

**Minutes of the Meeting of Beeston With Bittering Parish Council held at Beeston Village Hall
on Monday 22nd May 2023 at 7:00pm.**

Present: Jim Pitt, Chairman
Robert Scott
Mark Greene – arrived at 19.28
Natalie Arnold – arrived at 19.09
Suzie Tucker
Mandy Hall
Peter Cook
Natalie Gould, Clerk

Also present: Three members of the public.

1 Public Forum

Mr Rowland spoke to the council about the property Chinook, on Dereham Road. He said that a new entrance has gone in from Dereham Road into Chinook. The entrance has previously been refused by highways, but is still being used. He stated that Kay Gordon of Highways refused this permission for being dangerous as there is only 23% of the display required from one direction and there are issues with the bend. Mr Rowland also stated that in the past the site rented out with no parking and driveway. A legal letter that Mr Rowland had included in the 'For Sale' pack has been left with the Parish Council to review. This will be circulated to the councillors after the meeting. The councillors referred Mr Rowland to the enforcement team at Breckland to query any legalities.

It was confirmed to have already been reported to the enforcement team at Breckland and Cllr Mark Kiddle Morris will chase it up with them.

The Council would like to propose applying for protection of the village shop as an asset of community value, given there is currently no shop in the village since the Ploughshare shop closed. The old vacant shop is currently up for sale as a shop. Cllr Cook proposed that this be protected as much as we can and Cllr Tucker seconded. All were in favour.

2 Apologies for absence

Natalie Arnold apologised in advance for being slightly late.

3 Declarations of interest for items and applications for dispensations

Cllr Scott declared an interest in item 16, given he has submitted land into the local plan.

4 Approve minutes of meeting 22nd May 2023

Cllr Scott proposed the approval of the minutes, Cllr Hall seconded and all were in favour.

5 Norfolk District/County Report

Breckland Council were due to have a partial review of the local plan, however the partial review is now being passed over in light of a full review.

It was also noted that the four house application in Dereham Road/Herne Lane has been refused on appeal. It was suggested that all councillors review the decision details as it's quite interesting. **ACTION** - This will be circulated after the meeting.

6 Annual Return 2022/23

a) To Authorise the annual accounts 2022/23

b) To authorise signature of sections 1 and 2 of the annual return

The accounts were authorised and approvals were given to sign sections one and two of the annual return. This was proposed by Cllr Arnold and seconded by Cllr Cook.

c) To agree the dates for public inspection of the accounts

The dates for public inspection were proposed to be 21st June – 1st August inclusive. This was agreed by all.

d) To approve the AGAR

The AGAR was approved by all, proposed by Cllr Hall and seconded by Cllr Cook

e) To note the internal auditors report

The internal auditors report was noted.

f) To declare an exemption from external audit

The council agreed to declare an exemption from external audit. This was proposed by Cllr Cook and seconded by Cllr Hall.

7 Planning

a) Applications received

There were no applications received.

b) Applications received since the publication of the agenda

3PL/2023/0618/HOU

Nirvana, The Street

Removal of gable roof to existing bungalow and erection of new first floor extension including Juliet balcony to the rear. Conversion of existing garage block to form new lounge. Erection of single storey flat roof rear extension to form new dining room. Alteration to existing front gable wall and roof to form new entrance and remodelling of the existing ground floor layout. Alteration to existing front garden to form additional vehicular access onto the highway.

The council questioned the look of the proposed cladding as the surrounding buildings are all various designs. The height of it will also make it stand out from the others. Although it is an improvement on the existing bungalow the council are not sure it would fit in. The council also wondered if parking would be reduced by the work at all as the street should be protected from on street parking, given it's a through road. The councils response will question the parking and state that they do not object however they have reservations concerning the external finish of the building not being in-keeping with the rest of the village. The use of cladding is not felt as suitable. The height of the building also looks out of place and higher than the surrounding buildings.

c) Planning decisions

The following planning decisions were noted.

3PL/2023/0364/EU

Woodfield House, Herne Lane

Use of barn for storage of agricultural machinery – certificate of lawfulness existing use. Refused.

d) Planning decisions received since publication of the agenda

No further planning decisions were issued.

e) Enforcement updates

No updates have been received from the enforcement team.

8 Correspondence

The correspondence list was noted.

9 Finance

a) **To note Bank Reconciliations May**

The bank statement has not yet been received in order to reconcile the bank for the meeting.

b) **To note Accounts May**

The banking payments were noted.

c) **To approve items for payment:**

N. Gould	Salary	£200
HMRC	Income tax	£50
C. Brindley	Salary (Final pay from March 2023)	£77.28
HMRC	Income tax (Final pay from March 2023)	£16.20
C. Brindley	Expenses (Final pay from March 2023)	£111.11
N. Gould	Purchase of parish recorder for meetings	£92.00
Norfolk ALC	Locum services and training fees	£360.00
Community Heartbeat Trust	Defibrillator Battery	£357.00

Cllr Greene proposed that the payments were agreed and Cllr Hall seconded. All were in favour.

d) **To approve payment of invoices received since the publication of the agenda**

There were no additional invoices.

