

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Beeston with Bittering Parish Council held on **TUESDAY 26TH APRIL 2011** in Beeston Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman: J. Farrall.

Councillors Present: T. Burton, G Davidson, R Sharpin

County and District Councillor M Kiddle Morris

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J Thompson and T Townshend
12 Members of the Public.

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies to report.

MINUTES

The Minutes of 27th April 2010 had been circulated but could be read out if requested. No request was made. Councillor Burton proposed and Councillor Davidson adoption of the minutes and these were duly signed as a true record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2011

Councillor Farrall read out his report as follows:-

The Parish Council met 11 times in the year 2010-11 not meeting in December.

Recurring topics have been: -

Planning Applications to redevelop The Ploughshare: -

- 1 for 4 relatively small houses in the beer garden, access from the pub car park, PC against for road safety, local environment and loss of open space around the pub,
- 2 changed to 2 larger houses of a similar floor area by the time Breckland Council determined the application, reported to the Committee who refused the application for the reasons the PC had submitted, the developer has since appealed against the Council's decision, written representations examined on 11 April and the outcome awaited, probably a further 6 weeks from now, PC asked for conditions on any consent BC might grant to ensure the pub would be open before the houses were occupied, the case for keeping the pub as it is, to safeguard a critical local social space, to keep traffic the pub would generate under reasonable control and to attain good conditions for neighbouring houses, when the Inspectorate determines the appeal it may decide to add these conditions to any consent it might give. PC added one further reason for refusal; to ask for any decision to be delayed until the Breckland LDF, now in the first stages of its own round of public consultations, to be agreed.
- 3 an application for one larger house in the garden on the east side of the pub with an access from the car park, to be considered as part of the PC meeting intended to follow the Annual Meeting.

The Post Office

- 1 The Sub-postmaster at Litcham said he would be prepared to operate a satellite Post Office in the Village Hall kitchen for an hour and a half each week, to pay State Pensions, other benefits, sell stamps and fulfil other functions stemming from postal services. This would depend on the availability of a broadband service, which appeared at the time to be likely.
- 2 In January this year BT replied to say they could not support the signal strength needed to serve a satellite from the Litcham Sub-post office, which makes this option not practicable.
- 3 One of the earlier planning applications for The Ploughshare offered to provide a space for a shop and Post Office counter in the pub, the PC decided to pursue whether this would still be possible.

Planning applications for development at: -

- 1 Valley Farm, where the PC were given and took the opportunity to speak at the Local Hearing held in Dereham, the appeal was later upheld'
- 2 Punch Farm, access to existing quarry,
- 3 Dereham Road, a development of 3 houses, the PC decided to ask Breckland Council to refuse the development on environmental grounds
- 4 Four applications for continued minerals' extraction at Spreadoak, the PC decided to support Norfolk County Council's preference for a self-contained road access to avoid further traffic on an unsuitable rural road in one case and not to object to three other applications.

Breckland Local Development Framework

In February 2011 the LDF reached the point of becoming a 'Proposed Submission', which in effect means BC will want to turn the LDF as it stands into policy for its whole area. There are no material changes from the version the PC last supported, this not to say that the LDF may not be changed as it passes through the remaining stages of public consultation. The PC will have the option to look again at the LDF when the process formally opens.

Norfolk Minerals and Waste Plan

Norfolk County Council have decided to amend their Minerals and Waste Plan to reflect a reduced need for minerals in the county. This is not necessarily bound to lead to an absence of the need for minerals extraction in Beeston with Bittering, the PC informed NCC that it accepts the new strategy and asked for the amount of extraction to be kept to the minimum that could be justified.

Changes on the Parish Council

After several years of living in Beeston Anne and Brian Laws moved to a different farm near North Walsham. The Parish Council thanks Ann for her invaluable work over a long period and wishes her and Brian all success in their new venture. Anne had consistently been a willing contributor to a wide field of Parish Council activity.

Financial position

- 1 In the 2010-1 the PC had an income of £6,400 from its precept and made grants to a range of local charities: -

	£	
Norfolk Accident and Rescue Service	25	
Dereham CAB	50	
British Legion Poppy Fund	40	
Bittering Church grounds	80	
Beeston Church Grounds	212	
Beeston Playing Field and Village Hall	1,500	
EACH	50	
- 2 The Precept for 2011-2 was set at £6,400 and the PC expects to grant a minimum of £1,500 to the Playing Field and Village Hall.
- 3 The PC was consulted on its opinion on Council Tax Referenda, decided to ask for the right to determine future precepts to be maintained, to allow PC to come to terms with changing needs and to support specific projects where there would be a justified case. We have no information on how this issue has been treated.

FUEL CHARITY ACCOUNT

The Clerk reported that 46 parishioners received £25 from the Beeston Fuel Charity, of which 3 has not been cashed. The balance as at 31st March 2011 is £327.65.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**1ST BEESTON RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES**

No report was received

BEESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

At last the interregnum came to an end on 16 April 2010, when Rev. Michael Thompson was inaugurated as our Priest-in-Charge. All seemed to be going well, until he suddenly announced eight months later that he would be leaving the 10 parishes he covered in February 2011. The reasons were personal to him and he assured us that it was through no fault of the Parishes. So we are once again searching for a new Rector. A recent application has been received and we hope it will be a successful outcome, but it is early days as yet.

