

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE  
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 28th November 2024.. AT 7.30 P.M.**

**Present**

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

County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris  
0 members of the Public.

**In Attendance**

A .Leigh. Clerk  
R. Wade RFO

1. **To Consider apologies for absence.** District Councillor R. Duffield. The apology was accepted the proposer for the apology was Councillor Billings the seconder was Councillor Lawton all were in agreement.
2. **To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.** None received.
3. **To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 07/11/2024.** It was proposed by Councillor Minchin and seconded by Councillor MacArthur that the minutes were true and accurate, all were in agreement.
4. **Finance.**
  - 4.1. **Budgets as circulated 2024/25.** It was proposed by Councillor Richmond 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.** Angela Leigh ( Christmas gift purchased for the back-up Community Car Co-ordinator ) £8.00, Malcolm MacArthur ( purchase from Toolstation ) £221.94, Clerks salary (November) £483.15, R.F.O. salary (November) £123.68, HMRC (November) £200.40, Angela Leigh ( Community Car drivers pay November) £104.80, F.T. Grounds Maintenance (extra work on grasslands as agreed with NWT and repair of bank erosion) £575.00 It was proposed by Councillor MacArthur and seconded by Councillor Minchin. that these were correct, all in agreement. Councillor MacArthur asked if that at each meeting it is agreed who is approving the payments. The payments this time will be approved by Councillor Billings and Councillor Richmond.
  - 4.3. **Charity Account update.** The R.F.O. reported that the Governing document will be forwarded to the Unity bank as requested.
  - 4.4. **Change of bank update.** The R.F.O. reported that it is progressing well. It was agreed that Councillor Lawton should be included as a signatory. The R.F.O. will deal with this.
  - 4.5. **To agree the budget for 2025/26.** A discussion took place and the budget to the total value of £26500 was suggested. Councillor Billings proposed and Councillor MacArthur seconded that the budget is set for £26500 all were in agreement. Councillor MacArthur requested that a sub total is shown under the expenses to make it easier to compare the expenses against the income. The RFO will include this in the future.
  - 4.6. **To agree the Parish Precept for 2025/26.** The Parish Precept was discussed and it was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Lawton that it should be set at £26565, this is an increase of 10% on 2024/2025. All were in agreement.
5. **Reports from County and District Councillors. Public Participation.**
  - 5.1. **To receive reports from County and District Councillors.** County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris had sent a report which the Clerk had circulated to all Councillors. He informed the meeting that the Winter gritting of the roads had started and there are 58 vehicles operating in

Norfolk and are all computer controlled. The onboard computer links to the sensors in the road which will result in less grit being wasted on the roads. Flood repair and prevention is being addressed at present by the Government and there will be more funding for the internal drainage boards in the future. Local Government re-organisation is also taking place at present which will result in one Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk with a layer of Unity Councils underneath which will make approximately 300 less County Councillors. The size of the Unity Councils are being discussed, Norwich is not large enough to be a unity Council on its own. There is a possibility that the County Council elections may not now be held in May next year.

**5.2. Public comments.** None.

## **6. Matters for report**

**6.1. Speedwatch Beetley.** The Clerk informed the meeting that due to the cold weather and availability of the volunteers no Speedwatch sessions had taken place in November. With the continued cold spell likely they had decided not to do any sessions in December.

**6.2. PPG meeting 14/11/24.** Councillor Richmond had attended this meeting and the new online booking of appointments had some issues and it was not suitable for all patients.

**6.3. Parish sign (outside of School Elmham Road).** It had been reported to the Clerk that the Parish sign was in need of some brickwork repair. The Clerk had contacted Luck Builders and was waiting for a quotation for the repair.

**6.4. East Bilney Noticeboard.** Councillor Billings reported that the East Bilney noticeboard was unstable. After a brief discussion it was agreed that Councillor MacArthur and Councillor Lawton would investigate and hopefully be able to repair.

