

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Beeston with Bittering Parish Council held on **TUESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2009**, in Beeston Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman: J. Farrall.

Councillors Present: T. Burton, A Laws, R Sharpin and J Thompson

District Councillor M Kiddle Morris

Apologies for Absence: Councillors G Fowler, T Townshend, Mrs Chant and Mr P Parfitt  
7 Members of the Public.

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008 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**

As in previous years, the Parish Council met every month except December.

In line with the general trend throughout the country, there was a drop in the number of Planning applications which the Council considered. This year's total was 21 as against 29 the previous year.

Three of these went to Appeal.

There was no election for Parish Councillors in 2007 as there were less than 7 candidates. We were nevertheless pleased to begin the new Council year by welcoming 2 new Councillors, Toni Townshend and Tara Burton. It is particularly gratifying to have Tara on board as she must surely be one of the youngest Parish Councillors in the County. A few weeks later, James Thompson agreed to be co-opted onto the Council, which brought us up to full strength.

As a result of the findings arising from the Village Appraisal published last year, the Parish Council organised and carried out a Traffic Survey last autumn. We were very fortunate with the weather and traffic was monitored and recorded over a twelve hour period. I would like to record sincere thanks and appreciation of all those who took part on the day and special thanks to Julian Farrell who organised it all and who has worked tirelessly (with Hazel's help) to collate all the results. We hope to publish these very soon. This has been delayed by the very short time-scale allowed for responding to the Minerals and Waste proposals put forward by Norfolk County Council. These proposals have potentially very widespread implications for Beeston with Bittering and the area generally and the Parish Council set aside all other matters to ensure that all residents were made aware of the proposals and the steps that should be taken to make their views known before final decisions were taken.

It is anticipated that considerable work will be put in by the Parish Council to ensure that the wishes and views of the community are put forward in respect of the Local Development Framework. This is the chance for us to have our say in what happens (or does not happen) in the way of the development of Beeston with Bittering in the years to come. To this end, we shall be attending a joint meeting with other parishes and the LDF Team from Breckland Council on guidelines, on 18<sup>th</sup> June at Litcham.

We will also be further considering our response to the proposals for the Local Government Review.

During the course of the year, the Parish Clerk and myself have met up regularly with Headmistress Ani Martin and Liz Walne of County Hall to discuss the School Travel Plan and the various ways in which we could join forces to improve the traffic and parking problems around the

school. This has resulted in visits from Community Police officers to speak to Parents outside the school, the remarking of the zig-zag and bus parking road markings and a feasibility study for more footpaths. The Parish Clerk made a successful application for temporary 'Son of Sam' flashing speed signs. It was noted that these were not always very accurate, so we are again on the list for another visit. Any feedback on their effectiveness would be welcome.

It is gratifying to learn that both the new Brownie pack and the Cricket Club are thriving, as is the Village Hall. I would like to congratulate the committee on the success of the diverse events put on for our entertainment and edification this year.

As usual, the annual Remembrance Services at the Church and American Memorial were very well attended, as was the informal reception in the Village Hall afterwards.

On the 'downside', Beeston appears to have lost out in the Post Office lottery, but we are not called 'Battling Beeston' for nothing and will not be going down without a fight.

I am pleased to report that the annual accounts have been completed and copies are available this evening should anyone wish to take them away for inspection.

Finally, I should like to record my thanks to my fellow Councillors for their help and support throughout the year. I should also like to congratulate Bryan Leigh, our Parish Clerk, on his first full year in post. His knowledge, advice, support, commitment and his sense of humour has been invaluable.

### **FUEL CHARITY ACCOUNT**

The Clerk reported that 46 parishioners received £27 from the Beeston Fuel Charity, of which 1 has not been cashed. The balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 is £97.89. The necessary dispensations from Breckland Council had been received.

### **REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

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

##### 1st Beeston Brownies

Brownies have had an other busy year and are looking forward to girlguiding.UK centenary celebrations next year.

16 Brownies and 3 leaders took part in the Giant Sleep over in June 2008 during which the record for the largest simultaneous sleep over multi locations was broken and we money by entering the event for save the children.

In the Autumn Brownies attended a activity for all the brownies in the Division with a theme of Gypsies

Through out the Autumn the Brownies where busy at various event held in the village helping with refreshments as part of their hostess badges.

The Brownies read the Christmas Alphabet at the carol service in December.

On thinking Day the Brownies Held a Reading Tent activity day and Book exchange raising sufficient funds to send 40 books through Book aid international to Africa as part of Girlguiding UK changing the World challenge.

Mothering Sunday saw the Brownie Pack at church and their unit colours where blessed.

