

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 1st December 2022 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present	Councillor L. Cissell (Chair) Councillor J. Baldwin Councillor T. Scott Councillor R. Richmond Councillor M. MacArthur Councillor P. Minchin (co-opted at the meeting)
In Attendance	A. Leigh Clerk L. Jarrett RFO District Councillor R. Atterwill

1. **To Consider apologies for absence.** County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris. Accepted.
2. **To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.** Councillor R. Richmond item 9. Declaration type A.
3. **To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2022.** The minutes were proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Baldwin all were in agreement.
4. **To consider the co-option of Paul Minchin onto the Parish Council.** Proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Richmond all were in favour to the co-option. Councillor Minchin signed the acceptance of office.
5. **Finance.**
 - 5.1. **Budgets as circulated.** Councillor Richmond raised a query regarding the 2nd payment of the Parish precept not being shown. The RFO confirmed it had been received. It was proposed by Councillor Richmond and seconded by Councillor MacArthur that the budgets were in order, all were in agreement.
 - 5.2. **Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated.** Authorisation 01.12.22. Clerks salary £586.65, RFO salary £225.60, HMRC £163.80, A. Leigh (C. Car driver payments) £166.60, G&C Fencing £420, NPTS £36, A. Leigh (refund of E.A. permit) £170, E-on Direct debit £12.80, R.W. Duffield Ltd £240, Electronic Office Solutions £17.02, T. Scott £39.78. Authorisation 01.01.23. Clerks salary £390.65, RFO salary £159.40, HMRC £99.80, A. Leigh (C. Car driver payments) t.b.c.
 - 5.3. **Precept setting.** After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to increase the precept for the the next year from £18K to £21K an increase of 16.6% which makes a band D annual payment to be £5.62. This was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Richmond all were in agreement.
 - 5.4. **National Salary award 2022-2023 Clerk and RFO.** This was proposed by Councillor Richmond seconded by Councillor MacArthur all agreed this increase.
6. **Reports from County and District Councillors. Public participation.**
 - 6.1. There had been no report received from the County Councillor.
District Councillor Roger Atterwill reminded the Councillors that there is a meeting at Breckland Council offices regarding the Local Plan, the Chair and the Clerk are to attend.
Councillor Atterwill informed the meeting that he had attended a meeting at Breckland Council, Credit Unions in the District was discussed. Citizens Advice had attended and they stated that hey had had a 50% increase in calls this year the majority were concerning fuel poverty they also have a shortage of staff to deal with these calls.
Councillor Atterwill stated that there are 16,404 households in the Breckland area who have oil central heating, Breckland Council and Citizens Advice are taking this forward to determine how these households can be helped with the cost of the oil. Councillor Atterwill raised the problem of Beetley Pre-School needing larger accommodation and after a discussion it was hoped that land/premises could be found in Beetley and he suggested a meeting is held to take this forward.

6.2. Public Comments. There were none.

7. Matters for report.

7.1. Breckland Mobile Food Store.

The Clerk had contacted St. Mary's School Beetley and they had agreed to the Food Bus being on the School Car Park Fakenham Road Beetley for half an hour each week. Therefore this would allow two sites to be visited on a weekly basis, Ashley Road's visit would be for half an hour reduced from one hour. Councillor Cissell will contact the School and the Food Bus to arrange this.

7.2. Speedwatch Beetley and East Bilney.

Beetley team did one session in November 7 vehicles out of 148 vehicles were speeding, East Bilney team also did one session recording 3 vehicles speeding out of 237. The Clerk reported that she was not receiving the report from the Police. Councillor Richmond will take this forward.

7.3. Boardwalk East Bilney Townlands.

Councillor Scott has erected signs stating that the Boardwalks were not to be used due to safety issues. The Clerk is still waiting a response from County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris regarding the boardwalks being repaired by N.C.C. Countryside team.

7.4. Wendling Way resurfacing and Gressenhall access to Nature community webinar.

Councillor Cissell attended this webinar and informed the meeting that this project will be open next Spring. The planning application will go in at the end of December. This will be part of the Jubilee trail.

7.5. Consultation on nplaw Parish Council legal subscription service.

Councillor Cissell informed the meeting that a subscription of £500 plus VAT covers up to 10 hours of legal work over 10 hours it would be chargeable. Councillor Cissell thought this may be of use as the Beetley charities require updating with the Charity Commission. Councillor MacArthur offered to take this work on. It was agreed to not take out this service and it could be visited at a later date if necessary. Councillor Baldwin proposed and Councillor Minchin seconded all were in agreement.

7.6. Community Car -new members.

The Clerk informed the meeting that two new volunteer drivers had been taken on which replaced two who were leaving the Parish. She also asked permission to purchase a gift for the back up Co-ordinator as a thank you for her assistance over the past year. Councillor Cissell proposed and Councillor Scott seconded that this was a very nice gesture. All were in agreement.

