

Minutes of the Meeting of the Beeston with Bittering Parish Council held on **Tuesday 23rd November 2021** at Beeston Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

**Present**

Councillor T Townshend (Chair)  
Councillor R. Scott  
Councillor M. Greene  
Councillor A. Mullenger  
Councillor S. Wiseman

Nine members of the public were present. County/District Cllr Kiddle Morris and the clerk were in attendance.

Public Speaking Time

A member of the public raised concerns about any proposed works causing damage to the fragile eco-system on the site. These concerns were addressed as all works were being undertaken with guidance given by a local environmental expert

Min 089/21 **Apologies for Absence.** There were no apologies for absence.

Min 090/21 **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest made.

Min 091/21 **Minutes of the Meeting Held on 28 September 2021.** 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 meeting was closed at this point to allow the public to address the council on the following item*

Min 092/21 **Limitations to the number of terms to be served by Parish Councillors.** A proposal was made by a member of the public to limit the number of terms that could be served consecutively by a member to 2. It was advised that this would be illegal and unenforceable as guidance was given by the Electoral Commission as to whom could stand for election and this proposal was contrary to that guidance. It was **AGREED that this proposal should not be taken any further.**

*At this point, the meeting was reopened*

Min 093/21 **Co-Option to the Council.** The council received representations from two villages who wished to be co-opted to the parish council. Following personal statements and questioning, the council **AGREED unanimously to co-opt Jim Pitt and Duncan Shutler as members of the parish council.** Both signed declarations of acceptance of office and joined the meeting

Min 094/21 **County/District Councillor Report.** Cllr Kiddle Morris reported that NCC are consulting on an increase in the general council tax of 1.99% and an increase in the social care precept of 1%. Breckland are consulting on an increase of £4.95 in the district precept. The Breckland Local Plan is working on updates to the Local Plan. Finally, there are still trees available from the NCC Councillors' scheme

Min 095/21 **Millenium Lakes.** Following a site visit by the chairman and clerk, a letter was written to the developer expressing concerns about the dumping of spoil on the paddock and the failure to install the footpath as had been agreed in a meeting with the developer in the spring. Cllr Scott reported that he had attended to the fencing and gate to the paddock and topped the hawthorn in that fencing. He also had sheep grazing the paddock as had been previously agreed. Cllr Kiddle Morris agreed to review the issues with the footpath with the planning department at Breckland.  
The reports were **NOTED**

Min 096/21 **Trees.** The clerk reported that the application to NCC for one pack of each of the small copse trees, fruit trees and hedging had been successful. Cllr Kiddle Morris was thanked for funding these trees. The clerk also reported that NCC had reviewed on Google Earth the proposal to gap fill the hedge at the playing field

with the hedging and suggested that more than one pack would be needed. The council **AGREED to make an application to the 2nd round of the fund to provide additional hedging for this gap filling.** Cllr Scott reported that he was meeting with a member of the public to finalise the details of the tree planting and the additional hedging that will be needed.

- Min 097/21 **Traffic Issues on Dereham Rd.** Cllr Greene reported on a meeting with the school about issues at drop off and pick up times. Copied correspondence from a resident with NCC Highways was also reviewed. The clerk advised costings for permanent warning signage at the school and the impact that this would have on the precept. Cllr Kiddle Morris suggested that he might be able to provide some funding from his personal allowance from NCC. A proposition was **AGREED, with 4 votes for and 2 against, to make an application to the NCC Parish Partnership Fund for funding towards the cost of the permanent warning signs.** It was also reported that a removable safety barrier was also being considered by NCC.
- Min 098/21 **Noticeboard on the Village Green.** The clerk had obtained a price for the refurbishment of the noticeboard and it was **AGREED that this should be done at a cost of £200.** Work would be undertaken at the start of 2022.
- Min 099/21 **Village Green Grounds Maintenance 2022.** The clerk advised that, due to poor performance by the contractor in 2021, he had obtained a quotation from an alternative supplier for the maintenance for the 2022 season. Whilst this would be slightly more expensive than what is currently being paid, it is expected that the service will be more reliable and to a higher standard. It was **AGREED to change contractor to Peter Cross t/a Help at Hand at a budgeted cost of £650 for the 2022 season.**
- Min 100/21 **Christmas Lights Switch-On.** Arrangements for the switch on event were finalised
- Min 101/21 **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.** It was **AGREED to discuss this further at the next meeting**
- Min 102/21 **Planning Applications.** The council made no comments to the following applications:  
 FUL/2021/0051 - Bittering Quarry  
 FUL/2021/0052 - Bittering Quarry  
 The following response was **AGREED**  
 3PL/2021/1467/F Shalee, Drury Square - to object as the proposal for a two storey dwelling was against the council's desire to see single storey in this area of the parish, materials were not defined and there was no commitment to the removal of the existing dwelling on site other than a reference on a drawing.
- Min 103/21 **Planning Decisions.** The following decisions were **NOTED.**  
 3PL/2021/0889/F Water Farm, Water End Lane - withdrawn  
 3PL/2021/1189/HOU Secret Garden, Drury Square - refused
- Min 104/21 **Planning Appeals.** The council **AGREED to make no comments on the following appeal**  
 APP/F2605/W/21/3276116 Woodfield House, Herne Lane  
 The following appeal decision was **NOTED.**  
 APP/F2605/W/20/3262992 Land at Syers Lane - dismissed
- Min 105/21 **Highways.** The clerk confirmed that a 30mph roundel had been painted on the carriageway at the entrance to the village from the A47 and the dead tree at the junction of Dairy Drift and Herne Lane had been inspected by NCC and no action was needed at this time. The road junction at Herne Lane, The Street and Church Rd had also been inspected by NCC and no action was required at the time.
- Min 106/21 **New Highways Reports.** Pothole on Herne Lane opposite Ashtree Farm. Overhanging hedge after blind bend on Herne Lane.

Min 107/21 **Balances and Cheques for Authorisation.** The financial statement at the end of October and budget summary were reviewed. Cheques for payment were **AUTHORISED by Cllrs Townshend and Greene**

**Balances :-**

**Bank of Ireland Treasurers' Account**

Balance at 30 08 21	11925.42
Income Precept 2nd half 2021/22	<u>3625.00</u>
	15550.42
Less Cheques authorised	<u>819.02</u>
Balance at 29 10 21	14731.40
Outstanding Cheques	<u>NIL</u>
Cash Book Balance at 29 10 21	11925.42

Cheques for authorisation: Total value = £ 1509.63

Amount available for Section 137 : 485 x £8.41 = £ 4078.85

Spend to Date = £ 40.00

640	CGM Group	Grounds maintenance 10-11/21	85.48
641	Peter Cross Help at Hand	Refurbishment and installation of seat on The Street	500.00
642	Beeston Playing Field Comm	Room hire 06-09/21	36.00
643	Toni Townshend	supplies and refreshments for Remembrance Sunday and Xmas Lights Switch-on	446.85
644	C Brindley	Clerk's salary 10-11/21	352.90
645	HMRC	Income Tax 10-11/21	88.40

Min 108/21 **Matters for the Next Meeting.** Queens 70th Jubilee Celebrations

Min 109/21 **Date of the Next Meeting.** It was agreed as Tuesday 18th January 2022 at Beeston Village Hall starting at 7.30pm dependent on guidance at the time with regards COVID 19. It was agreed that meetings would return to a monthly cycle

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.