

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7th OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present

Councillor S. Boyce (Chair)
Councillor L. Cissell
Councillor R. Richmond
Councillor J. Baldwin
Councillor T. Scott

Councillor M. Macarthur (After Co-Option)

1. Co-Option of Mr. Malcom MacArthur.

Following a discussion to consider his eligibility Mr. MacArthur was welcomed onto the Parish Council. This was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Cissell. All were in favour.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris and District Councillor Richard Duffield.

3. To receive Declaration of Pecuniary Interests.

There were none.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Cissell seconded the resolution that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd September 2021 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

5. Fund raising for Beetley Play Area. (this was deferred and discussed after item 9)

Elle Farnsworth presented the Council with a quotation to spend the additional funding received from various donations. This was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Cissell all were in favour. She also informed the meeting that NGF requested a deposit of 30% of the full invoice, the Chair agreed to take the newly signed additions and request an invoice for the 30% from NGF. As the money from the National Lottery is already in the account all were in agreement to pay the deposit. Elle also outlined the slippage in time frame to an Easter completion.

6. Budgets

6.1. Councillor Richmond proposed and Councillor Scott seconded the budgets supplied by Leanne RFO these were agreed by all.

6.2. Balances and Cheques

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

7. Public participation.

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

A report was received from County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris

Report for October 2021

Budget: The Council's budget for 22/23 was due to be agreed at the Cabinet meeting on the 4th of October prior to the annual consultation process. However, the government is due to issue a statement on the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) on the 26th of October. This may (or may not) alter the assumptions and calculations for next year's budget that have been made so far. Consequently, to allow for any recalculations required by changes in government funding and other regulations the future budget will be agreed at cabinet in either November or December with public consultation on the proposals being

held in either December or January. The budget will be set at a meeting of full Council in February next year.

Grass Cutting: The grass cutting regime of roadside verges and other areas will change next year. The “rural” cut will consist of 2 cuts on A & B roads and only one on C & U roads. The “urban” cut will be brought back “in house” (previously a Breckland contract run by Serco) and will consist of 4 cuts. I have expressed concerns that the visibility at some junctions on C & U roads may be affected by the lack of a second cut on those roads which are being taken forward by the highways team.

Parish Partnership: A reminder that the deadline for applications for funding from the parish partnership is 10th December. The partnership will fund 50% of the cost of small-scale highway improvements; the other half of the funding coming from the parish.

Members Personal Budget: The personal budget for members has been increased this year from £6k to £10k. I can now allocate funding from this “pot” towards not only highway projects but also small schemes to support the environment in any of the 23 parishes within my division. Applications can be made direct to me for consideration.

Councillor’s Tree Fund: I have been allocated several “tree packs” as part of a pilot scheme for the 21/22 planting season. This forms part of the “One Million Trees for Norfolk” initiative being funded by NCC. I will attach a leaflet on the scheme when forwarding this report.

Mark Kiddle-Morris

7.2. Public participation.

Elle reported that there will be another Pumpkin Trail and raffle on Sunday 31st. October in Beetley. Please support.

8. Matters to report.

8.1. Covid Memorial Token

The Chairman reported that he had received several mailings with a short time frame for response and agreed that the Parish Council be presented with one of these at some future date. It was generally agreed that the Village Hall would be a good place for display when this is received.

8.2. 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.

8.3. Ashley Road Tree Issue.

The Clerk reported that she had passed the issue onto Norfolk Wildlife Trust and they agreed to contact the Parishioner concerned, who in turn reported their thanks to the Parish Council and Clerk for their intervention.

8.4. Poppy Wreath

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by the Royal British Region regarding a wreath for the Parish and all agreed that the Parish Council should purchase one and make a donation.

8.5. S.N.A.P. Meeting.

Councillor Richmond attended the meeting and reported that riding on pavements in Dereham is a priority for the local policing unit as well as speeding through the outlying villages.

8.6. Pavilion.

The Clerk reported that Richard Duffield had now repaired the roof and at present was dealing with the hole in the ceiling. The Parish Council awaits his invoice.

9. Highways.

9.1. To Receive a report on Highways Webinar.

The Clerk and Chairman attended a Norfolk County Council webinar on Highways which was not well attended or the most useful or relevant.

9.2 Clerk to give feedback on Highways problems.

The trees that are blocking the new twenty miles per hour signs have been reported to Highways. The junction of Rawhall Lane and Fakenham road have been reported to County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris and remedial work had been programmed. The potholes in Hall Road which had been reported in February had now been resolved. Footpath 9 footbridge County Councillor Mark Kiddle-

Morris informed the Clerk that he had contacted the Country side Officer and he is still awaiting a reply.

9.3. New problems.

Councillor Cissell reported that there is a large pile of grass cuttings on the verge on Fakenham Road. If this is on private land than there is nothing can be done.

Councillor MacArthur asked if there was a programme of sign cleaning in the parish as many of the signs have 'greened over'. The Clerk will ask County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris.

Councillor Baldwin reported that the hedge and verge was encroaching upon the footpath along Fakenham Road between Beetley and the Old School School Road.

