

# MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.

**Present** Councillor R. Richmond (Chair)  
Councillor L. Cissell  
Councillor J. Baldwin  
Councillor T. Scott  
Councillor M. Macarthur

In attendance Angela Leigh Clerk, Leanne Jarrett RFO.

**Pre Meeting discussion** regarding persons going missing in the Parish.

Nicki Cosgrove, Manager East Bilney Care Home led a discussion on how parishioners can help a person who has absented themselves from their home. Parish Councillor Scott gave some input from his time as a serving Police Officer Several scenarios where discussed but no overall plan or solution was formulated.

Prior to the Beetley Parish Council meeting the chair for the meeting, Councillor Robert Richmond sought the permission of all present to add 9.1.4 Vale Farm Barn discharge of planning condition. 9.3 Breckland request for comments on the Statement of community involvement and 12.1-12.2 two polices whose review was deferred at the last meeting. This was agreed by all present.

**1. To consider the apologies for absence.**

Parish Councillor Steven Boyce gave his apologies as he was quarantining and awaiting PSR results following a recent trip.

District Councillor Richard Duffield offered his apologies due to family illness.

This was generally agreed.

**2. To receive Declarations of Pecuniary interests.**

None.

**3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on November 4<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

Proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Cissell as a true and accurate record of the meeting all were in agreement.

**4. To receive a progress report on Beetley Play Area.**

The Clerk reported that the new play area had been cut as requested by NGF. The final grass cut for the area has been completed. Councillor Scott also reported that as part of his Play Area Inspection course the play area should be inspected daily but it was felt that weekly would suffice for a low use/risk unsupervised such as the Beetley Play Area.

**5. 5.1. Budgets.** These were agreed by all having been proposed by Councillor Cissell and seconded by Councillor Scott.

**5.2. Balances and cheques.** The RFO informed the meeting that she had also prepared the cheques for January as the Parish Council do not meet that month. The balances and cheques were agreed by all having been proposed by Councillor Cissell and Councillor Scott.

**Finance Report:- 02.12.2021**

<b>Barclays Community Account</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021	63,852.72
Plus: Fundraising (Halloween Trail)	630.00
Breckland – Community Card 2 <sup>nd</sup> Instalment	600.00
UKPN (Wayleave)	<u>79.32</u>
Less:	
Less:	

<b>As per bank statement 31.10.21</b>	
Less: Unpresented cheque from May £75	
<b>Actual total as at 31.10.21</b>	

Amount available for S.137: 1213 x £8.32 = £10,092.16 - Spend to Date: £58.00

<b>Cheques for authorisation 02.12.21</b>			<b>£</b>
381	Mrs A Leigh	Clerk salary	356.55
382	HMRC	PAYE	89.00
383	Beeston Bookkeeping	RFO Services November	150.00
384	Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd	Insurance-Pavilion	66.56
385	Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd	Insurance-Play equipment	213.72
386	Norfolk Woods and Hedges	Tree maintenance	570.00
387	Mrs A Leigh	BCCS Coordinator gift	16.48
388	Mrs A Leigh-BCCS	Community Car payment	TBC
389	Electronic Office Supplies	Photocopying/Printing	9.07
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,471.38</b>
<b>Cheques for authorisation January 2022</b>			
390	Mrs A Leigh	Clerk salary	356.55
391	HMRC	PAYE	89.00
392	Beeston Bookkeeping	RFO Services November	150.00
393	Mrs A Leigh-BCCS	Community Car payment	TBC

<b>Play Area Fund</b>		<b>£</b>
04.01.20	Christmas Tree Trail	£ 1,300.00
25.03.20	Donations (Farrier, Middleton)	£ 2,000.00
11.11.20	Halloween Trail	£ 706.00
01.04.21	Parish Council (ring-fenced)	£ 3,000.00
14.04.21	Easter Egg Hunt	£ 365.00
20.04.21	Fleet Sense	£ 1,000.00
16.07.21	Lottery Funding	£ 60,000.00
19.07.21	Bruce Wake Charitable Trust	£ 2,000.00
12.08.21	NCF Funding	£ 1,874.00
31.08.21	Plant sales	£ 230.00
10.09.21	Arnold Clark	£ 1,000.00
14.10.21	NGF Play Limited	-£ 21,883.04
13.11.21	Halloween Trail	£630.00
		<b>£ 52,221.96</b>

**5.3. 2022 Precept Charge.** The RFO presented an outline budget for 2022 which she had worked out previously at a meeting with the Clerk and Chairman. The budget presented is very tight and some cuts have been made, however it is envisaged to be a balanced budget. The figures indicate that we raise the precept by 4.34% a £750 increase overall.

