

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FOR BEETLEY & EAST BILNEY IN THE  
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 AT 7.30 P.M.**

**Present**

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

**In Attendance**

A .Leigh. Clerk  
R. Wade. RFO  
District Councillor's Roger Atterwill, Richard Duffield  
21 Members of the Public.

- 1. To Consider apologies for absence.** County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris – ill health, This was accepted.
- 2. To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.** None.
- 3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 05/10/2023.** It was proposed by Councillor Richmond 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 Minchin and seconded by Councillor Baldwin that the budgets as circulated were in order, all were in agreement.
  - 4.2. Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated.** EON September direct debit £12.39 ,Mrs A. Leigh -Purchase of batteries for the recording machine £9.00 Clerks salary £451.92, R.F.O. salary £115.80, HMRC £141.80, WAVE direct debit £19.88, Ady's Wood Splitting Services Ltd £120.00, Breckland Council £75.00, Mrs A. Leigh (B.C.C .drivers payments) £154.30, F.T. Grounds Maintenance Ltd (October grass cut) £309.35. Proposed by Councillor Baldwin that these were correct, seconded by Councillor MacArthur all were in agreement.
  - 4.3. Barclays bank account update.** It was confirmed that the Fuel Allotment charity and the Beetley charity are to be amalgamated into one bank account.
  - 4.4. Charity Commission / Charity accounts update.** The October minutes had been signed, the Clerk will forward the signed minutes to the R.F.O. for them to be forwarded to the Charity Commission informing them that the Parish Council wishes to amalgamate the Beetley Charity and the Fuel Allotment Charity.
  - 4.5. Parish Precept.** The R.F.O. reported that there had been a meeting with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, the Clerk and herself to discuss the budget in readiness for the Parish precept to be decided on by the full Council at the December meeting. The precept form had not yet been received from Breckland Council.
- 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 addressed the meeting concerning the power cuts which had affected parts of the Parish. He had received a response from Michael Horwood UKPN concerning this issue. In this email was a schedule of work which would take place over 3 days commencing the 13<sup>th</sup> November. This email was passed to all of those in attendance. Several Parishioners informed the meeting of the problems which they had experienced during these power cuts. Not all Parishioners affected had received any compensation payment from UKPN which they were entitled to. District Councillor Roger Atterwill strongly advised that the schedule of work should take place before any further action was taken .He went on to say that if this work did not rectify the problem he would contact UKPN and request a site visit with an engineer so that he could walk round to ascertain if any further work was required. If this issue was not resolved he would take it forward to Breckland Council's Overview and Scrutiny Commission who have the power to call UKPN to attend one of those meetings to discuss further action which is required to resolve the

power cuts. District Councillor Atterwell informed all that Breckland Council can supply sand bags for flooding situations and there is an out of hours number available for the public to report any flooding issues.

**5.2. Public comments – Continuing Power Cuts Beetley.** A constructive discussion took place with all present at the meeting and it was agreed to wait to see if the proposed work resolved this issue. The Clerk would send an email to Michael Horwood of UKPN to inform him of the Parish Council meeting and ask that the Clerk is copied in on any correspondence he sends out regarding the power cuts. The Parish Council will keep all those who had sent emails concerning this issue up to date on the progress of this issue.

## **6. Matters for report**

**6.1. Breckland Mobile Food Store.** No further information had been received.

**6.2. Speedwatch Beetley.** The Clerk had received a report from the Beetley Speedwatch Co-ordinator stating that the team had carried out three sessions in the month covering Fakenham Road and Elmham Road locations. Sessions were fewer due to the wet weather conditions. 13 vehicles were recorded at the limit and above. The highest speed was 42 mph on Fakenham Road and 40 mph on Elmham Road. Further checks will be done in November together with the Camera Safety Team.

**6.3. Breckland Councils review of the Local Plan (17<sup>th</sup> October Road Show) -Councillor J. Billings.**

Councillor Billings informed the meeting that he had attended the Road Show and a discussion took place on his report. It was agreed that when the Local plan "sites specific" is sent out to the Parish Council comments regarding this will be sent into Breckland Council.

**6.4. Old Beetley flooding issue- Councillor M. MacArthur.** Councillor MacArthur reported that on Friday evening 21<sup>st</sup> October part of School Road Old Beetley was flooded, approximately three to four inches deep. The water ran off the field which could have been due to the field not now being arable and possibly due to the land being compacted by the pigs which are now on it. Three properties had water into their grounds and one of these had water inside the property. The next day a Parishioner of Old Beetley spent nearly all day digging out and clearing a blocked gully. Norfolk County Council were not interested in this issue. District Councillor Atterwill suggested that if flooding takes place again it is advisable to take a video on a mobile phone which will show the direction of the water.

## **7. Highways.**

**7.1. Clerk to give feedback on ongoing Highway problems.** The Clerk informed the meeting that she had been in contact with County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris concerning the following outstanding issues. Sorrel Lane Old Beetley, request from a Parishioner for the verge to be cut back. There will be no more verge cutting carried out until next year ( May hopefully) the Clerk will inform the Parishioner of this and ask for the request to be passed to her again if it is still required. Old Beetley Verge cutting, request by Councillor MacArthur, this was to be done by the end of September and is still outstanding, Mark Kiddle-Morris will look into this and update the Clerk. Elmham Road Beetley extension of Yellow Lines near to the School requested by a Parishioner, still awaiting a site visit by the Highways Engineer. East Bilney Fishing Lakes sign on Highways Street Sign, still not removed, Parish Councillor John Billings will remove this when he is next at the Notice Board. Fakenham Road Beetley, overgrown footpath between Half Penny Lane and School Road. The work has been programmed.

