

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 1st October 2026 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

Councillor M. MacArthur.
Councillor J. Billings.
Councillor P. Minchin.
Councillor D. Howard.
Councillor P. Lawton.

County Councillor Tom Dickerson.
District Councillors none
2 members of the Public.

In Attendance

A. Leigh. Clerk
R. Wade RFO

Councillor Malcolm MacArthur took the chair in the absence of the Chairman.

1. **To Consider apologies for absence.** Parish Councillor James Bell, Parish Councillor Robert Richmond. District Councillor Roger Atterwill. Apologies accepted.
2. **To receive Declarations of Interest.** None.
3. **To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd September 2026.** It was proposed by Councillor Minchin and seconded by Councillor Howard 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 Billings that the budgets as circulated were in order, all were in agreement.
 - 4.2. **Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated.** C.D. Ground Services £662.95, C.D. Ground Services £376.10, Eon d/d £19.09, Ady's Wood Splitting Services Ltd £715.00, Malcolm MacArthur (B7Q) £15.55, Anglotech £19.18, Angela Leigh (payment to driver re September Beetley Community Car journeys) £39.50, Clerks salary (Sept) £621.68, RFO salary (Sept) £159.40, HMRC (Sept) £195.00, Glasdon (c/o Malcolm MacArthur (2 x rubbish bins Beetley River Meadows.) £513.50, Community Heartbeat £361.20, NPTS £294.00, PKF Littlejohn LLP £252.00. It was proposed by Councillor Billings and seconded by Councillor Minchin that these payments were correct. All were in agreement. The payments this month will be approved online by Councillor MacArthur and Councillor Lawton.
 - 4.3. **2026/7 Pay Scales increased for Clerk and RFO. The National Joint Council for Local Government Services from April 1 2026 agreed 3.3%.** The RFO informed the meeting of this pay increase.
 - 4.4. **AGAR update.** The RFO had circulated to all Councillors the External Auditors report and Certificate 2025/6.
5. **Reports from County and District Councillors. Public Participation.**
 - 5.1. **To receive reports from County and District Councillors.** County Councillor Tom Dickerson informed the meeting that County Hall are now setting budgets, Council tax is one of the items being discussed. A letter had been sent to the Government asking for a refund of the monies which have been spent on the LGR, no response has yet been received. Mayoral elections have been brought forward to next year. The Customer Service system at County Hall is being reviewed and is hoped the telephone answering service will be speeded up, hopefully by Christmas. The problem with the verge encroachment on Fakenham Road between High House road and School Lane he had taken up with the Highway Engineer Matt Lines to get the encroachment cut back. No information about this had been received by the Clerk so he will chase this again. A trial of machines to repair pot holes is being carried out at present.

Councillor Billings raised the issue of a Beetley resident having problems in obtaining a blue badge. Councillor Billings will forward information regarding this onto the County Councillor and he will look into it. Councillor Lawton asked if road signs which were left on the highway when the work had been completed could be returned somewhere. The County Councillor stated this problem is currently being looked into.

District Councillor Roger Atterwill had sent a report to the Clerk which had been circulated to all Councillors. He had contacted Mr Brown and has provided him with advice following on from last month's meeting. He had been contacted by a resident concerning planning application PL/2026/1068/FMIN proposed 4 bed dwelling on land at Beetley Grange and had submitted an objection on Breckland's planning portal.

5.2. Public comments. *This item was brought forward and was discussed prior to the planning Applications.*

A member of the public raised an objection to planning application PL/2026/1235/OMAJ Land North East of Fakenham Road Beetley. He stated that there had been at least 6 applications for this land had been received and turned down by the Parish Council, Breckland Council and the Planning Inspectorate. He stated also it was out of the settlement boundary of the village, Councillor Billings informed him that settlement boundaries no longer exist. The main objection he had was that the site was overdeveloped and was unacceptable. The hedgerow would also disappear and there are several more residents who object to this application. The Chairman advised him that all who were against this application should place their objections onto the Breckland Planning Portal. Councillor Billings advised that the best way to put in an objection regarding this application would be to highlight safe and acceptable access onto Fakenham Road, also, that the rural character of the street would be diminished by the modification of the access. A detailed application is still required to be submitted which will be discussed by the Parish Council as consultees when it is received.