Since January 2010 there have been 3 funerals, 2 weddings and 2 Baptisms. From April 2011 we have felt it necessary to reduce our services to twice monthly, one being a Holy Communion and the other Matins. We have a regular congregation of around 10-15, and over 100 to special services such as the School Christingle, Christmas and Remembrance Days. Events held were the Lent Lunch, Mini-Fete, Norfolk Church Cycle Ride, Harvest Lunch, Bonfire Night and 2 Quizzes. (Next Mini-Fete 10th June). In addition to the collections £4,451 was raised via fundraising events and donations. Finance: Nearly £6,000 has been spent on restoration work and a further £4-5,000 is still to be spent this year. An outer mesh door has been made to the south aisle door, so that double doors can be opened to allow air to flow through the church to aid the drying out process, at a cost of £589. The end of the major part of the long restoration programme was celebrated in a special service on 8th September 2010. Part of the Churchyard is cut by Peter Cross, who endeavours to keep his charges as low as possible for us and has quoted up to £450 for 2011, due to increased fuel costs (a rise of £25). The back of the churchyard is left uncut and the remainder is cut by a volunteer, Rodney Walthew. The Church is kept open every Saturday from 1st April to 31st October and at all other times a key is available. Contact details on the Notice board.

The Church was only able to pay 3/4ths of their Parish Share to the Diocese last year. Annual insurance costs £1,664 for 2010, £1,748 2011. The Church continues to flourish with the support of the Parish Council and the wider community in Beeston. We would like to thank all those who so generously give up their time and provide both physical and financial support at our events and other times when needed, and in particular the flower and cleaning men and women on the Rota. We are very grateful to the Parish for their 50% contribution towards the Churchyard upkeep, but wonder in view of our expenses whether the Council might consider increasing that percentage in 2011.

FRIENDS OF BEESTON SCHOOL

No report was received.

BEESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

No report was given.

BEESTON CRICKET CLUB

Last year was a good season finishing in second place and gaining promotion. A second team has been added into the Saturday league. A Norfolk U17s game against Sussex was held at Beeston and the Norfolk representatives were very impressed with the set up. This year Norfolk have approached the club again and several ladies games will be held. 5 or 6 Bingos are held each year to raise funds for equipment and running costs but these are not as well attended as when first started. Another kit bag has been bought for the second team and new pads and gloves have been purchased for the coming season. We are continuing to have youth practice on Thursday evenings from 6-7 p.m. starting on 5 May.

BITTERING PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Bittering Parva SS. Peter & Paul Annual Report for 2010

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Bittering Parva SS. Peter & Paul is part of the Gressenhall Group of Parishes Benefice; within the Dereham in Mitford Deanery of the Diocese of Norwich.

The Rev. Robert Marsden is the Priest-in-Charge

The Churchwardens appointed in 2010 were DR JACK LEGGETT & JARIE MARIER-WILSON
Members & Officers of the PCC duly elected to office in 2010 were :-
Lay vice-Chair DR J LEGGETT Electoral Roll Officer: MRS PHARA
Deanery Synod Representative: MRS M TAYLOR : Treasurer MRS P. BALDWIN :
Secretary JARIE MARIER-WILSON Building & Fabric _____ :
Other PCC members:- MRS JANET LEGGETT

There were 6 names on the Church Electoral roll at the APCM in 2010.

Bittering Parva SS. Peter & Paul co-operates with all the constituent parishes of the Gressenhall Group to further Christian ministry in its parishes, and through Parish Share contributes to the wider costs of the Church's mission. The parishes co-operate to provide weekly, and varied, Sunday Worship each month. Regular monthly worship at Bittering Parva SS. Peter & Paul, as in the Gressenhall Group as a whole, is possible only through the faithful ministry of its Clergy, its Readers, its Wardens, its musicians and its people.

On average 8 people attended normal Sunday worship.

The Major Festival attendances were:- Harvest 9 : Christmas 27 : Easter no service
CAROL

Our grateful thanks go to all who so generously contribute their gifts to the life the church. Children & Young People Protection Policy & Vulnerable Adults Policy have been under the oversight of Rev. Kevin Blogg (Named Person) & Rev. Robert Marsden.

Bittering Parva SS. Peter & Paul meets its own direct costs of ministry, including maintenance of its church building; and it also regularly gives to charitable causes at home and abroad. In addition it contributes to the meeting of expenses for its full-time clergy.

Parish Share for 2010 was £1500 of which the PCC was able to pay 33 %.

At the end of the year £846.07 remained in General Funds (not including Building Fund) as a working balance.

Summary of Specific Parish News (other information available on request)

'THE FRIENDS OF BITTERING PARVA' was formed + will start fund-raising in

THE ROOF HAS BEEN REPAIRED, THE WOODWORM SPRAYED - MORE REPAIRS WILL BE
THIS YEAR

A GATE HAS BEEN INSTALLED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE DRIVE

FUNDS WERE RAISED AT GRESSENHALL FÊTE AND THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER
£638.57 WAS RAISED

A WORK PARTY TRIMMED THE TREES IN THE CHURCHYARD

THANKS TO BEESTON PARISH COUNCIL FOR GRANTING MONEY TO PAY FOR GRASSCO

Bittering Parva SS. Peter & Paul is grateful to MRS M HEWITT ACA for conducting
an Independent Examination of the PCC books, Records and Annual Accounts.

Our thanks to the Parish Council for the money to assist with the grass cutting.

BEESTON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Tim Ackerley reported that the burst water pipe had meant all efforts had been put into the repair and it is not certain the full extent at present of the liability. Grant funding is still being looked at together with match funding. There is to be a Breckland Arts festival function at the hall.

BEESTON SCHOOL GOVERNORS

No report was given.

OPEN FORUM

There were no matters to discuss at the Open Forum.

The meeting closed at 1950