

**Minutes of the Meeting of Beeston With Bittering Parish Council held at Beeston Village Hall
on Monday 22nd January 2024 at 7:00pm.**

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

Also present: There were four members of the public present.

1 Public Forum

The parish counsellors introduced themselves to the new faces in the room.

Rob Gibbs spoke. He has recently moved to the village and asked for any details of an oil cooperative. The Gt Dunham syndicate also covers Beeston and contact details will be shared with the gentleman.

Mr Gibbs also questioned whether speeding has been looked at, but this will be discussed later in the meeting.

Mr White has questioned the rights of access down Town House Drift as he would like to put a gate on it.

ACTION – check the historic paperwork for any rights of way noted.

2 Apologies for absence

None.

3 Declarations of interest for items and applications for dispensations

Cllr Scott declared an interest in any local plan items being discussed.

4 Approve minutes of meeting 20th November 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. This was proposed by Cllr Arnold and seconded by Cllr Hall. All were in favour.

5 Norfolk District/County Report

No reports were provided and the councillor was not in attendance.

6 Planning

a) Applications received

3DC/2023/0314/DOC - New Farm, Fransham Road
Discharge of Conditions 6,11,14,15 on 3PL/2022/0833/F (Discharge Conditions)

No comments were made on this.

3PL/2023/1171/VAR – Nirvana, The Street – Comments submitted during break
Variation of Condition 1 (approved plans condition) on 3PL/2023/0618/HOU - enlargement of first floor rear bedroom window, and internal reconfigurations. (Variation of Cond's)

Comments submitted: Looking at the application, it appears that the front elevation has returned to cement board cladding (which I presume means the whole building). This is something the PC had highlighted as out of keeping with the design and character of surrounding buildings and so a second drawing was submitted by Nirvana with the cement board replaced by render, which the PC thought was much better. Can we ensure that they are not rescinding on what was agreed with this new application?

Parishioners would like buildings built to be in keeping with surrounding properties and maintain a rural aesthetic, as suggested by our recent village survey. The black fibre cement cladding is not in keeping with the surrounding properties on the street, nor the rural flint and red brick materials predominantly used on The Street.

The plan has taken on board previous comments on the parking and have considered the height of the building, however the planners have agreed that the cladding would be in keeping despite the parish councils concerns.

3PL/2023/1165/LU – The Cottage, Drury Square – Comments submitted during break
Application under s192 to confirm lawfulness of proposed development under class A & E of the GPDO.

Comments submitted: In general we are not opposed to the build as its basically the regeneration of the main building and is not out of character. We do note however that the annex building (swimming pool, sauna, steam room, dance studio etc) is going to be very heavy on power requirements and there is no provision for the generation of any green energy, which is something the village is keen on. We are also presuming that an environmental study will be done as currently there is no provision for wildlife. Finally, from what we can see, the foul water runs are being altered. What additional demands will the new building have? It would be good to know that the current system can take the additional capacity (if a swimming pool was to be discharged into it etc).

3PN/2023/0025/PNE – 2 The Cottages, Drury Square – **Planning Application Withdrawn**
Prior approval for proposal to erect a single story rear extension projecting from the original rear wall by 6.0m deep, with a maximum height of 3.5m and eaves height of 3.5m The town and Country Planning (general permitted development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) – schedule 2, part 1, class A

b) Applications received since the publication of the agenda

None received.

c) Planning decisions

3PN/2023/0017/PNE – The Cottage, Drury Square
Prior approval for proposal to erect a single storey rear extension projecting from the original rear wall by 8.0m deep, with a maximum height of 3m and eaves height of 3m The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 1, Class A (Prior Approval)

No Prior Approval

3DC/2023/0311/DOC – Nirvana, The Street
Discharge of Condition 6 on 3PL/2023/0618/HOU (Discharge Conditions)
DOC Complete

APP/F2605/W/22/3305562 – New Farm, Fransham Road
Construction of rural workers dwelling

Appeal dismissed

ACTION – RS will check to see if the original planning permission has lapsed yet.

d) Planning decisions received since publication of the agenda

No further planning decisions were issued.

e) Enforcement updates

ENF/137/23/PAR The Brambles, Beeston

Unauthorised development (caravan). Breckland Council are satisfied that the mobile home is not being used as an independent unit.

Case closed.

7 Correspondence

The correspondence list was reviewed.