6. Matters for report.

6.1. Speed Watch. No report received.

6.2. Shed on Village Hall Playing field update. No further update. It was agreed for this item to be removed from future agendas until further information is received from the Beetley & East Bilney Village Hall committee as this is their shed and their responsibility.

6.3. Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation update. Councillor Billings informed the meeting there was no further update. He had circulated a report last month to all Councillors and the next stage is that the plan goes to the Inspectorate for approval. He reminded all that settlement boundaries were no longer.

6.4. Beetley Common update. Nothing to report.

7. Highways.

7.1. Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems. Nothing to report.

7.2. To note any new problems within the Parish. No new problems identified.

7.3. To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths. Councillors Howard, MacArthur reported their footpaths were in good order. Councillor Lawton reported all were ok but there was a fallen tree on CRB1, this was discussed and it was agreed the Clerk would contact Ady and ask him to contact Councillor Lawton.

7.4. Parish Partnership scheme 2027/2028. This was discussed and it was agreed that no bid would be placed. The Clerk will inform Norfolk County Highways of this.

8. Planning.

Applications.

8.1. PL/2026/1232/TRE 23 Fakenham Road Beetley. TPO 1999/no5 Oak (T1) 18m tall with a Crown radius of approximately 8m. reduce crown radius by 2m. ***Not for consultation for Information only.***

Decisions made by Breckland Council.

8.2. Interim order decision sent by the Planning Inspectorate in relation to Norfolk County (Gressenhall & Beetley) Modification Order 2025 Common Drift. The order is confirmed to To change all references to "restricted byway" to "bridleway. This had been circulated to all Parish Councillors prior to the meeting for their information.

8.3. PL/2026/0888/TRE The Potting Shed 16B Fakenham Road Beetley.TRE/2024/0134/TPO -4 Oak. APPROVED

8.4. PL/2026/1086/PAH 16 Tavern Close Beetley. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed larger home extension. **APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED**

8.5. PL/2026/PAPW High House Farm High House Road Beetley. Application to determine prior approval is required for a proposed formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways for agricultural or forestry use. **PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED.**

8.6. Additional planning application not on agenda. PL/2026/1235/OMAJ Land Northeast of Fakenham Road Beetley. Outline planning Application with all matters reserved except access for the erection of up to 16 dwellings, landscaping and all associated infrastructure.

This application was discussed and it was agreed to object on the grounds that it constitutes a change to the rural character of the existing street scene in that part of Fakenham Road. A further objection is to the location of the access road being directly opposite an existing driveway, on the grounds that headlights from traffic waiting to turn out of the access will cause disturbance to the property opposite. The access, if permission is granted, should instead be opposite a hedge line between properties. This was proposed by Councillor Billings and seconded by Councillor Lawton all were in agreement. The Clerk will enter the objection and comments onto the Breckland Planning portal.

9. Beetley River Meadows.

9.1. Monthly play equipment inspections. Norfolk Games and Frames to carry these out commencing in October. This was proposed by Councillor Billings and seconded by Councillor Minchin, all were in agreement.

9.2. RoSPA report update. – Councillor Howard to report. Councillor Howard reported that the meeting with NGF and the Clerk on site went well. Several actions were agreed and a quotation would be sent. It was also agreed that plastic spikes would be fixed to the top bar of the swings to deter the birds.

9.3. To agree the quotation from NGF. Councillor Minchin proposed the quotation for the repair to the play equipment as discussed should be accepted. Councillor Howard seconded, all were in agreement. The Clerk would inform NGF.

9.4. Litter bins update. Councillor MacArthur reported that he had placed an order for 2 replacement free standing litter bins for Beetley River Meadows, the delivery period was 28 days.

10. Parish Council Matters.

10.1. Inspections: - Pavilion: Defibrillator. Councillor MacArthur reported that the gutter on the pavilion was full of leaves. It was agreed that he and Councillor Lawton would remove them. The battery for the defibrillator had arrived and he will replace when needed.

11. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion). None.

12. To confirm the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council will be held on Thursday 5th November 2026 at 7.30 p.m. at Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall High House Road Beetley.

The meeting closed at 21.02

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

Date signed.....