

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Beeston with Bittering Parish Council held on **TUESDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010** in Beeston Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman: J. Farrall.

Councillors Present: T. Burton, A. Laws, G Davidson, T Townshend

County and District Councillor M Kiddle Morris

Apologies for Absence: Councillors R Sharpin, J Thompson, and Mr P Parfitt  
8 Members of the Public.

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009 had been circulated but could be read out if requested. No request was made. The minutes were signed as a true record

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2009**

Mrs G Fowler read out her report as follows:-

Continuing the trend from last year, the number of Planning Applications considered by the Parish Council, was substantially lower than in recent years but there were some that generated considerable interest in the village.

### Punch Farm Quarry

The application relating to the proposed extension to Punch Farm Quarry, later followed by the related application to change the access and exit to the quarry, thereby reducing the lorry traffic through Beeston, was carefully considered by the Parish Council. The objections to these applications by the residents of the nearest property were taken very seriously by the Parish Council and a number of conditions were requested in their response to Breckland Planning Department to try to deal with some of these concerns.

### The Ploughshare

The Parish Council were informed in June 2009 that The Ploughshare had been purchased by a property developer who was keen to see the pub re-open. There was however, considerable disappointment at the eleventh hour withdrawal by a television company who had expressed their intention to facilitate a community takeover and running of The Ploughshare for the inclusion in a TV series showing similar projects throughout the country.

A Planning Application was later received for the restoration of the pub and the siting of three new houses on the site. This would have required the demolition of the existing function room extension. As the result of an open forum held prior to the November Parish Council meeting, the Council, in accordance with the views expressed by the majority of the 37 members of the community attending, objected to the application, which was subsequently withdrawn. At the time of writing the pub remains closed and boarded up.

### Footpath

As a result of a questionnaire sent out to parents of children attending Beeston School, the Parish Council considered an application made by the Highways department for a footpath opposite the school, leading in to Chapel Lane.

When the work commenced, it became apparent that the work being carried out was not in accordance with the plan agreed by the Parish Council. A site meeting took place immediately resulting in the work being done as originally agreed.

### Valley Farm

The Appeal by the applicant in the matter of the siting of a mobile home on this area was lost, but a further Appeal is pending.

It was very sad to see the closure of the Post Office after such great efforts to retain it. However, those efforts are not entirely in vain, as the need for the service has been established and accepted by the Post Office and alternative premises are being sought.

Throughout the period mentioned, various seminars and forums were attended by the Clerk and Councillors, including an information meeting setting out the changes resulting from the handing over of all matters relating to Breckland Planning services to private company Capita Symonds.

Consideration was given to the matter of the drainage problems in Sayers Lane and numerous potholes and highway matters were reported to the appropriate authorities by the Clerk.

The question of Broadband coverage continued to be pursued and monitored.

The Minerals and Waste Strategy continues to further stages pending final decisions and detailed responses have been made by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council continues to support the Village Hall committee and this year made a donation of £1000 towards the purchase of a grass cutter.

The usual charitable donations were made to local organisations.

I am pleased to note the continuing success of the Rainbows and Brownies and congratulate them on the part they played in the annual Memorial Services.

The 2009 Remembrance Sunday Services were very well attended, as was the gathering in the Village Hall afterwards. My thanks to all those who provided the yummy nibbles.

Finally, in my last Chairman's Report, I should like to record my thanks to the remaining Councillors for their hard work and support and in particular, a very big thank you to our Clerk, Bryan Leigh, without him the job would have been impossible.

The Chairman recognized the sterling work that Gloria Fowler had done as both Councillor and Chairman and this sentiment was echoed by all present.

The Chairman added that a new Vice-Chairman, Anne Laws had been appointed and Gaye Davidson had been co-opted onto the Parish Council.

The proposed development at Punch Farm was a problem as the Parish Council felt it had been misled on the reasons for the proposal and further extraction was wanted. The ploughshare must be scrutinised carefully as the settlement boundary area around the pub is to be considered in the LDF.

### **FUEL CHARITY ACCOUNT**

The Clerk reported that 45 parishioners received £25 from the Beeston Fuel Charity, of which 4 has not been cashed. The balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 is £242.89.

### **REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

#### **1<sup>ST</sup> BEESTON RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES**

No report was received

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

During the year 44 services were held mostly Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. These included the annual festivities and remembrance services. There were two funerals Mr Alec Wales and Mrs Jane Carter, and two weddings Daniel Winterbone and Rachael Clarke and Thomas Sykes and Alice Holloway.

All major repair work has now been completed and the church redecorated.

### **BITTERING PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

The quinquennial inspection took place and advised that work was needed on the coping stones and areas of drainage. The architect was pleased with the repairs to the roof and said that the church is generally well maintained, and the churchyard well cared for.

Bittering PCC is most grateful to Beeston with Bittering Parish Council for its financial contribution to the grass cutting.

The two fundraising events, a stall at Gressenhall fete and the Christmas bazaar in November were well supported.

However the candlelit Carol Service had to be cancelled because of snow.

### **FRIENDS OF BEESTON SCHOOL**

No report was received.

### **BEESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

No report was given.

### **BEESTON CRICKET CLUB**

Beeston Cricket Club has continued to move forward from the success from last year. We have increased the equipment in the youth kit bag and during the last year started the youth cricket sessions which are due to start again this Thursday evening. We were successful in our applications for lottery funding from Awards for All for the full amount which we applied for of £9626. This money has been spent on wicket covers, mobile practice cage and a new mat for the old practice net, two sight screens and coaching courses. In the last year the club has purchased a roller for the wicket and Beeston Brewery has donated half the money towards some club shirts which we will wear to games. E.A.S. Beeston has sponsored the club for the 2010 season with a Gray Nicholls bat.

### **BEESTON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE**

The report was read out and is attached.

### **BEESTON SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

A number of significant events have occurred during the past year.

An Ofsted inspection identified much that is good about our village school. The inspector said the teaching was either good or excellent and the curriculum is good with much that is interesting and relevant. He noted that the children were well behaved and have a good attitude to learning.

During the year a new IT suite using the latest technology was installed at the school and this was opened by Vicky Ford MEP. The Pupils had an interesting time with her and George Freeman learning about the way Parliament works.

A Christingle service in Beeston church was a great success in spite of the snow.

Two new teachers have been appointed. Miss Louise Steward joined us during the Spring term and Mrs Sarah Atkinson will start in September.

A new web site has been set up which gives a good picture of the school. We encourage you to view it. [www.beestonprimary.co.uk](http://www.beestonprimary.co.uk) '

### **OPEN FORUM**

During the open forum it was reported that the major items for the coming year would be the Minerals and waste consultation, local development framework the post office and the Ploughshare.

The Ploughshare could re-open with a shop and post office. The village Hall is happy for the hall to be used for a post office as it is important to maintain the facility within the village. Broadband is still a problem and although Tittleshall Exchange is due to be upgraded there is no guarantee that Beeston will benefit. Rutland Telecom is to be approached to enquire if a better service can be arranged. The County councillor stated that at present there is no plans for BT to upgrade and NNDC had no joy from BT when it was approached.

The meeting closed at 2007