10 To consider switching to online banking/ switching banks

A review of options has taken place for switching our bank account to an online version, however the one available with our current bank is not particularly suitable for us. Four different banks were discussed and reviewed. Cllr Greene proposed that we go with the Lloyds bank option, with online banking, as it has a physical bank we could go to and also our Fuel Allotment Charity bank account is also with them. Cllr Cook seconded this and all were in favour.

11 To consider highways action for the passing place on Church Road

The gravel passing place is the only one available on that stretch of road past Watery Lane and with ditches either side and lack of visibility. The council have been asked to consider if it could be formalised by highways.

District and County Cllr Mark Kiddle Morris will take a look at it and review.

12 SAM2 sign update/Speed gun

An email went out today to the volunteers for the speed gun team with the application form and information. Following this, training will be given and the proposed sites will be reviewed.

No local parishes have currently come back offering to hire us a SAM2 sign, however not all responses have been received yet. The council discussed looking further afield for one to hire, or purchasing one second hand.

The Parish partnership offers 50/50 funding for new ones. This application would need to be in by December and it wouldn't be delivered until 2024.

District and County Cllr Mark Kiddle Morris suggested that the best way to check speeds is with the speed gun. In order for traffic restrictions to be considered by the County Council, 85% of people going through a SAM2 sign need to be speeding.

Cllr Kiddle Morris will check if a different brand of speed camera can be installed.

This will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

13 Fibre Broadband update

Geoff Connell, Director of Digital Services for Norfolk County Council couldn't make the meeting but did send a brief.

"The standstill period has now ended, but they still will not let us share any information until at least the contract is signed. What we can say is that £114M will be spent on bringing fibre to the premise to rural Norfolk."

Geoff will come and speak to the Parish Council when he has further information regarding this.

14 Fuel Allotment Charity

The fuel allotment land rental prices were questioned, given they have not been reviewed in 10 years. Cllr Scott said that land rents for agricultural purposes have been relatively static in this period. The farm subsidy has also been static through this time, however, in the coming years the subsidy is reducing and this may not then cover rental prices.

ACTION – Cllr Scott agreed to give an outline assessment on the approximate land values. The agreement is to be sent to him.

It was noted that the discussion over rental agreements was in no way related to the current tenants, but purely a business discussion.

It was noted that one resident did not receive a cheque last year. This would be taken into account at the next allocations.

ACTION - Send out a letter in October asking if residents would still like to receive the fund.

15 Dereham Road Resident correspondence

It was noted that Highways have been out within the last week to review the road access at Chinook. They will then discuss their findings with Breckland. The reply has not been received yet, however the Parish Council would like to be kept in the loop in the responses. Once the decision from highways has been communicated we can take a view on action.

It was also noted that the frame house on the same site did not have all of the conditions cleared during its original construction and the splay is currently being reviewed by Breckland.

16 How to publicise the Local Plan land submission document

Cllr Scott abstained from this item given he has submitted land into the local plan.

It was stated that the submissions of land into the local plan is buried within the Breckland website. Cllr Greene proposed that the noticeboard displays which pieces of land have been submitted. Cllr Arnold seconded.

ACTION – Cllr Greene will pull out the document and plans for posting on the board.

17 Parish Council accessibility (social media)

There were 90 followers for the Coronation Big Lunch event group on Facebook, which has now evolved into the Parish Council page, with the village sign on the profile.

The new village sign was revealed, which will come in well under budget.

It had been suggested that the parish council run a stall at the village fete, however there were

not enough councillors available to man it. A suggestion box table was discussed, but an empty table would give the wrong impression.

A drop box in the pub was suggested instead.

ACTION – Cllr Tucker will speak to the pub committee to organise this.

On online parish survey was suggested and will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

18 Donated books

The school have had a clear out of some books that they felt were too mature for primary school children. The books were donated by the War Memorial association in 1999.

All councillors were in favour of passing them to the Ploughshare for their library, as they should be retained within the village.

19 – Noticeboard

The Bittering noticeboard has fallen over in the wind and is damaged. **ACTION** – Cllr Scott and Cllr Pitt are to have a look at it.

It was also noted that the Beeston noticeboard fogs up and is difficult to read.

This will be discussed at the next meeting in further details once the review of Bittering has been done.

20 Agenda items for meeting in July 2023

- Village aesthetics – what do we want to see?
- Neighbourhood plan information
- Noticeboard & potential costed options
- Survey monkey – what do you want to find out and what questions should you ask?
- SAM2 sign update/Speed gun

Meeting closed at 8:43pm.

Date of next Parish Council meeting: 24th July 2023 at 7:00pm