9.4. Footpaths.

The Chair reported that footpath 18 through the woods was o.k. but on footpath 17 there was a big Willow Tree down near the Fakenham Road bridge blocking the path and 200 metres further along there was a large branch obstructing the path. These have been reported to Adys Tree Services to deal with.

Councillor Scott has recently discovered the footpath sign in a hedge this has previously been reported to Highways and the Clerk again will ask for the sign to be reinstated (noting we have new spare signs available within the parish) Councillor Scott was going to remove the sign and place it in an obvious position.

Councillor Cissell reported a problem with horses and cycles since Norfolk County Council had removed stiles and the kissing gates from footpath to allow disability access. The Parish Council would like to know how County Council is going to enforce no cycle riding and horse riding along these open footpaths. The Clerk will contact the County Councillor.

9.5. Local Highway Partnership Scheme.

The Parish Council discussed ideas for this scheme and agreed to submit a bid for the painting of a 40 mph roundel on Fakenham Road at the 40 mph sign. The Clerk will submit the bid. This was agreed by all. The matter of the gateways for East Bilney (this year's bid) will be followed up by the Clerk.

9.6. New footpath on Elmham Road.

County Councillor MKM has informed the Clerk that the developers have been contacted to resolve the problem.

10. Planning.

10.1. Applications.

10.1. TRE/2021/0255/TPO 31 Beech Road Beetley.

This is to manage a large tree with pollarding and canopy reduction it was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Baldwin that this application be agreed to, all were in favour.

10.2. TRE/2021/0256/TPO 29 Beech Road Beetley.

This is to manage a large tree with pollarding and canopy reduction it was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Baldwin that this application be agreed to, all were in favour.

10.3. 3PL/2021/1207/HOU St. Fillans 40 Elmham Road Beetley demolition of a single garage and construction of a triple garage.

This application was discussed at length and questions were raised about the siting of the garages being so far away from the house and the design and style of the new build, however, the Councillors could see no reason to raise and objection. Therefore it was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Cissell that this application be accepted and agreed by all.

10.4 Decisions by Breckland District Council.

The following decisions were noted.

10.4.1. 3PL/2020/1392/F The Shrublands Gressenhall Road

The development of 5 dwellings and demolition of one bungalow have been approved despite the Parish Councils objections.

10.4.2. 3PL/2021/0731/F Lakeside East Bilney Removal of Agricultural occupancy restriction.

This has been approved although the Parish Council objected.

10.4.3. 3PL/2005/0353/0 Affordable Housing Contribution.

It has been approved under section 106 to fund the Benjamin Project for a future builders project in Dereham despite the Parish Council objection.

10.4.4. 3PL/2020/1119/F Bridge at Hoe Rough

Norfolk Wildlife Trust have been granted permission to build a cow/foot bridge across the river to join their two pieces of land. This will make a circular footpath and Beetley Parish Council were in favour of this.

10.5. Appeals

TPO 2021 no 4 Oak Tree Old Beetley.

Breckland Council have decided that the TPO should remain in place as agreed by the Parish Council however, the land owner has taken the decision to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. Representations for and against this can be lodged on the Planning Inspectorate web site.

11. Beetley River Meadows.

11.1. To consider a Contractor for the Tree work at the bottom of River View.

The Clerk outlined three quotations she had received to undertake this tree work they all recommended slightly different work however, it was agreed after discussion to go with Norfolk Woods and Hedges Ltd who quoted for £475 plus VAT. This was proposed by Councillor Scott seconded by Council Richmond and agreed by all.

11.2. Repairs to signage .

The Chairman reported that the repairs had been undertaken and the signs re-instated at Beetley River Meadows and are awaiting an invoice.

11.3. Damage to football goals/basketball.

The Clerk outlined the two quotations and options to the Parish Council who chose the G&G Fencing quotation without the powder coating at a cost of £1840 plus VAT. This was proposed by Councillor MacArthur and seconded by Councillor Scott all were in favour.

11.4. Playground safety training for Councillor Scott.

It was proposed by Councillor Boyce and seconded by Councillor Richmond that Councillor Scott should undertake the safety training with CAN this was agreed by all.

12. Open Spaces.

Nothing to report.

13. Parish Council Matters.

With the Co-option of Councillor MacArthur the Clerk outlined changes to the coverage of roles by Councillors. It was agreed that Footpaths 11/12/13 be given up by Councillor Scott to Councillor MacArthur and Councillor Scott to take on Footpaths 14/15 which had previously been covered by Councillor Metcalf. It was additionally agreed that Councillor Scott takes on the duty of checking the Defibrillator monthly at the Village Hall and checking the Pavilion each month.

14. Correspondence for Circulation.

There was one piece of information regarding Tourism in Norfolk which will be placed on the website.

15. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion)

There will need to be a discussion regarding Dereham Youth FC using the pavilion in addition to the Village Hall and Playing Field.

16. Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as Thursday November 4th in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 21.20

Agreed as true and accurate then signed by Chair at meeting of Parish Council 4/11/2021