

Minutes of the Meeting of the Beeston with Bittering Parish Council held on **Thursday 24th November 2016** in Beeston Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present Councillor T Townshend (Chair)
Councillor M Greene
Councillor A Hobbs
Councillor J Farrall
Councillor R Kennealy

District Councillor E Gould

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

Public Speaking Time

Mrs Walthew addressed the meeting and raised two matters for the council to consider.

Firstly, the location being used by the mobile post office was dangerous and not suitable. She suggested that the original location was more suitable and the Post Office should be asked to relocate back to that place. Secondly, she suggested that it would be helpful if the council could discuss the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday when it met in September so that responsibilities for the day were understood.

It was agreed that the council would write to the Post Office seeking them to relocate to the original location agreed in the consultation for resumption of the service and that the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday would be discussed at the September meeting

Min 169/16 **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs List (family commitment) and Perry (illness).

Min 170/16 **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest

Min 171/16 **Minutes of the Meeting dated 20th October 2016.** Cllr Farrall proposed and Cllr Hobbs seconded that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting. It was unanimously **AGREED that the minutes of the meeting dated 20th October be duly signed as a true record of that meeting.** The minutes were signed.

Min 172/16 **Right to Bid for the Ploughshare Public House.** Mr Dennett, as chair of the community group, updated the council on that the final total raised by the share offer was £ 70,330. He confirmed that each shareholder would have one vote irrespective of the value of holding. Ongoing meetings with the Plunkett Foundation were being held and the final outcome would be known before Christmas. He reported details on a series of fund raising events to be held in December and that £239 had been donated to the campaign from the Beeston Entertains evening. A bursary of £2500 had been awarded to the group by the Plunkett Foundation to cover ongoing expenses. Mr Dennett was thanked for his verbal report

Min 173/16 **County and District Councillor Reports.** The district councillor reported that the local plan consultation had now closed and results would be known in the new year. She advised that the village shop premises had been put up for sale and were being marketed as commercial premises. A policy change had been implemented at Breckland whereby those seeking local authority housing would only be interviewed when a suitable property came up rather than at the start of the process as previously. This would save officer time as well as no raising prospective tenants' expectations unnecessarily.

- Min 174/16 **Maintenance at the Millennium Lakes.** Cllr Farrall reported that he had spoken to NWT and advised the maintenance that was offered at the last meeting. NWT get that this was a good idea and suggested that light works should be done at this time with more aggressive works in the spring. She also advised that the new footpath from any development on Herne Lane should be tarmac if possible. The report was **NOTED**
- Min 175/16 **Bench on The Green/Village Green updates.** The clerk reported that UK Power Networks had completed the survey for the removal of the electricity pole but a quotation for the works was still awaited. The verbal report was **NOTED**
- Min 176/16 **Telephone Box, Chapel Lane, Beeston.** The clerk reported that, further to his report to the last meeting, he had written to the owners of the village shop as agreed. The owners had phoned him and stated that it was in fact the property of the parish council. He had gone back to BT again and had received further copies of correspondence between the shop owners and BT indicating that the telephone box had been transferred into the ownership of the shop. It was **AGREED to write to the shop owners asking if they had any documentation that showed the ownership of the telephone box transferring to the parish council**
In the light of the district councillor's earlier report that the shop was now for sale, the clerk then went on to advise that he had checked with Breckland to see if the shop was listed on the Asset of Community Value register as discussed by the parish council in 2015. It was not and it was therefore **AGREED not to pursue this at this time**
- Min 177/16 **Meeting Dates 2017.** This was considered and it was **AGREED unanimously as proposed by Cllr Kennealy and seconded by Cllr Hobbs that meetings would be held in 2017 as follows; 24 January, 28 February, 28 March, 25 April, 30 May, 27 June, 25 July, 26 September, 31 October, 28 November. All would be held in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm**
- Min 178/16 **Planning Applications.** The following were considered and it was **AGREED to comment as follows:**
3PL/2016/1293 Chinook, Dereham Rd - to object as the site access would create a further danger on a section of road that already raised highways safety concerns.
3PL/2016/1301 Bronze Lodge, Herne Lane - to support the application
3PL/2016/1385 Land adjacent to Brookside, Syers Lane - to object as the housing density was too great for the site, suggesting that a maximum of two properties at the front of the site would be more appropriate. This was agreed with a majority of 3 for and 2 against this response
- Min 179/16 **Decisions.** The following decisions were **NOTED**
3PL/2016/1212 Hillside Cottage, Dereham Rd - approved with standard conditions.
- Min 180/16 **Report on the Highways Problems from the Previous Month.** The clerk reported on the results of the speed survey on the Street which were below the level that would be acted on by the police. The camera had been booked again for the new year when it would be located on Dereham Rd. The surface drainage problem at the junction of Herne Lane, The Street and Church Rd had been acknowledged by NCC but was still awaiting attention
- Min 181/16 **New problems.** A member of the public reported a pothole outside Valentine Barn, Dereham Rd which would be passed to NCC. White lining was needed at all junctions in the village. A discussion regarding litter on verges and in hedgerows was held. It was concluded that the public authorities could only deal with fly tipping which fell to Breckland. Other littering would have to be dealt with by anyone who saw the offence being committed taking details and reporting to the relevant authority.

Min 182/16 **Highway Problems in the Village.** It was **AGREED** to reconsider the issue when the council met in February 2017 as more might be known about the proposed footpath on Dereham Rd

Min 183/16 **Budget.** The budget had been circulated and it was unanimously **AGREED** to confirm the current position.

Min 184/16 **Balances and Cheques for Authorisation.** The following was considered

Balances :-

Bank of Ireland Treasurers' Account

Balance at 30 09 16 16337.91
Plus receipts-interest- Oct 1.06

1.06

16338.97

940.33

15398.66

Less cheques authorised

Bank Balance at 31 10 16

Less unpresented cheques authorised 20 06 16 - 40.40

Less unpresented cheques authorised 29 09 16 - 90.00

130.40

Cash Book Balance at 31 10 16

15268.26

Amount available for Section 137 : 442x £7.42 = £3279.64

Spend to Date : £190.00

Cheques for authorisation: Total value = £1452.11

416	Beeston Playing Field Comm	Donation towards mowing 2016/17	500.00
417	Beeston Playing Field Comm	Donation to Village Hall upkeep 2016/17 1st part	750.00
418	C Brindley	Clerks Salary Nov 16	202.11
419	T Townshend	Refreshments - Remembrance Sunday	48.57

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 419 was signed using powers under LGA1972 ss15(5)

Min 185/16 **Citizens Advice - Mid Norfolk.** The council **NOTED** the letter of thanks

Min 186/16 **Clerks and Councils Direct.** Receipt of the November issue was **NOTED**

Min 187/16 **Matters for the Next Meeting.** Budget/Precept 2017/18 to be agreed. A discussion on the closure of Chep pallets to be held

Min 188/16 **Date of the Next Meeting.** This had been previously confirmed as Tuesday 24 January 2017 at 7.30pm at Beeston Village Hall

The meeting closed at 21.24