**7.2. To note any new problems within the Parish.** There is mud on the Road at the junction of Sorrel Lane/Church Road Old Beetley . The Clerk will contact the person responsible and request that the mud is cleared.

**7.3. To receive a report from all Councillors on the footpaths.** Councillor's Richmond and Minchin reported their footpaths were satisfactory. Councillor MacArthur reported that N.C.C. had agreed to put signage on FP13. Councillor Baldwin had not walked hers. Councillor Billings stated that he and his parents had cleared FP4 including the gate. N.C.C. had sent an email concerning FP3 stating that the landowner does reinstate a path across the field which is evident from satellite images going back to 2004. Therefore this would indicate that there is not any intention on the part of the landowner to prevent access. However, there is an anomaly between the route of FP3 shown on the screen shot and the route recorded on the 1905 Ordnance Survey map which was used as the base map for the Definitive map. This has been passed to the Highway Boundaries team to research the line to establish the correct rout before the landowner is contacted. This will

take some time for this research to be carried out due to their current workload. The Clerk will retain this email and monitor the progress. FP2 is not able to have a waymarker as it would be in the middle of the field.

**7.4. Parish Partnership Scheme bids -2024/2025. Decision to be made by 10/12/23.** The Clerk reported that she had chased a cost for the SLOW signs to be painted on the road surface near to the School to enable a bid to be placed. Highways are still awaiting a cost from their Contractors, the Clerk will hopefully have this information for the December meeting.

**8. Minerals and Waste submission plan-update.** No further information had been received, the County Councillor will inform the Clerk when he knows a date when the Committee will meet to discuss the Quarry application.

**9. Planning.**

**Applications.**

**9.1. TRE/2023/0290/TPO 4 Spinney Close Beetley. Oak Tree 1. Reduce back to previous cuts 30% reduction all round. TPO-REF T5 Oak 1988 no. 15 (Tree Work App TPO).** No comment to be sent.

**9.2. TRE/2023/0307/TPO Waterside Church Road Old Beetley. Full removal of tree, Oak tree (Tree Work App TPO).** It was proposed by Councillor MacArthur and seconded by Councillor Minchin that this was a healthy tree, causing no problems so there was no justification for it to be removed. Therefore an objection is to be made. All were in agreement.

**Decisions by Breckland Council.**

**9.3. None.**

**10. Beetley River Meadows.**

**10.1. Monthly play equipment inspections.** Councillor Minchin reported that he had carried out the monthly inspection. The fence on the Basket Ball/Football area was still not repaired, The Clerk had received information that the work was to be carried out imminently but due to the rain it was still outstanding. Councillor Minchin reported that the No BBQ /No Fires signage at the "Beach" and the Picnic Area was still outstanding. Councillor Billings stated he would erect these two signs in the near future.

**10.2. RoSPA 2023 report update.** The only action outstanding is the repair to the fencing. The Clerk will continue to monitor this outstanding work and if necessary contact the Fencing Contractor to get it done.

**10.3. To consider a "Dog Control Area Enforcement " agreement (dogs to be on leads).**

Councillor Billings had circulated to all Councillors information on this agreement. A complaint had been received by the Clerk concerning dogs not on leads. A lengthy discussion took place and it was agreed not to take it on. The Dog Warden is the responsible officer to enforce any issues concerning dogs not on leads in a Public place, any issues should be reported to him. The Parishioner who had complained had reported this to the Dog Warden and to the Police.

**11. Open spaces.**

**11.1. To receive a report and note any problems.** It was agreed to remove this item from future agendas.

**12. Parish Council matters.**

**12.1. Inspections:- Pavilion : Defibrillator.** Councillor MacArthur reported that due to the weather he had not inspected the Pavilion but he will tomorrow. The stock cock in the Pavilion still needs attention Duffield Builders have been contacted several times by the Clerk to carry out this work. The defibrillator is working satisfactorily.

**12.2. Remembrance Day service.** This service will be held on Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup>, East Bilney Church at 11 p.m. All to assemble in the Church yard at 10.45. Councillor Richmond ( Chair ) will be in attendance and lay the Poppy wreath on behalf of the Parish. The Clerk had contacted the Church Warden and had been assured that the "Tommy" silhouette will be placed on a pew, this did not take place last year.

**12.3. Beech Tree the Patch Old Beetley.** Councillor MacArthur stated he had been in contact with Ady's Woodcutting Services to remove the lower branches. It was agreed this will take place when all of the leaves have fallen from the tree.

13. **Matters for next meeting (not for discussion).** Parish Partnership bid. Parish precept.
14. **To confirm the next meeting of Beetley Parish Council will be held on Thursday 7th December 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in Beetley Village Hall High House Road Beetley.**

**The meeting closed at 21.25**

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

**Date signed.....**