

Minutes of the Meeting of the Beeston with Bittering Parish Council held on **Monday 23rd January 2023** at Beeston Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

**Present** Councillor T Townshend (Chair)  
Councillor R Scott  
Councillor J Pitt

21 members of the public along with County/District Councillor M Kiddle Morris were present. The clerk was in attendance.

Min 001/23 **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Mullenger (work commitment) and Cllr Greene (work commitment). County/District Councillor Kiddle Morris had advised that he would be late arriving

Min 002/23 **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest on any items on the agenda

Min 003/23 **Minutes of the Meeting Held on 28 November 2022.** The minutes were taken as read and it was **AGREED that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting.** The minutes were signed by the chairman.

*The chairman closed the meeting to allow public contributions to the next item.*

Min 004/23 **Correspondence from Beeston Primary School.** The council heard representations from a number of governors and parents in support of the letter that had been written to the parish council. The clerk explained the steps that the council had undertaken in concluding that it would not go ahead with the installation of the wig wag signs as it had reservations about the signs being a solution to the problem. A discussion took place and a series of avenues for further exploration were proposed to resolve what is a wider problem of speeding on Dereham Rd. These included a refresh of the yellow lines outside the school, contact with Litcham Parish Council to see if their SAM2 sign could be hired to assess speed from the southern entrance into the village, and the possibility of establishing a Community Speedwatch team in the village. It was further agreed that closer contact between the parish council and the school would be established and a follow up to this discussion would be held at the next parish council meeting.

*At this point, the chairman reopened the meeting when members of the public had left*

Min 005/23 **County/District Councillor Reports.** Cllr Kiddle Morris had submitted a written district council report which had been distributed to members that day. He verbally reported that a draft devolution deal had been received by the county from government. A final decision on this would be taken in December 2023 and if accepted, an election for a mayor would take place in May 2024. The county is proposing a balanced budget for 2023/24 which will require a council tax rise of 2.99% on the general rate and 2% on the adult social care precept.

*At this point, the chairman closed the meeting to allow the applicant for planning application no 3PN/2022/0051/UC to address the council*

Min 006/23 **Planning Applications.** The following responses were **AGREED**  
3PN/2022/0051/UC Woodfield House, Herne Lane to support the application to convert a redundant agricultural building to a dwelling  
3PL/2022/1392/F New Farm, Fransham Rd to object on the grounds that the retrospective application was submitted immediately following the granting of permission for a rural worker's dwelling when part of the the justification for that application was that no alternative accommodation in the area was available.  
DIS/2022/0036 Punch Farm Quarry Extension to make no comments on this application to clear the archaeological condition placed on the original permission

- Min 007/23 **Planning Decisions.** The following decisions were **NOTED**  
 3PL/2022/1144/HOU Rookery Barn, Herne Lane - approved  
 3PL/2022/1089/F Water Farm, Water End Land - approved  
 3PL/2022/1090/F Water Farm, Water End Land - approved
- Min 008/23 **Planning Enforcement Valley Farm.** The correspondence from the enforcement team at Breckland Council was **NOTED**
- Min 009/23 **Village Sign.** Cllr Pitt reported on the initial quotation that he had received for a replacement centre piece for the sign. He also confirmed that he was in contact with the original artist. The verbal report was **NOTED**
- Min 010/23 **Defibrillator at the Church.** No update had been received on this item
- Min 011/23 **Hedge Planting at Playing Field.** It was **AGREED** that the hedge planting would be undertaken on the weekend of 11th/12th February and the playing field committee would be contacted to establish their preference
- Min 012/23 **King's Coronation Celebration.** It was **AGREED** to hold a public meeting on Monday 13th March to discuss ideas.
- Min 013/23 **Highways Reports.** Potholes in the passing place on Mileham Rd and on Salters Lane had been repaired
- Min 014/23 **New Reports.** There were no new reports. The clerk will seek an update from NCC Highways on when the previously agreed drainage works on Dereham Rd will be undertaken
- Min 015/23 **Budget/Precept 2023/24.** The budget was discussed and clarification of the proposed precept rise was given by the clerk. It was unanimously **AGREED** that (i) the earmarked reserve fund for the village hall should no longer be held with the funds being used to support the budget (ii) that the village sign project should be delayed and the funds allocated in the draft budget to that project should instead be allocated to a project to address speeding on Dereham Rd, in accordance with the earlier discussion at min 004/23, and with this change the draft budget should be approved (iii) the precept for the year 2023/24 should be set at £8,100
- Min 016/23 **Balances and Cheques for Authorisation.** The financial statement at the end of December and budget summary were reviewed. Cheques for payment were **AUTHORISED** by Cllrs Townshend and Pitt

**Balances :-**

**Bank of Ireland Treasurers' Account**

Balance at 31 10 22	14992.22
Income	<u>NIL</u>
	14992.22
Less Cheques authorised	<u>2059.01</u>
Balance at 30 12 22	12933.21
Outstanding Cheques 28 11 22	<u>188.40</u>
Cash Book Balance at 30 12 22	12744.81

Cheques for authorisation: Total value = £ 1694.47

Amount available for Section 137 : 481 x £8.82 = £ 4242.42

Spend to Date = £ 50.00

694	Ravencroft Tree Services	Removal of cherry tree on village green	354.00
695	Beeston PCC	Donation towards churchyard maintenance	400.00
696	Friends of Bittering Church	Donation towards churchyard maintenance	250.00
697	J Pitt	Cable ties for Xmas lights	16.77

698	T Townshend	Supplies for Xmas lights switch on	51.70
699	C Brindley	Clerks salary 12/22 - 01/23 and backpay	502.20
700	HMRC	Income Tax 12/22 - 01/23	119.80

Min 017/23 **PKF Littlejohn Appointment.** The council **NOTED the appointment of PKF Littlejohn as its external auditor for a period of 5 years starting with the 2022/23 financial year**

Min 018/23 **Matters for the Next Meeting.** Traffic on Dereham Rd and a follow up discussion with the school

Min 019/23 **Date of the Next Meeting.** It was agreed as Monday 27 February 2023 at Beeston Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.32 pm.