

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Beeston with Bittering Parish Council held on **TUESDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007**, in Beeston Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. G. Fowler.

Councillors Present: Mr. P. Burton, Mr. P. Carter, Mr. B Potter, Mr. J. Farrall, and Mr R Sharpin

Apologies for Absence: Councillor A Laws  
7 Members of the Public.

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006 had been read and signed on 31 October 2006 but could be read out if requested. No request was made.

## **CHAIRMAN`S REPORT**

This has proved to be another busy year, during which the Council met every month except December.

As usual, it was planning matters which occupied the majority of the Council's time, with 29 Applications being considered, some of these on more than one occasion. Several proved to be controversial and five went to Appeal. We are still waiting for the Appeal Inspector's decision on the Poultry Business Application in Watery Lane. This application in particular has occupied a considerable amount of time and in accordance with the wishes of many Beeston residents, is being vigorously opposed by the Parish Council.

It is disappointing to note that once again, some of the decisions taken by Breckland Council this year have gone against the opinions and wishes of this Parish Council.

I am however, pleased to Report on the successful completion and publication of the Village Appraisal and take this opportunity to thank Julian Farrall and his team for their hard work in compiling this document. The Parish Council have carefully studied the conclusions and have commenced a programme to put some of the proposals and wishes into effect. To this end, financial support has been given to the new Brownie Pack and to the new Beeston Cricket Club and steps are being taken to organise and undertake a comprehensive Traffic Survey, which is intended to be used to support the Parish Council's application to Highways for traffic calming and speed reduction measures. We have already approached Beeston School with a view to joining forces with them to make the best possible case.

It has been something of a roller coaster ride for the village pub and we came very close to losing it altogether, but hopefully, and with plenty of support, we can continue to be that very rare commodity, a village with a school, a post office and a pub. Long may it remain so.

Two other welcome additions are Beeston's own brewery in Fransham Road and the first stages of work to bring a Broadband internet connection to the village. The Parish council corresponded with BT to this end but were informed that it was not commercially viable. BT's failure to provide a satisfactory service through the usual connections means that this has had to be done through commercial channels and is therefore not a cheap option. It is hoped however that once the system is up and running, more households will sign up for the service, which should hopefully spread the cost for everyone.

The Parish Council continues to give financial support to the Village Hall and thanks to the hard work of the Committee and volunteers it continues to go from strength to strength and is looking very smart with its new coat of paint.

The Remembrance Day services at the Church and American Memorial were, once again, well attended and I would like to offer my thanks to all those who kindly contributed to the refreshments afterwards. It was especially nice to see our new Brownie Pack taking part.

At the end of last year, sadly, we said goodbye to our excellent Parish Clerk, Wendy Carter, who decided to retire, having served the Village for over twenty years. We are very fortunate to have secured the services of Bryan Leigh, who is also the Clerk for Beetley Parish Council. This is proving to be an advantageous connection and I hope that he will remain with us for many years.

As this is an election year, there will be changes in the Parish Council and I am sorry to say goodbye to Paul Burton and Peter Carter who have taken the decision not to stand for re-election. I would like to thank them for the contribution that they have made and hope that they will still find time to come along to the meetings occasionally. I am especially sorry to say goodbye to Brian Potter, whose work on this Council over many years has been exemplary. I really don't know how we are going to manage without him.

I would like to record my thanks to Ann Laws, Julian Farrall and Roger Sharpin, who I hope are going to remain on the Council, for all their support and contribution over the last year. I understand that we will have two new members joining us and look forward to welcoming them.

### **FUEL CHARITY ACCOUNT**

Mr Potter, Chairman of the Fuel Charity Trustees reported that 47 people at Christmas received £25 from the Beeston Fuel Charity, of which 1 has not been cashed. The balance as at 24<sup>th</sup> April is £33.89. The trustees have now reduced to two and both of these are retiring after this meeting. Brian Potter had been a trustee since 1978 and as he is now standing down as a Councillor feels the time is right to change. Mr Gussman has decided to retire from being a trustee as well for personal reasons.

### **REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

#### **BEESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Mr. T Scott, churchwarden of Beeston Church reported that work had started at the Church and the Annual meeting of the parochial church Council would be held on 2 May at the village hall at 8.30 p.m.

#### **BITTERING PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

The Church had been re-wired in 2006 and new heating installed through grants received and fund raising. The grass cutting had been completed. The Wine and Supper evening held in December had been very successful and the carol Service had been well attended. A Harvest Service had been held in the autumn and the Parochial Church Council had met four times in the year.

#### **FRIENDS OF BEESTON SCHOOL**

No report had been received.

#### **BEESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Mr Gussman, Beeston Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, reported that no incidents had been reported during the last 12 months. There have been a number of break-ins in other villages with garden sheds being the most popular. A number of rubbish bins have been taken for what reason I do not know. We have erected a couple of new signs within the village and washed and cleaned all the others. We still have a spare sign left if anybody thinks they need one in their area so please let me know.

**BEESTON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE**  
STATUS REPORT APRIL 2007.

The role of the Playing Field Committee is as follows:

The running, maintenance and development of an excellent village hall and playing field. The purpose being to provide villagers in particular with a low cost facility for social and sporting events of their choosing.

In providing this facility for the village, the committee will organise fund raising events which at the same time are aimed to be socially enjoyable occasions encouraging the participation of the village people.

The Outlook.

With growing numbers of youngsters in the village, priority project for the year is to develop the playground. Substantial work is underway to procure funding to develop this as a single project.

The committee is enthusiastically supporting the newly formed cricket club. No charges will be made for the use of the field, instead the cricket club will run fund raising events on a 50-50 basis.

In the six months April - October this year committee fund raising events include:

Caravan Club Rally  
Horse race evening  
Village cricket day  
Treasure hunt/barbecue  
Whist drive

Two successful work party days have seen significant maintenance and repainting achieved. Further events are envisaged.

The committee would like to put on record their thanks for the support of the Parish Council and volunteer workers for support in improvements to the hall and field.

FINANCIAL STATUS END MARCH 2007.

CURRENT ASSETS.

Bank:  
Current A/C £1746.07  
Deposit A/C £5099.69

Debtors: £287.50

LIABILITIES.

Creditors: zero

OPERATING SUMMARY April 2006 - 2007.

Revenue: £4444.27

Expenditure: £3481.98

NB

The liquidity situation has improved over 12 months and the committee anticipates contributing to the programme of improvements to the play area and the hall without reducing the required contingency fund.

**BEESTON SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

No report from the Beeston School Governors

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting then closed.