6. **6.1. To receive reports from County and District Councillors.** County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris informed the meeting that the County Council will set its budget in February 2022.

## **County Councillor for Beetley, Report for December 2021**

**Budget:** The County Council will present its budget for financial year 22/23 and set the council tax at its meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2022. The current proposal is to raise the general council tax level by 1.99% and raise the adult social care precept by 1%. The budget proposals are out for consultation until the 30<sup>th</sup> of December, details of the proposals and how to respond to the consultation are available on the NCC website.

Pressure on the demand led services of adult social care and children's services has required the council to seek £24.5m of savings from the 22/23 budget. This is mainly due to the increasing age of the population in Norfolk placing ever decreasing demand on adult social care. There are further pressures for next year with the increase in national insurance contributions, the increase in minimum wage levels and energy price increases, these pressures affect the cost of the services we purchase, notably adult social care. Additionally of concern is the increasing cost of home to school transport especially that of transport of children to special schools.

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

**Councillor Tree Packs:** I still have some packs of trees available free of charge to enable parish councils and local organisations to participate in the "One Million Trees for Norfolk" campaign. This is the first pilot year of the 5 year project. If you would like to plant a few trees, please let me know.

**Personal Budget:** you may recall that I have been allocated a personal budget of £10k this year £4k more than last year. I can fund small scale highway improvements and projects that enhance the environment from this budget. My tree packs mentioned above are funded from here. If you have any projects that you need a little help with, please let me know.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Best wishes MKM.

The Clerk reported that in a conversation with District Councillor Richard Duffield the problem of enforcement at School Road Beetley still has not been dealt with as the local enforcement team is currently under manned.

### **6.2. Public Comments. None.**

7. **7.1. Councillors feedback.** Councillor Scott had nothing else to add to his course on play equipment inspection. Councillor Cissell attended a course titled Tree or not To Tree was interesting but not entirely relevant to our parish.

**7.2. Memorial Plaque.** The Clerk reported that this had now arrived and the Parish Councillors decided that the village Hall would be an appropriate place to have it displayed. The Clerk will contact the Village Hall Committee to obtain permission and Councillor MacArthur has taken the plaque to affix it when permission has been granted.

**7.3. Remembrance Sunday.** The Clerk reported that the wreath was laid by herself and it was good to see so many cubs, scouts and parents from the Beetley troop supporting this significant event.

### **8. Highways.**

**8.1.** The Clerk reported that the Gateways which have been installed as last year's Highway Partnership scheme are as was designed and agreed by the Parish Council. The potholes near to The Boat House Church Road East Bilney have now been completed this was reported in March 2021! The 20 mph flashing sign Fakenham Road which is obscured by an overgrown tree is still to be resolved by Highways. The stone coping on the Bridge B1146 near Hoe Rough car park has been reported do not see it as an urgent matter and has been passed onto the Bridge team in Highways. The new access pavement on Elmham Road Beetley has been deemed unsatisfactory by Highways and the Developer/land owner has been informed of a meeting with the view to carrying out remedial work either by themselves or by the County Council with the cost being recovered by the Council. The repairs at the junction of Rawhall Lane and the B1146 Fakenham Road are scheduled to take place on the 6/7 December. The Chairman is still trying to contact the

property owner in Church Road East Bilney regarding the stile. The Clerk asked Mark Kiddle-Morris to thank the Highways team for the excellent work on clearing the footpath and the overgrown hedge from Beetley to the Old School. The Clerk informed the meeting that Councillor Boyce had kindly cleared around the signs on High House Road.

