

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7th December 2023 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present

Councillor R. Richmond (Chair)
Councillor J. Baldwin
Councillor J. Billings
Councillor P. Minchin.

In Attendance

A .Leigh. Clerk
R. Wade. RFO
District Councillor's Roger Atterwill.
3 Members of the Public.

1. **To Consider apologies for absence.** County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris, Parish Councillor Malcolm MacArthur these apologies were accepted.
2. **To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.** None.
3. **To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 02/11/2023.** It was proposed by Councillor Minchin that the minutes were true and accurate, it was seconded by Councillor Baldwin. All were in agreement.
4. **Finance.**
 - 4.1. **Budgets as circulated.** It was proposed by Councillor Baldwin 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.** Clerks salary (November) £695.12, R.F.O.salary (November) £164.00, HMRC £214.40, G&G Fencing £354.00, Beetley and East Bilney Village Hall £90.00, EON October direct debit £12.39, CBR Business Solutions £14.40, Mrs. A. Leigh £9.00, Mrs. A .Leigh (B.C.C. drivers payments) £175.45, Clerks salary (December) £483.12, RFO (December) salary £123.80, HMRC £151.60, EON November direct debit £12.38. It was proposed by Councillor Baldwin and seconded by Councillor Richmond that these were correct all were in agreement.
 - 4.3. **National Salary award Clerk and RFO.** It was proposed by Councillor Baldwin and seconded by Councillor Minchin that this was in order. All were in agreement.
 - 4.4. **Charity Commission / Charity accounts update.** It was agreed to amalgamate the Beetley Charity and the Fuel Charity. The account address is to be the R.F.O.'s home address.
 - 4.5. **Parish Precept.** The R.F.O. had circulate to all Councillors information regarding this. A discussion took place and it was suggested the precept for the next year should be £24150.00 this is a 15% increase and will ensure the Parish Council does not go into a deficit situation. It was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Minchin, all were in agreement. The R.F.O. will inform Breckland Council of the precept amount.
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 emailed his report to the Clerk and this had been distributed to all Councillors. District Councillor Roger Atterwill stated that Breckland's Overview and Scrutiny had requested UKPN to attend their meeting on the 18th January to discuss the recent power cuts and what service they will provide to ensure these power cuts have been addressed. Breckland Council has a sizeable short fall for the 2024 budget and that 2025 there may be more passed onto the Parish and Town Councils. Breckland Local Plan will start an 8 weeks consultation period commencing next week. Roger stressed that the Parish Council should look at this document in particular the removal of the Settlement Boundary. He offered to meet with the Parish Councillors during the second half of January to go through the Local plan and would send the Clerk some dates when he would be able to meet.
 - 5.2. **Public comments.** Nothing was raised.
6. **Matters for report**
 - 6.1. **Breckland Mobile Food Store.** District Councillor Atterwill informed the meeting that at present it is not operational and he is looking into this.

6.2. Speedwatch Beetley. The Clerk had received a report from the Beetley Speedwatch Co-ordinator stating that the team had carried out two sessions in the month covering Fakenham Road and Elmham Road locations. Sessions were fewer due to the wet weather conditions. 9 vehicles were recorded at the limit and above. The highest speed was 40 mph on Fakenham Road and 40 mph on Elmham Road. Further checks will be done in December together with the Camera Safety Team.

6.3. Play area inspection training – Councillor John Billings. Councillor Billings had attended the C.A.N. training and stated that the discussion element and the practical element was very beneficial. He will customise the current Beetley River Meadows play area inspection sheet and forward it onto the Clerk. As Councillor Minchin is still not too well Councillor Billings will carry out the monthly checks and when complete pass them onto the Clerk for filing. The issue as to if more frequent checks were required was discussed and it was agreed to keep them as monthly.

6.4. PPG meeting 15/11/2023. Councillor Richmond reported that he had attended and that it was well attended. Doctor Griffiths Jones and the Practice Manager were in attendance. The telephone system had improved and he felt it was a productive meeting.

6.5. Old Beetley Flooding update. An Old Beetley Parishioner informed the meeting that there had been further flooding and handed out a list of the dates of the flooding with photographs showing the property which had been flooded and the road way which showed the water rapidly moving down into the village. The owner of the field and the Manager of the pigs had been clearing out the ditches and had created a new one which was beneficial. It was felt that the pipe which goes under the road needs clearing also which is a N.C.C. pipe. District Councillor Atterwill will forward a contact number to the Clerk for the Breckland Councils out of hours flood number for her to pass onto the Parishioner for future information.

6.6. UKPN power out update. The Schedule of works had been carried out, several trees had been cut back and stronger overhead cables had been installed. The issue will be monitored by UKPN.

