parishioner had contacted him stating footpath 17 was overgrown but when inspected it was clear and could not find any problem with it. A reply was sent asking the Parishioner for a precise location. Councillor Bell stated there was a fallen sign on footpath 16 County Councillor Tom Dickerson would take this forward with the Countryside team. Councillor Lawton had sent a report to the Clerk stating all of his footpaths were clear. Councillor Richmond, and Councillor Howard reported theirs were satisfactory.

8. Planning.

Applications.

8.1. PL/2026/1108/PAPW High House Farm High House Road Beetley. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways for agricultural or forestry use. **For information only not for discussion.**

8.2. PL/2026/1086/PAH 16 Tavern Close Beetley. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed larger home extension. This application was discussed, Councillor Howard proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded that no objection is raised. All were in agreement. The Clerk will enter no objection onto the Breckland Planning portal.

8.3. PL/2026/1068/FMIN Land at Beetley Grange Beetley. Proposed residential self-build Development of 1 no 4-bed detached dwelling with attached garage. This application was discussed Councillor MacArthur proposed, Councillor Richmond seconded that an objection is given as it is unsuitable. All were in agreement. The Clerk will enter the comments onto the Breckland planning portal.

Decisions made by Breckland Council.

8.4. Enforcement request ID785 Work at Waterside Old Beetley. This case is now closed.

8.5. PL/2026/0628/VAR Drift Farm Common Drift Beetley. Removal of condition 2 of outline application 3/75/3231 **APPROVED.**

8.6. PL/2026/0632/VAR Drift Farm Common Drift Beetley. Removal of condition 1 of reserved Matters permission 3/77/0389. **APPROVED.**

The Shrublands alternative proposal to the Play area.

8.7. To discuss the proposal. Councillor Howard had contacted several residents and asked their views on not having a play area but an amenity area with seating and a communal orchard. The majority preferred the proposal of the amenity area. All Parish Councillors agreed that this was the better option. The Clerk will inform the developers of this decision.

9. Beetley River Meadows.

9.1. Monthly play equipment inspections / To discuss NGF carrying out the monthly play Inspections. To discuss a replacement waste bin. Councillor Howard passed the monthly Inspection sheet to the Clerk for filing. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the monthly play Inspections being carried out by NGF and it was agreed that this was the best way forward. Councillor Howard and Bell would carry out weekly spot inspections together with inspecting the River Meadows area for fallen branches etc., The Clerk will contact NGF.

2 Waste bins were requiring replacement, one at the Beach and the other in the Picnic area. It was agreed that the Topsy model should be purchased. Councillor MacArthur will inform the Clerk of the fixings which would be required for her to progress the order. This was proposed by Councillor MacArthur and seconded by Councillor Minchin, all were in agreement.

9.2. RoSPA report update. Several items have been dealt with, the Clerk and Councillor Howard will meet with NGF to discuss work which needs to be carried out by them.



10. Parish Council Matters.

10.1. Inspections: - Pavilion: Defibrillator. Councillor MacArthur had inspected the Pavilion, A new handle is required for the changing room door and 2 new shower heads are required. He will deal with these. The Defibrillator is in good working order but the new battery ordered two months ago, has not been received.

10.2. Regulatory Documents review. These had been reviewed and the update will be on the Parish Council website.

11. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion). None.

12. To confirm the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council will be held on Thursday 1st October 2026 at 7.30 p.m. at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall High House Road Beetley.

The meeting closed at 21.15.

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

Date signed.....1.10.2026.....