

Minutes of the Meeting of the Beeston with Bittering Parish Council held on **Tuesday 24th January 2017** in Beeston Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present Councillor T Townshend (Chair)
Councillor M Greene
Councillor J Farrall
Councillor B List

County Councillor M Kiddle-Morris
District Councillor E Gould

8 members of the public. The clerk was in attendance.

Min 001/17 **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Perry (work commitment), Kennealy (illness) and Hobbs (personal matter).

Min 002/17 **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest

Min 003/17 **Minutes of the Meeting dated 24th November 2016.** Cllr Farrall proposed and Cllr Greene seconded that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting. It was unanimously **AGREED that the minutes of the meeting dated 24th November be duly signed as a true record of that meeting.** The minutes were signed.

Min 004/17 **Right to Bid for the Ploughshare Public House.** Mr Dennett, as chair of the community group, updated the council. The group had received two tranches of funding, each for £50K, from the Plunkett Foundation and a further £15K towards administrative works to include the preparation of a business plan. A total of £175K was now available for capital purchase. A valuer had been appointed and proposals from the owner would be discussed at a committee meeting in late January. A further application had been made to the Norfolk Leader Fund for £60K but this was considered to be a 'fund of last resort'. The report was **NOTED** and Mr Dennett was thanked

Min 005/17 **County and District Councillor Reports.** The county councillor reported that the Council Tax increase from NCC was likely to be 4.8% comprising a 3% increase for the adult social care precept and 1.8% for inflationary pressures. Budget set for the current year was unachievable and it was felt that this was in part due to the length of time taken to take decisions with the current committee system. Elections would take place in May and there would be a lot of retirements.

The district councillor reported that the Council Tax would rise by £5/household/ annum - the maximum permitted by the government without a referendum. This was needed because of reductions in New Homes Bonus receipts and the government grant and would raise £60K per year. No comments were being made by Breckland on the proposed new Necton sub station. The local plan was now going to a series of working group meetings. Grants were available from Breckland for new projects. Finally, the licence for the halal slaughter house at Snetterton had not been renewed

Min 006/17 **Bench on The Green/Village Green updates.** The quotation for the relocation of the power post was considered and it was concluded that this did not achieve what was being attempted. The clerk **AGREED to go back to UK Power Networks to see if relocation of the overhead lines to the post by the model shop could be achieved.** It was also confirmed that the village sign would be repaired

Min 007/17 **Post Office Service.** Following the previous meeting, the clerk reported that he had visited the post office and spoken to the sub-postmaster who felt that the location used in the lay-by was the safest for customers, as parking the van on the corner opposite the shop would obstruct the highway. The sub-postmaster had agreed to place an A board on the pavement signposting where the van was parked. The verbal report was **NOTED.**

420	CGM Group	Grounds Maintenance - Nov	39.50
421	Beeston PCC	Contribution to churchyard cutting 2016	300.00
422	Beeston Playing Field Comm	Room Hire Oct/Nov 2016	32.00
423	C Brindley	Clerks Salary Dec 16/Jan 17	404.22
424	C Brindley	Clerks expenses Jun- Sep 16	108.03

It was **AGREED** that the balances be noted and it was confirmed that Cllrs Townshend and Farrall be authorised to sign the cheques. It was **NOTED** that chq 421 was signed using powers under LGA1972 s214(6)

Min 015/17 **Beeston Playing Field Committee**. The council considered a request for funding towards the new play equipment project. After consideration by the council, it was **AGREED to make a contribution of £1350 towards the project and with the generosity of a member of the public in the audience who agreed to donate a similar amount, it was noted that the funding needed for the project to proceed would now be in place.**

Min 016/16 **Age UK Norfolk**. A request for funding was considered and it was **AGREED not to make a contribution to this group.**

Min 017/17 **Breckland Outdoor Sport and Play Funding**. The clerk reported that this had been passed to the cricket club but nothing had been heard back. The correspondence was **NOTED.**

Min 018/17 **Vattenfall**. The correspondence was **NOTED.**

Min 019/17 **Breckland Housing and Homelessness Strategy**. The correspondence was **NOTED.**

Min 020/17 **NCC Budget 2017/18**. The correspondence was **NOTED.**

Min 021/17 **Clerks and Councils Direct**. Receipt of the January issue was **NOTED**

Min 022/17 **Matters for the Next Meeting**. Nothing was brought forward

Min 023/17 **Date of the Next Meeting**. This was confirmed as Tuesday 28 February 2017 at 7.30pm at Beeston Village Hall

The meeting closed at 21.10