

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present Councillor S. Boyce (Chair)
Councillor L. Cissell
Councillor R. Richmond

District Councillor R. Atterwill
Two members of the public.

Prior to the meeting the chairman asked the Parish Councillors to consider an additional item on the agenda at 9.1.3. this is a planning application and Breckland council would not extend the deadline and therefore must be discussed this evening. This matter has been discussed in prior meetings. The councillors agreed.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Joanne Baldwin and Councillor Terry Scott who were on holiday these apologies were accepted in the circumstances. Councillor Patricia Metcalf did not send any apologies.

2. To receive Declaration of Pecuniary Interests.

Councillor Robert Richmond declared an interest in item 9.3.1

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Councillor Cissell proposed and Councillor Richmond seconded the resolution that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st. July 2021 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Fund raising for Beetley Play Area.

Elle reported that work would commence early next week on preparing the site and removing the old play equipment. Due to the shortage of timber the completion date has been pushed back into the Spring 2022. Elle has ordered the signs in matching timber which will be paid by extra grants obtained. One such additional grant for one thousand pounds was from Arnold Clarke. Elle also appealed for packs of sweets for the pumpkin trail fundraising event.

5. Budgets

5.1. The Chairman reported that the AGAR reports and certificates are back and have been posted onto the Parish Website. The budgets were circulated by Leanne and proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Cissell as being correct all were in agreement.

5.2. Balances and Cheques

Leanne RFO circulated the bank statement and list of cheques to all Parish Councillors these were proposed by Councillor Boyce and seconded by Councillor Cissell all were in agreement of the cheques being signed.

5.3. Payment for upgrade of Clerks computer.

The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council pay one hundred and forty pounds for an upgrade to the Clerks personal computer which is used for all Parish matters. This was proposed by Councillor Richmond, seconded by Councillor Cissell all were in agreement.

6. Public participation.

6.1. To receive reports from District Councillors and County Councillor.

There were no reports received from County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris or from District Councillor Richard Duffield.

District Councillor Roger Atterwill reported that Elizabeth House had been redecorated and refurbished however most staff were working from home. It was noted that it is very difficult to contact Breckland Council by telephone in an emergency or otherwise. Councillor Atterwill also reported on refuse collection and the difficulties this had entailed as well as the grass cutting of roadside verges and the

problems which that entailed. A Serco manager is to attend the Overview and Scrutiny committee meeting next week to explain the problems encountered.

County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris was unable to attend the meeting but submitted this written report:

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch
Report for September 2021

Grass Cutting: The second cut of the year to highway verges and junctions was due to start on August 9th and when completed should have addressed all the inadequacies of the first cut of the year which was, quite frankly, a shambles. Please let me know if there are still problems in your area with the standard of the cut.

One Million Trees: Norfolk County Council (NCC) acknowledges that trees are a vital resource in combating climate change alongside rewilding for carbon sequestration. As reported previously NCC have committed resources to work with communities, landowners and partners to plant 1 million trees over 5 years which must amount to a net increase. NCC's tree planting scheme will work in harmony with the unique "Queens Green Canopy" initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. There are packs of trees and hedging plants available to parishes to "kick start" the project. If there is any interest, please contact me for further detail on how to apply. The planting season runs from November 2021 to March 2022.

Offshore Transmission Network (OTN): There has been a lot of discussion between our local MPs in both Norfolk and Suffolk and government ministers about the number and length of cable routes crossing both counties bringing wind generated electricity to connection points on land. To minimise ecological and commercial damage to the countryside an OTN has been proposed. The OTN would allow connection of all future wind farm electricity output to a cable system lying offshore which would only require one overland route to a connection point with the National Grid. NCC have been involved in the initial Offshore Consultation Project in 2020 and are currently responding to an OFGEM consultation which is asking for comments on proposals to amend regulations to allow the use of an OTN.

Highways: Despite the lack of revenue funding in NCCs coffers there is still some capital available to put towards some highway schemes such as resurfacing (not surface dressing) and junction and other highway improvements. If you have any work that you would wish to be carried out, please let me know.

Mark Kiddle-Morris

6.2. Public participation.

Nothing to report.

7. Matters to report.

7.1. Flooding in East Bilney

The Chairman reported that the inland drainage board had recently walked the Beck that caused the Christmas Eve 2020 flooding. The East Bilney residents affected by the flooding have agreed to their proposed cause of action. This will take place in late Autumn 2021.

7.2. School Road Signage.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Breckland Council several times and they are still awaiting for a Contractor to undertake the work and will keep the Parish Council updated.

7.3. Church Road East Bilney Footpath 7.

The Chairman reported he had attended the site of this footpath at the request from the landowner who had received a letter from Norfolk County Council. The Chairman looked at a fallen tree which the landowner had cleared from the footpath and the landowner also cuts back the nettles during the growing season. The stile at the entrance to the footpath is in disrepair and the Chairman has contacted County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris to ascertain who is responsible for this and he has agreed to contact the landowner and discuss this matter.

7.4. Tree issue Ashley Road Beetley.

The Clerk reported that a parishioner had contacted her concerning an overhanging tree in the garden and asked if it was the Parish Councils Tree. The Clerk advised her that it was not and would contact Norfolk Wildlife Trust who owned the land to contact her to discuss the problem.

7.5. Pig Farming on Sorrell Lane Old Beetley.

The Clerk and the Chairman had been contacted by a parishioner concerned that a pig farm may be set up on the fields adjoining their property. This matter has been passed on to County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris to deal with.