During the Easter Break 18 Brownies and 4 leaders where away on pack holiday at Coltishal learning to work and play together there was definitely not time to worry that there was no TV or computer games with the fun and Busy Programme Daffodil had prepared.

The brownies are now plan for their Sponsored sing on May 13<sup>th</sup> 6pm to 7.30 pm all

welcome.

All the above is in addition to the weekly term time meeting with their programme of activities to develop and expand the girls independence and experiences of life though fun, games, crafts and challenges.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Beeston Rainbows

The rainbows have had another busy year and are looking forward to girlguiding.UK centenary celebrations next year.

In the Autumn Rainbows attended an acts morning for all the rainbows in the county held in Dereham. Lots of interesting creation where taken home along with 3 stick leaders.

Along with the Brownies the Rainbows read the Christmas Alphabet at the carol servio in December.

On thinking Day the Rain bows Held a Reading Tent activity day and Book exchange raising sufficient funds to send 40 books through Book aid international to Africa as par! of Girlguiding UK changing the World challenge.

Mothering Sunday saw the Rainbow unit at church and they provided and gave out posies to all the Mum's iathe congregation.

The Rainbows are now plan for their Sponsored sing on May 13<sup>th</sup> 6pm to 7.30 pm all welcome.

All the above is in addition to the weekly term time meeting with their programme of activities to develop and expand the girls independence and experiences of life though run, games, crafts and challenges.

## **BEESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

### Report from the Beeston P.C.C. for the Annual Parish Meeting of Beeston with Bittering Parish Council 28<sup>th</sup>. April 2009.

#### **Services.**

Services are held on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. Canon Dennis Rider has been welcomed as the part-time Priest-in-Charge of the group of parishes until such time as an incumbant is appointed.

There have been no marriage services in the church.

There were 4 burial services during 2007 and none during 2008.

The Harvest Festival Service and the two Remembrance Sunday Services, one held in the church and one at the American War Memorial, were all well attended. The P.C.C. appreciates the P.C. continuing to host the reception which follows the Remembrance Services. This always provides a popular, and often warming, ending to the morning.

The Carol Service was once again held in the village hall. The Brownies played a prominent part hi this well attended Service. This, as always, was followed by hot punch and mince pies.

**Events.**

The Mini-Fete was held on 21<sup>st</sup> June. The Harvest Lunch on 26<sup>th</sup> October. The Bonfire Barbecue on 8<sup>th</sup> November. Two Quizes were held throughout the year. All very successful occasions which brought together people both from inside and outside of the village.

The Lent Lunch, the only one this year in the Group of parishes, held on 1<sup>st</sup> April, raised £90. for the Smile Train Charity; an organisation that repairs hare lips and cleft palates in disadvantaged children in 76 countries across the world.

The P.C.C. also held a reception for Dr. David Baldwin and Miss Clare leMessurier to thank them for their support over many years. Dr. Baldwin as Lay Reader and Clare leMessurier as secretary to the Church & Village magazine.

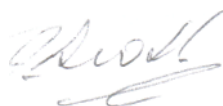
**Church Repairs.**

The repair work, internally and externally, continues. It is hoped that the work carried out by outside contractors may be finished this year. We are fortunate in that we have a very active Fabric Officer who not only oversees all the work, but is also active in raising funds from outside organisations such as English Heritage. Contributions from various fund-raising events, individuals, etc: have been gratefully received. When the internal repair and decorating work is finished there will be a need for major cleaning work to be done in the church and repair and tidying work on the path and grounds surrounding the church.

**Other.**

The P.C.C. are very appreciative of the numerous people who regularly clean the chancel and arrange the flowers. Also those in the village, and outside, who support the various events arranged by the P.C.C. They all contribute to the well-being of the Church in the village.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> May, in the Village Hall at 8.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there!



Jill Scott.  
Chairman, Beeston, P.C.C.  
April, 2009.

**BITTERING PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Bittering Parva, SS Peter & Paul Annual Report for 2008.**

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

Following the retirement of Rev. John Belham in April the Revd Robert Marsden was

licensed as the priest in charge on November 7<sup>th</sup> 2008.

The Church Wardens appointed in 2008 were: Jack Leggatt and Jane Napier-Wilson.

Members and Officers of the PCC duly elected to office in 2008 were:

Lay Vice Chair	Jack Leggatt
Electoral Roll Officer	Michael Wood
Deanery Synod Representative	Mary Taylor
Treasurer	Pat Baldwin
Secretary	Jane Napier-Wilson
PCC. Member	Pat Hall
PCC Member	Janet Leggatt

There were 8 names on the church electoral roll at the APCM in 2008.

Bittering Church 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 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, readers, musicians and people.

