

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025 AT 7.30 P.M.**

**Present**

Councillor R. Richmond (Chair)  
Councillor P. Minchin.  
Councillor P. Lawton.  
Councillor J. Billings.  
Councillor D. Howard.  
Councillor L. Sarll.

District Councillor Roger Atterwill.  
2 members of the Public.

**In Attendance**

A. Leigh. Clerk  
R. Wade RFO

**The Chair thanked Councillor MacArthur for Charing the last meeting.**

- 1. To Consider apologies for absence.** Parish Councillor M. McArthur. District Councillor Bill Duffield and County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris. Councillor Billings proposed and Councillor Minchin seconded that the apologies be accepted. All were in agreement.
- 2. To receive Declarations of Interest.** Councillor Billings item 6 type B.
- 3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November.** It was proposed by Councillor Billings and seconded by Councillor Lawton that the minutes were true and accurate, all were in agreement.
- 4. Finance.**
  - 4.1. Budgets as circulated.** It was proposed by Councillor Howard and seconded by Councillor Sarll that the budgets as circulated were in order, all were in agreement.
  - 4.2. Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated.** Unity bank £6.00, E.on £35.69, Westcote (replacement bus shelter) £11719.20, East Coast Fabrication £60.00, Angela Leigh (BCC scheme drivers payment) £113.00, Clerks salary (November) £518.58, RFO salary (November) 133.00, HMRC (November) £162.80. It was proposed by Councillor Billings and seconded by Councillor Sarll that these payments were correct. All were in agreement. The payments this month will be approved online by Councillor Richmond and Councillor Billings.
  - 4.3. 2027 Precept confirmation of being sent to Breckland Council.** The RFO reported that the 2027 Precept had been forwarded on the 17<sup>th</sup> November and confirmation of receipt had been received.
  - 4.4. Charity account transfer of funds.** It was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Minchin to retain £500 in the account and transfer the remainder to the COIF account. The RFO informed the meeting that it will take 4 days to withdraw money from this account. The RFO will transfer the money .
  - 4.5. Beetley United football team request.** The request received from the football team for an outside electrical socket and an outside tap were discussed. Councillor MacArthur was in contact with an electrical contractor regarding a quotation to have a new socket fitted inside the Pavilion near to the door. It was felt that it was not practical to have one fitted on the outside. The request for an outside tap was discussed and again it was agreed not to have one on the outside but to possibly have a tap fitted inside which would take a hose connection. The Clerk will contact Councillor MacArthur and ask him to obtain a quotation. The Clerk will respond to the football team.
- 5. Breckland Draft Local Plan.** Councillor Billings gave a detailed account of the Local plan for Beetley Parish. The Chair took the meeting “out of committee” for a Parishioner to ask several questions about the proposed development on Fakenham Road Beetley. The meeting went back “into committee” for further discussions. District Councillor Atterwill also gave

information regarding the Local Plan. All Councillors agreed, other than Councillor Billings that there was need for a settlement boundary for Beetley Parish. Councillor Billings as the planning Portfolio holder would circulate to all Councillors a response to the Local Plan and asked that all Councillors reply to him in the next few days so he can forward their comments onto Breckland Council regarding the Local Plan. He reminded all that the closing date for responses was 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

6. **Beetley & District Pre-School new site.** An email from Chris Griggs the Norfolk County Council Officer who had been dealing with the proposed new site had been circulated to all. Unfortunately Norfolk County Council could not fund the new site therefore at present Beetley Pre-School are having to rethink their proposal. The Parish Council were very sorry that at present a new site for the Beetley Pre -School was not going ahead.

7. **Reports from County and District Councillors. Public Participation.**

**7.1. To receive reports from County and District Councillors.** There had been no report received from the County Councillor. District Councillor Atterwill informed the meeting that there would possibly be an election in May next year for a Norfolk and Suffolk Mayor and that a County Councillor election may also take place. He felt that a Breckland Councillor election may be rolled over to 2028. There are available some Winter Warmer packs for those who need them supplied by Breckland Council and he would obtain them if any were required.