**8.2. New Highways problems within the Parish.** Councillor Scott raised the matter of the old gateway to the South of Beetley Hoe Rough which is a wooden structure/gateway. County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris agreed to ask Highways if it is a Highways asset and if something could be done to improve the appearance of it. Councillor MacArthur queried commercial advertisements which are attached to Street Furniture. County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris will take this forward with the Highways team.

**8.3. To receive reports from the Councillors on footpath inspections.** Councillor Scott reported 14/15 are satisfactory Councillor Cissell stated the footpaths she inspects are muddy, Councillor MacArthur agreed to re-erect 2/3 fingers posts which had rotted at the base he had spoken to the land owner. These he will collect from Councillor Richmond's storage. Councillor Baldwin has yet to walk her footpaths.

## 9. Planning.

**9.1.1. 3PL/2021/1524/F** Proposed mixed use garden centre and stationing of static caravans and utility blocks for residential use inclusive of all ancillary utilities. Shorthorns Garden centre Elmham Road Beetley. This application was discussed at length however the development is outside the settlement boundary and therefore the Parish Council agreed to oppose this application. This was proposed by Councillor MacArthur and seconded by Councillor Scott.

**9.1.2. TRE/2021/0307/TPO.** 15 Wood Drive Beetley. To raise the crown of oak tree and lower overall height. No objection was raised this was proposed by Councillor Baldwin seconded by Councillor Scott and was agreed by all.

**9.1.3 TRE/2021/0245/TPO** Bracken Brae Green Lane Beetley. To remove a dead walnut tree. No objection was raised to this it was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Baldwin all were in agreement.

**9.1.4 3DC/2021/0297/DOC** Discharge of planning conditions Vale Farm Barns Stoney Lane Beetley.

The applicants have lodged an extensive contamination report and an excellent ecology report. They have agreed to fit bat and bird boxes to the buildings prior to the building work commencing and have appointed an ecology manager to train the builders and to oversee the works. These matters fulfil all of the planning conditions. In the light of these conditions it was agreed to raise no objection. Proposed by Councillor Baldwin and seconded by Councillor Cissell.

### **Decisions by Breckland Council.**

**9.2.1 TRE/2021/0245/TPO** 30 Beech Road Beetley. 3 Oak trees reduction and removal of dead wood. Permission Granted. F

**Planning Appeals 3PL/2020/0646/F** Land adjacent to the Boat House East Bilney the appeal was dismissed.

**9.3 Statement of Community Involvement .** Breckland circulated, at short notice, a new scheme for involving the community in planning matters. A lengthy discussion was held and the Parish Councillors agreed on the wording that Councillors Boyce and Cissell had put together. These comments will be forwarded to Breckland Council by the Clerk.

## **10. Beetley River Meadows.**

### **10.1. To receive a report on the area and note problems.**

The Clerk reported that the pollarding of the Lime Tree at the entrance to the Meadows at the bottom of River View had been completed. The Parishioner who asked for this work to be done was very happy with the work carried out. The Clerk also reported that the work on the metal goal/basketball equipment had been completed. Councillor Scott reported that some of the benches were looking a bit shabby and it was agreed that in the Spring the Parish Councillors would form a working party to clean the benches and paint those which required painting.

**11. Open Spaces** The Chair had received a letter from the Government regarding the nitrate vulnerable zones on Parish land. He had contacted the helpline and discussed the matter and understood that as the land is not farmed on or fertiliser applied to any of the land then there is no need to do anything further.

**12. Parish Council matters.**

**12.1. Data Protection Policy** at the last meeting this was deferred for some amendment these were presented to the Parish Councillors and proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor MacArthur all were in agreement.

**12.2. Risk Assessment and Management Paper** at the last meeting this was deferred for some amendment these were presented to the Parish Councillors and proposed by Councillor Cissell and seconded by Councillor MacArthur all were in agreement.

**13. Correspondence for Circulation.** None.

**14. Matters for the next meeting.** Reclassify the track or lane from Old Hall Old Beetley through to the junction with Folly Lane, Councillor MacArthur.

**The Parish Council would like to send greetings of the season and best wishes for the New Year to all Parishioners.**

The Meeting closed at 21.20