On average 8 people attended normal Sunday Worship in 2008.

The major festival attendances were:	Harvest Festival	11
	Christmas	50
	Easter	N/A

Our grateful thanks go to all who so generously contribute their gifts to the life of the **Church**.

Children and young people protection policy and vulnerable adults policy are currently(3/09) being revised under the oversight of Dr. Simon Carroll & Revd. Robert Marsden.

Bittering Church 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 2008 was £927.00 of which the PCC. was able to pay 26%. At the end of year £ 1390.26 remained in the general funds (not including the building fund) as a working balance. A payment of £428.81 is outstanding in respect of the insurance premium for the year 2009.

### **Summary of Specific Parish News**

(Further information is available on request)

The P.C.C. met four times during the year to oversee all aspects of the church. As we have no organist, music has kindly been provided by Dick Hall

A morning service is held on the last Sunday of the month, four of which are Holy Communion.

The candle lit service was extra special this year as it was attended by Rt. Revd James Langstaff, Bishop of Lynn.

Church funds were boosted by having a stall at Gressenhall Fete in May , and the usual Christmas Fayre, which was particularly successful.

The Church building is in good order. A minor mouse problem is contained by baiting. Two or three tiles above the entrance continue to be displaced in high winds, but this will be addressed in 2009.

The church yard is kept tidy, assisted by a grant from Beeston and Bittering Parish Council.

The treasurer, Mary Taylor, retired this year, and the PCC thanks her for many years service in the past.

Bittering Parva, SS Peter & Paul is grateful to Michael Hewkin AC A for conducting an independent examination of the PCC books, records and annual accounts.

### **FRIENDS OF BEESTON SCHOOL**

No report was received.

### **BEESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

No report was given.

### **BEESTON CRICKET CLUB**

Beeston Cricket Club has made good progress during the last year; as the bingo and quiz nights have been successful in helping us raise money for new equipment and running costs. The club has also applied for lottery funding through the awards for all scheme, to go towards ground and practice equipment and also towards the training of qualified coaches.

An application was made to the Lords Taverners for a youth kit bag containing approximately £200 worth of equipment. A small payment fee of £25 was required upon application; however, we were successful in receiving the kit bag.

The club has also applied to O2 in the community for some training equipment and other youth kit. We are also now in the process of approaching local primary schools to give taster sessions in the schools, to hopefully start a youth cricket side within the club at Beeston.

A net has been found for the practice area and the pitch loamed at a cost of £400. The club is looking for a new roller and mat and coaching course.

Half the matches played have been won and the club finished midway in the league.

### **BEESTON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE**

#### **Beeston Village Hall and Playing Field Financial summary 2008-2009**

#### **Income versus expenses**

Income	£6755.95
Expenses	£5712.50
Gain	£1043.45(15.4%)

#### Commentary

Income was down against the previous year though the gain was higher, taking our year end reserves to:

£7525.48

The committee is reviewing maintenance needs and costing some capital expenditure alternatives for the coming year (see below) as with income and expenditure now in balance there is room for confidence to use some of the funds for improvements..

2009-2007

The cricket club is thriving and has proved to have the drive and energy to maintain most of the field and good order. The cheap museum-piece mowers are really quite inadequate and The Committee is now costing more suitable equipment so that the whole field can be kept in order.

With this done and the far end of the field in play, we are looking to purchase a pair of seven-a-side goalposts for the growing number of youngsters now using the field. Hopefully the success of the cricket club can be followed by Britain's second sport.

We are also in the process of listing essential renovation work with a view to arranging another village workday to keep the hall in trim and reviewing other facilities which will benefit the village.

Once our shopping list for these is complete and costed (end May) we shall be prioritising the spend and reviewing what potential assistance might be available and discussing this with the Parish Council.

In this regard our thanks go to the Parish Council for their support this year, especially in the purchase of the safety matting for the play area at a cost £2043,(this capital item is not included in the above figures). Also the committee extends its thanks to the volunteers from the village who give their support so generously.

## **BEESTON SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

### **Beeston Primary School report to the Parish Council 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

The past year has been marked by a change in leadership at the school. Mrs Ani Martin retired at the end of August having lead the school very successfully for some seven years. After a very rigorous selection process the Governors were pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Christopher Perry to lead the school on into the future. We have welcomed a new Community Governor, Mrs Maria Cork, to replace Mrs Margaret Salmon who has given excellent service for nine years.

There are at present 64 pupils in attendance and overall attainment is above Norfolk and National averages. The Head Teacher, staff, and governors constantly work to maintain and raise standards. There is also a good emphasis on sport and other activities. The school recently won the tag-rugby championship.

## **OPEN FORUM**

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 2005.