**7.2. Public comments.** No comments received.

8. **Matters for report.**

**8.1. Speed Watch.** Mr George Hayes the previous Beetley Speed Watch co-ordinator informed the meeting that DBS checks are still being finalised for volunteers and hopefully next week all will be complete. Therefor no sessions had been held in November. He also reported that the Police Speed Camera team are still carrying out speed checks in the Parish.

**8.2. Councillor induction training 17/11/25 received by Councillor Sarll.** Councillor Sarll reported that she enjoyed the training and found it very informative.

**8.3. Extra agenda item. Hedge Removal on Fakenham Road.** A Parishioner had contacted the Clerk regarding a hedge which had been cut lower on Fakenham Road. This hedge is the boundary of a previous planning application which had not been approved by Breckland Council. a brief discussion was held, and the Parish Council was not able to take this forward.

9. **Highways.**

**9.1. Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems.** The Clerk informed the meeting that there were no ongoing highway problems.

**9.2. To note any new problems within the Parish.** None had been identified.

**9.3. To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths.** Councillor MacArthur had informed the Clerk that his footpaths were satisfactory. All other Councillors confirmed theirs were ok although a bit muddy.

**9.4. Bus shelter grant update.** The replacement bus shelter has now been installed at the junction of Gressenhall Road /Fakenham Road /Elmham Road. This was funded by the Parish Council and Norfolk County Council's Bus Shelter Improvement fund. There has been several comments from Parishioners who are very pleased with it.

10. **Planning.**

**Applications.**

**10.1 PL/2025/1719/NMA Meadow Lodge the Drift East Bilney.** Proposed single storey & two storey rear extension with balcony and glass balustrade and internal alterations. Councillor Billings stated no comments to be made all were in agreement.

**10.2 3PL/2023/1127/HOU Meadow Lodge the Drift East Bilney.** Minor changes to the rear elevation to change single storey element to brickwork. **APPROVED PRIOR TO MEETING.**

**Decisions made by Breckland Council**

**10.3. PL/202/1550/TRE 16a Fakenham Road Beetley.** Tree works. **APPROVED.**

**10.4. PL/2025/1495/TRE Wind Wood 50a Elmham Road** Tree works. **APPROVED.**

11. **Beetley River Meadows.**

**11.1. Monthly play equipment inspections.** Councillor Sarll passed the December inspection sheets to the Clerk for filing.

**11.2. RoSPA report update.** The only item outstanding is the green tube slide exit which needs filling. Councillor Billings had purchased some filler as recommended by Norfolk Games

and Frames but he is unable to use it. He asked the Clerk to contact Norfolk Games and Frames for better instructions than those which came with the filler.

**12. Parish Council Matters.**

**12.1. Inspections: - Pavilion : Defibrillator.** Councillor MacArthur had informed the Clerk that the Pavilion had some water ingress on the ceiling, and he had instructed Luck Builders to clear the gutters and replace the downpipe to hopefully stop the water ingress. He had also contacted Russell Clements electrical contractors regarding an extra power socket to be provided near to the front door re the request of the Beetley United football team. The contractor is busy at present but will try to have a look in the next week and provide a quotation. He had also informed the Clerk that the defibrillator had been checked and was ok. Councillor Lawton had been given training on how to carry out the monthly defibrillator check.

**12.2. East Bilney Noticeboard.** Councillor MacArthur had informed the Clerk that he will try to complete the East Bilney notice board next week weather permitting.

**12.3. Beetley Common Notice board.** Councillor MacArthur had informed the Clerk that the obsolete notice board would be removed by himself and Councillor Lawton.

**12.4. Remembrance Day service.** Councillor Lawton had attended this service and had laid the Poppy Wreath on behalf of Beetley Parish. Councillor Richmond thanked him for stepping in at short notice due to him being unwell.

**12.5. GOV.UK email address update – Gov.UK website address.** These will be installed hopefully before the February meeting. Councillor Billings will assist the Clerk in the changeover.

**13. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion).** Nothing at present.

**14. To confirm the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council will be held on Thursday 5th February 2026 7.30 p.m. at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall High House Road Beetley. No Meetings are held in January.**

The meeting closed at 21.16.

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

Date signed.....