7.7. Remembrance service -laying of the Poppy Wreath.

The Chair laid the Poppy Wreath on behalf of Beetley Parish, she stated it was a lovely service but noticed that the silhouette which the Parish Council had purchased previously was not on display. Therefore the Clerk was requested to contact the Parochial Church Council to ask for the return of it so that the Parish Council could store it and ensure it was available for future services.

7.8. National Lottery grant letter.

The letter which gave details of the use of Beetley River Meadows play area had been circulated to all members of the Council and it was proposed by Councillor Cissell and seconded by Councillor MacArthur that the letter should be sent to Lucinda Lennard, all were in agreement.

8. Highways.

8.1. Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems.

The Clerk reported that she had chased County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris for an update on the request for a Give Way sign for Old Beetley and he informed her that this was being dealt with. The crossing on Elmham Road was also chased and the overhanging tree on Fakenham road, both are still awaiting further action. The request for pavement widening on Fakenham Road Beetley is being looked into by the Highway Engineer, the County Councillor is liaising with the Parishioner who had requested this. The missing bar from Fludges Lane Bridge is still outstanding with N.C.C. Countryside team. On a positive note the coping stone which had been missing from the bridge on Fakenham Road had been replaced.

8.2. To note any new problems within the Parish.

The seat on the "Patch" at Old Beetley had been demolished by a local Coach company and this was being dealt with.

8.3. Footpaths.

All footpaths are in good order, footpath 17 re the bank erosion is still work in progress..

8.4. Parish Partnership Scheme 2023-decision re submission date December 10th 2022.

The Clerk would inform N.C.C. that Beetley Parish Council had nothing to submit .

9. Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan: pre-submission. Extension until 19th December.

There has not been any further information regarding this going to N.C.C. Committee.

10. Planning.

10.1. Applications.

3PL/2022/1159/VAR The Shrublands Gressenhall Road Beetley and Gressenhall. Variation of Condition 2&5 – update the planning approval to include minor amendments to plots 1&2 access. This application was received yesterday therefore it was not included on the agenda. All Parish Councillors agreed to discuss it. It was proposed by Councillor Cissell and seconded by Councillor Scott that no objection be raised. All were in agreement.

Decisions by Breckland Council.

10.2. 3PL/2022/0382/EU Lakeside East Bilney. Lawful development certificate for an existing use relative to the conversion of the loft of a double garage, workshop and store to self-contained flat. **REFUSED.**

10.3. 3PL/2022/1159/VAR Variation on 3PL/2022/0106/VAR The Shrublands Gressenhall Road Beetley. **APPROVED.**

11. Beetley River Meadows.

11.1. Monthly play equipment inspections.

Councillor Scott has fixed the Do Not Climb signs onto the play area fence. An update on the bank erosion was given by Councillor Scott.

11.2. Grass cutting contract-quotation.

It was agreed to accept the quotation submitted by the current grass cutting contractors as there was only a minimal increase on last year and all agreed the work carried out was acceptable. Proposed by Councillor Baldwin and seconded by Councillor Scott all were in favour.

12. Open Spaces.

12.1. To receive a report and note any problems.

Nothing to report.

12.2. East Bilney Townlands -Boardwalk-removal of tree guards update.

No further contact had been received from Beetley Scouts. Hopefully these can be removed in the Spring.

13. Parish Council matters.

13.1. Inspections :- Pavilion : Defibrillator.

The repairs to the Pavilion had now been carried out. The Defibrillator is ok. Councillor Scott informed Councillor MacArthur about the light for the battery that when it turns to red the battery will need replacing.

13.2. “Men’s sheds” update.

Councillor Scott had contacted them and they will keep the offer of the use of the Pavilion on record.

13.3. Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme update.

Councillor Scott had been in contact with the mother of the volunteer and the scheme has personal accident cover in place. During the time Councillor Scott is away Councillor Cissell will accompany the volunteer. A risk assessment has been written and needs to be amended for working near the road the amendment will be made by Councillor Scott and will be circulated to all Councillors for information.

13.4. Planning Committee – to decide on Parish Councillors to attend.

It was agreed that if any planning applications were received during the months the Parish Council does not meet the Clerk will circulate the applications to all Councillors for comment. This was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Minchin. All were in agreement.

13.5. 2023 Parish Council meeting dates.

The Clerk had circulated the dates to all Councillors all were satisfied with the dates, the Parish Council elections will take place in May and the Clerk will not be in attendance for the May meeting. The Clerk will prepare the agenda, Councillor Scott knows the procedure for the elections.

14. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion)

No matters were raised.

15. To confirm the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council will be held on Thursday 2nd February 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in Beetley Village Hall High House Road Beetley.

The meeting closed at 21.47.

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

Date signed.....