7. Highways.

7.1. Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had been informed that the overgrown verge on Fakenham Road Beetley between the Halfpenny Lane junction and the School Road junction had been programmed. The request from a Parishioner for an extension of yellow lines on Elmham Road has still not been looked into. The Clerk had forwarded the request to County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris and he would look into it and contact the Parishioner. The one remaining sign for the East Bilney Fishing Lakes which is on the N.C.C. post Councillor Billings will remove. The Clerk had reported to N.C.C. Bridge section that the bridge on the B1146 Fakenham Road had been hit and one of the copings was dislodged also one of the concrete posts was also damaged. This had been passed to the relevant Highways team.

7.2. To note any new problems within the Parish. No new problems were reported.

7.3. To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths. Councillor's Richmond and Minchin reported their footpaths were satisfactory. Councillor MacArthur had sent a report to the Clerk that all of his were ok other than the ongoing replacement of the signage for FP11 & 13. Councillor Baldwin's were ok but she had not walked CRF16. Councillor Billings reported that his were satisfactory.

7.4. Parish Partnership Scheme bids -2024/2025. Decision to be made by bids required by 10/12/2023. Marking of 2 Slow signs on the Elmham Road near to the School was discussed. It was proposed by Councillor Baldwin and seconded by Councillor Minchin that a bid for this work should be placed. All were in agreement. The total cost of the work is £269.38 which the Parish Council would pay 50%. The Clerk will be informed by N.C.C. Highways in March 2024 if the bid is successful.

8. Minerals and Waste submission plan-update. County Councillor Mark-Kiddle Morris had informed the Clerk that there were still matters of contention to be sorted out between the applicant and the N.C.C. planners. The meeting has been deferred until January however, it is by no means certain that the matters of contention will be resolved by then. He will keep the Clerk updated.

9. **Planning.**
 - Applications.**
 - 9.1. **TRE/2023/0324//TPO Woodwells 52 Elmham Road Beetley. TPO 1995/No 2 Oak trees. Reduce the tree heights by 1/3 (Tree Work App TPO) .**This application was not discussed as **CONSENT** had been given by the Breckland Tree officer.
 - 9.2. **TRE/2023/0326 /TCA. Five Cat Cottage 15 Hall Road Beetley. Crown reductions 12 m (Tree work App CA)** No comments to be sent.
 - 9.3. **Additional item . 3PL/2023/1132/HOU 16 Elmham Road Beetley. Proposed loft extension including Juliet Balcony, removal of chimney and installation of flue, removal of existing conservatory Construction of new two storey side extension and associated alterations. Proposed dormer Windows to front elevation.** No objection proposed by councillor Richmond seconded by Baldwin, all were in favour.
 - 9.4. **Additional item. 3PL/2023/1127/HOU Meadow Lodge The Drift East Bilney. Proposed single & two storey rear extensions with balcony and glass balustrade and internal alterations.** No objection proposed by Councillor Minchin and seconded by Councillor Baldwin, all were in favour.
 - Decisions by Breckland Council.**
 - 9.5. **TRE/2023/0290/TPO 4 Spinney Close Beetley. Oak Tree 1. Reduce back to pervious cuts 30 reduction all round. TPO-REFT50 AK 1988 No. 15 (Tree Work App TPO) CONSENT GIVEN.**
10. **Beetley River Meadows.**
 - 10.1. **Monthly play equipment inspections.** Councillor Billings had carried out the inspections for November and passed the sheets to the Clerk.
 - 10.2. **RoSPA 2023 report update.** The RoSPA report actions are now all complete.
 - 10.3. **2024 Grass cutting contract.** The quotation for the 2024 grass cutting/ grounds maintenance had been circulated to all Councillors. Various locations within Beetley Parish grounds maintenance work and grass cutting on 14 occasions April through to October (twice a month) £2279.41. Three plots of grassed area Beetley River Meadows. One plot to be cut on an annual basis in accordance with Norfolk Wildlife's recommendation £503.36 per plot. On a annual basis rotation over three years, grass to be cut to approximately 4.5 inches. It was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor Minchin. All were in agreement to accept the quotation.
11. **Parish Council matters.**
 - 11.1. **Inspections:- Pavilion : Defibrillator.** Councillor MacArthur had informed the Clerk that the stock cock in the Pavilion would be repaired during the next week . He would inspect the Defibrillator within the next couple of days and forward the report onto the Clerk.
12. **Matters for next meeting (not for discussion).** Breckland Local Plan, Bio-Diversity duty.
13. **To confirm the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council will be held on Thursday 1st. February 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in Beetley Village Hall High House Road Beetley.**

The meeting closed at 21.00

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

Date signed.....