7.6. Dereham Town Plan.

The Chairman reported on the consultation and the proposals for the new town plan for Dereham. These are now in the public domain and have been in the EDP and the proposal is to make the town centre for pedestrians only. There is also a proposal for a small play area on a piece of land near to the QD store.

7.7. SNAP Meeting.

Councillor Richmond reported the three hits lists were, speeding in the villages, anti-social behaviour in Dereham and drug problems behind Commercial Road Dereham. Councillor Scott reported to the SNAP meeting vandalism at Beetley River Meadows and the police agreed to call in from time to time.

7.8. Police and Crime Commissioner Webinar.

The Chairman and the Clerk reported that the PCC did recognise the difference between rural and town problems and how unique and different they were. He emphasised that the resources were mainly directed at towns however he would divert some to the rural areas.

8. Highways.

8.1. Report on Highway matters.

It was noted that the School crossing patrol lights were left on during the Summer holiday and the Chairman will contact the School.

Councillor Cissell reported that trees are blocking the new twenty miles per hour signs. The property owner is responsible for this and the Clerk will contact the resident.

8.2. New problems.

Councillor Richmond reported a widening gap in the join of the highway at the junction of Rawhall Lane and the B1146 Fakenham Road junction.

8.3. Report on footpaths.

The Clerk reported that on footpath 10 Field Lane Beetley the overgrowing vegetation had been cut back after she had contacted the land owner. A Parishioner reported the dangerous state of the wooden footbridge at the Brisley end of footpath 9. This matter has been reported to County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris.

8.4. Local Highway Partnership Scheme.

The only item that would fit this criteria would be the 40 mph roundels in East Bilney If they could not be funded by the County Councillors increased new budget.

8.5. Repairs on Fludges Lane.

The potholes on Fludges land have been filled and repaired by the Highways department.

8.6. New footpath on Elmham Road.

There is a problem with this and the Parish Council is waiting for a report back from County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris.

9. Planning.

9.1. Applications.

9.1.1. 3PL/2021/1100/HOU Little Oaks 50 Elmham Road proposed front extension to form a garage, external refurbishment and the creation of an additional access.

These plans were discussed. The triple garage to the front of the building although unusual did not appear out of character with the neighbouring properties who have similar protrusions.

However, the Parish Councillors were slightly more questioning of the need for a second access drive. Councillor Richmond Proposed and Councillor Cissell seconded that this plan be approved but that the additional access be refused. All were in agreement.

9.1.2. 3PL/2021/1078/F White Mill Green Lane Beetley Change of use of site for 8 holiday lodges, reception building, roadway, play area and courts.

A similar application on this site has been discussed, this is outside of the settlement boundary and the entrance onto Holt Road is a Highway danger. It was also considered as an over development. Councillor Boyce proposed and Councillor Cissell seconded that this application be objected to. All were in agreement.

9.1.3. 3PL/2020/1392/F The Shrublands Gressenhall Road

The slightly amended plans have been re submitted however the Parish Councillors would like to uphold their previous three objections. This was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Cissell that this application be refused. All were in agreement.

9.2 Decisions.

The following decision was noted.

9.2.1. 3PL/2021/0976/HOU 3 River View Beetley Proposed single storey extension conversion of existing garage to bedroom and a new car port to front side.

The Parish Council requested an extension to discuss this application however it was denied by Breckland Council as this comes under allowable household development.

Approved.

9.2.2 TPO2021No4 Oak Tree Old Beetley removal of TPO by new owner

District Councillor Atterwill reported that this matter was discussed at the planning committee and the decision was that the TPO should remain.

9.2.3 3PL/2021/0731/F Lakeside East Bilney Removal of Agricultural occupancy restriction.

No decision as yet from Breckland Council tabled for discussion on the 4th October.

9.3. Appeals

9.3.1 APP/F2605/W/21/3270123 Land Adjacent to The Boat House Church Road East Bilney. Reference 3PL/2020/0646/F

No decision

10. Beetley River Meadows.

10.1. To consider Tree work at the bottom of River View.

The Clerk reported that a resident had complained of a tree overgrowing their property and the Clerk has requested three quotations for remedial work. These are awaited.

10.2. Repairs to signage .

The Chairman requested that the Parish Council agree to replace the broken sign boards with like for like replacements this expenditure was proposed by Councillor Boyce and seconded by Councillor Cissell. All were in agreement.

10.3. Damage to football goals/basketball.

The Clerk reported that she was seeking estimates for local repairs to this metalwork having already had a quotation from the suppliers.

10.4. To Report on tree work undertaken on a split willow tree.

The Clerk authorised emergency clearance on a split willow tree. This was undertaken by Adys Woodsplitting Service.

11. Open Spaces.

Nothing to report.

11.2. Beetley Common Maintenance.

Work had been undertaken to clear part of the Common.

11.3. Request for a Dog Fouling Bin on High House Road/Elmham Road Junction.

This matter was discussed at length and it was decided that there were enough bins provided within the Parish at strategic points, The Parish Councillors felt that it is up to dog owners to take responsibility for their pets.

12. Correspondence for Circulation.

There was no correspondence to be circulated.

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

Nothing was suggested.

14. Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as Thursday October 7th in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

15. To Consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) act 1960 to exclude members of the public and press in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be conducted namely the new working arrangements for the Clerk and the RFO. This was proposed by Councillor Boyce and seconded by Councillor Richmond.

The Chairman outlined the revised Clerk/RFO costs for 2021/2022 and 2022/23. Using figures supplied by the RFO. These were discussed with the Parish Councillors present and was agreed by all.

The Meeting closed at 21.36

DRAFT