Local plan consultation – Breckland have now considered Beeston as a local service centre, despite the limiting number of tests that do not meet the target. There are further questions around this to be asked of Cllr Mark Kiddle Morris. What does being a local service centre mean for Beeston?

ACTION – meet with Cllr Kiddle Morris before the end of next week to discuss the pros and cons and produce a parish response.

D-day celebration - Breckland are offering match funding for a beacon for this celebration.

Agenda item for next time.

8 Finance

a) To note Bank Reconciliations

The bank reconciliation was noted.

b) To note Accounts

The banking payments were noted.

c) To approve items for payment:

N. Gould	Salary	£388.80
HMRC	Income tax	£97.20
Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator Spares	£140.34
Robert Scott	Remembrance Sunday refreshments	£176.00
Jim Pitt	Christmas Light Batteries	£9.42
Peter Cross	Beeston Green grass cutting	£750.00
Peter Cross	Millenium Lakes grass cutting	£500.00
Peter Cross	Millenium Lakes installation of picnic bench	£150.00
Beeston Church	Grass cutting donation	£500.00
Bittering Church	Grass cutting donation	£250.00

Norfolk ALC	Locum travel expenses	£71.10
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Cllr Greene proposed that the payments were agreed and Cllr Arnold seconded. All were in favour.

- d) To approve payment of invoices received since the publication of the agenda**
There were no additional invoices.

9 Action Log

The action log was reviewed and the following updates were noted.

It has been confirmed that there is nothing belonging to the parish council being stored in the village hall.

The tree donation placement was discussed, along with the idea of running an event. However, as time has moved on significantly since the first offer of a donation for the jubilee, it may be wise to review the need before confirming. Perhaps a Christmas tree on the green would be of more use to the village.

Cllr Scott will look into any grant funding available to assist with the costs of dredging the Millenium Lakes. A further update will be provided for the next meeting.

It has been confirmed that there are no stipulations within The Hamptons S106 agreement requiring the developer to complete any works to the walkway bridge at the Millenium Lakes entrance. Therefore, works to the bridge sides should be discussed further as an **agenda item**.

11 SAM2/Speed Watch

SAM2 signs were placed in 3 locations across the village.

Key points from the SAM2 results:

- It was early mornings and late evenings that were the peak times, rather than the expected school times.
- The peak times of day were 8am and 5pm at the Auction House, 8am and 3pm at the Memorial and 2am and 5pm on The Street.
- The speeds recorded did not average more than 10 MPH over the speed limit.
- The worst day for speeding at all of the locations was a Sunday.

Step two is to move ahead with the speed watch scheme. The applications of six people have been approved and next month the suggested sites for a speed gun will be reviewed for approval. Training will then take place for the members who have put their names forward and a schedule can be put together.

If we get an opportunity to borrow the SAM2 sign again, it would be useful to focus on the area around the school and find a sign we can attach it to.

12 Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights on the green caused a few issues this year. There were problems with the timers being fiddled with and two sets were cut through and over £30 worth of batteries were used over the Christmas period.

The following are options going forward:

To use solar power lights; to use a leisure battery buried in the ground; to use mains power that we pay for.

There were also suggestions to instead have one decent Christmas tree that is decorated properly, or perhaps making an alternative tree out of objects found in the parish.

13 Village Survey Results

There were quite a few returns of the village survey which was great to see. The results will be used as a reference point going forward to help influence the comments made by the Parish Council.

ACTION - A single page overall view is to be produced to cover the general feeling of the village for counsellors to use as a reference sheet.

For future reference the public noted that some questions seemed samey and a little too long. They would have liked some extra areas for comments.

14 Budget Setting for 2024/25

A proposed budget for 2024/25 was reviewed, with the suggested precept remaining the same as last year given the current climate and cost of living crisis. Cllr Hall proposed the motion and Cllr Tucker seconded. All were in favour.

15 Agenda items for meeting in February 2024

- Potholes
- Christmas tree
- Beacon & D-day celebrations
- 2024 events
- Millenium Bridge sides

The school are looking to raise funding for some new play equipment. If they write to the parish council asking for assistance it will be considered at a future meeting.

It was confirmed that grass cutting operators will be reviewed for the upcoming year.

Meeting closed at 8.17pm.

Date of next Parish Council meeting: 26th February 2024 at 7:00pm