## **7. Highways.**

**7.1. Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems.** The Clerk reported that she is still waiting to hear from the Highways Engineer when the cutting back of the verge encroachment Fakenham Road Beetley is programmed for.

**7.2. To note any new problems within the Parish.** Councillor MacArthur reported that there are several 30 mph signs in Old Beetley are not visible due to the hedges being overgrown.

**7.3. To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths.** Councillor Lawton reported there is still a problem with the sign on CRF16 it is a 2 way finger post and is not very firm in the ground. Councillor MacArthur suggested that they go and check the post and if it is not rotten at the base they may be able to make it firmer. Councillor Lawton went on to say all of the other footpaths were ok. Councillor MacArthur stated his footpaths were satisfactory. Councillor Minchin advised his were ok. Councillor Billings stated his were satisfactory and Councillor Richmond reported his footpaths were muddy in places but otherwise ok.

Councillor MacArthur informed the meeting that he had purchased a battery operated long reach hedge cutter as agreed at the last meeting to be used to cut back growth around signs in the Parish if it was safe to do so.

**7.4. Verge cutting Beetley Parish.** Councillor Mac Arthur will arrange a meeting with Christopher Dennis of M.P. Dennis to discuss which verges are cut in Beetley, East Bilney and Old Beetley. An email had been received by the Clerk from NCC Highways Engineer stating that 4 cuts would need to be carried out each year if the Parish Council took on the verge cutting. The Clerk is to contact the Highway Engineer stating that only 1.5 cuts had taken place in the current year by NCC so why did he state 4 cuts would be required if the Parish take over the cutting.

## **8. Planning.**

**Applications.**

**8.1. None**

**Decisions made by Breckland Council.**

**8.2. 3AG/2024/0026/AG Peacock Farm Peacock Lane Beetley.** Prior approval re Steel Framed Agricultural building for housing Agricultural Machinery/straw. **Prior approval is not required.**

## **9. Beetley River Meadows.**

**9.1. Monthly Play Equipment inspections.** Councillor Billings had carried out an inspection and passed a list of some actions which needed to be carried out. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward the list to Norfolk Games and Frames and request that they contact Councillor Billings to discuss the issues. Councillor Billings passed the November play inspection sheet to the Clerk for filing.

**9.2. Grass cutting quotation 2025.** The Clerk had received the quotation for the grass cutting for

2025 which had been circulated to all of the Councillors. There was only a small increase on the previous years. Councillor Richmond and Councillor MacArthur proposed it was accepted. All were in agreement. The Clerk would inform F.T. Grounds Maintenance that it had been accepted.

**9.3. Bank erosion update.** F.T. Grounds Maintenance would carry out the repair in the next two to three days weather permitting. They had removed 3 large tree branches which were overhanging the footpath, 2 of which they had quoted for and 1 which the Clerk had informed them about due to the last weekends strong winds this they did not charge for. They had also removed a large piece of Ivy from the Beech Road entrance to Beetley Meadows.

**10. Parish Council matters.**

**10.1. Inspections :- Pavilion, Defibrillator.** Councillor MacArthur reported that the water heater in the showers was not working very efficiently and the one over the handbasin in the toilet was not working at all.. To replace both it would cost approximately £150. Councillor Minchin proposed and Councillor Lawton seconded that these should be purchased, all were in favour. Councillor MacArthur queried if an inspection of the electrics in the Pavilion was required, The Clerk will contact the Village Hall Committee to enquire if there is an inspection carried out at the Village Hall

**10.2. Biodiversity Policy Action Plan.** Councillor MacArthur discussed the action plan with the other Councillors and it was confirmed that as agreed at the last meeting Ady would be contacted to meet with the Councillors to discuss a plan for Beetley Common. Also it was confirmed that in the Spring all Councillors should meet at East Bilney Townlands to discuss a plan to cover that land also.

**11. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion).** Councillors to contact the Clerk for any matters to be included.

**12. To confirm the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 7.30 p.m. at Beetley & East Bilney Village Hall High House Road Beetley.**

**The meeting closed at 20.53**

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

**Date signed.....**