

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Beeston with Bittering Parish Council held on **TUESDAY 28th APRIL 2015** in Beeston Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman: J. Farrall.

Councillors Present: B List, T Townshend, R Sharpin, J Perry .
4 Members of the Public.

APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from County and District Councillor M Kiddle Morris, the Brownies as it is Wensum Canoe Training Night, Jenny Harris-Chair of Governors of Beeston School.

MINUTES

The Minutes of 29th April 2014 had been circulated but could be read out if requested. No request was made. Councillor List proposed and Councillor Perry seconded the adoption of the minutes and these were duly signed as a true record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2015

Councillor Farrall read out his report as follows:-

The Parish Council (PC) met 10 times in 2014-5; the mains issues have been: -

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Representations to Norfolk County Council (NC) on Planning Applications and to Breckland Council (BC) on (i) Planning Policy and on (ii) Planning Applications | | |
| 2 | Broadband | 3 | Highways in and around Beeston |
| 4 | Highways in and around Beeston | 5 | A Budget for 2015-6 |
| 6 | Transparency Code | 7 | Open Spaces |
| 8 | Beeston Website | 9 | Membership of the Parish Council |

1 Representations to NC

i Norfolk Minerals and Waste Plan.

The Plan was considered and adopted in 2013-4.

ii Planning Applications

McLeod Aggregates applied to extend operations on their site at Bittering Quarry until December 2030 and the consequent land restoration until 2032 because economic growth would cause the existing resources to last longer. The PC objected to the extension because it would significantly increase the nuisance to local residents and delay the restoration work. NC approved the extension of time, the new approval incorporates a higher standard of restoration than earlier versions, it will be vital for the PC to review progress with this issue.

The PC had no objections to the re-location of a weighbridge, kiosk and container at Punch Farm, Dereham Road

2 Representations to BC

i BC started work on a new Local Plan and asked the PC to comment on an array of issues.

The new Local Plan will interpret the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), into local policies and proposals, which means that Local Plans will in future be determined at a national through the Secretary of State for Communities. The PC was asked to say: - (i) what it understood the term 'Sustainable Development' to mean and replied by saying that economic growth and new housing should mainly be along the A11 and King's Cross railway line with lesser growth in the market towns and where the existing natural environment and historic built would be enhanced; (ii) what should be added to the 'spatial vision for Breckland at this stage; and replied by saying that the vision did not need to be widened at this stage; (iii) what time the LP should cover and replied 'up to 2036', to be consistent with timetables for growth in Norfolk and Suffolk; (iv) to define an appropriate

amount of housing and agreed to support a level of about 19,250 new dwellings to help economic and social conditions in the area; (v) was asked to give an opinion on the proposed share of affordable housing to be set at 40% and asked for that level to be maintained as the means for overcoming a persistent shortage of this kind of housing; (vi) whether there should be some specialist housing in the larger villages, e.g. Litcham and North Elmham, where there are better social services; and replied by saying yes; (vii) did the PC agree with the investment priorities listed in the LP's transport strategies and replied by asking for a priority to be made of having a road system that would be fit for purpose; (viii) was asked whether a 'New Settlement' would be a useful development; the PC replied by saying that provided this was consistent with the sustainable development policy in (i) above there could be a case for this kind of remedy; (ix) to say if 'Settlement Boundaries' should be maintained and replied by saying that it had no specific choice either way but would hope that BC would put its authority behind the classification firmly support the policy. A large share of the proposed policies would have had no effect on the PC and its general interests; some details will come round again in later consultations.

ii BC Planning Applications

Activity in new house building and extensions to existing houses has stayed at a low level. The PC had no objections to a new dwelling and garage for an agricultural manager at Dykewood Farm.

There have been two energy generation proposals to consider.

First, Bernard Matthews applied for a single 70 metres high wind turbine in Longham, but still visible from several points within the Beeston. The PC had no objections.

Second, a householder applied for an array of solar panels capable of generating a daily average of 250 kW of power, enough to supply about 60 – 65 typical dwellings with their energy needs for a year. The PC had no objections.

The PC had no objections to various small applications to improve buildings used for employment.

iii Longer Term Development

A Parishioner asked the PC for its opinion on a proposal to develop land near the Dereham Road – Herne Lane junction for say 35 to 40 new dwellings with a 40% share of affordable houses. The PC decided to support the proposal in principle, as a better option than further development in the centre of the village, and to review the question as and when progress with the BC Local Plan evolved.

2 Broadband

British Telecom has widened the range of improvements to the local telephone network, which has improved internet speeds in most areas provided the user is willing to pay an increased monthly charge.

3 Highways in around Beeston

i Pedestrians' safety on the west side of Dereham Road near Dairy Drift has improved after the correction of the area of bad surface water drainage. There is still no dedicated footpath within the 30 mph restriction and this feature continues to be a danger to children and adults going to and from the primary School and the village green.

ii The PC is still waiting for NC to bring forward proposals for the road on the west side of Dereham Road and to overcome the disfigured state of the highway near the Primary School.

iii Elsewhere NC's contractors keep reasonably up to date with repairs to potholes and maintaining visibility on bends and at junctions.

4 Traffic Speeds

i The PC's intention to organise a Speedwatch scheme will not proceed.

ii PC set up a 'SAM 2' speed recorder in Dereham Road where the results showed one vehicle travelling at 75 mph in the 30 mph area and that about 80 % of vehicles travelled at speeds above 40 mph.

iii A second SAM 2 recorder confirmed that most vehicles in The Street complied with the 30 mph limit but since this may be too great a hazard for children in the adjoining houses there may be a case for having a 20 mph limit. This far NC does not support a reduced limit and the PC may go back to them in the ensuing year.

5 The 2014-5 Financial Position and a Budget for 2015-6

The PC precept of £7,250 for 2014-5 was kept at the same level for 2015-6. In 2014-5 the PC made grants to a range of local charities:-

	£
Beeston Playing Field Committee	500
Beeston Village Hall	1,500
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	40
Mid Norfolk CAB	75
Beeston Church Grounds	300
Bittering Church Grounds	150

6 Transparency Code for Minor Local Authorities

In November 2014 the Government introduced a requirement for all Local Authorities to adopt a 'Transparency Code', which puts their activity firmly in the public arena. In practice the PC already conformed with the new code, its procedures will make very little difference to the PC's public profile but will add some work to the Clerk's duties.

7 Open Spaces

- i The existing contract appears to run well.
- ii A member of the PC has tried to overcome a recurring problem of algae growth in the Millennium Lakes, work to achieve a low natural remedy will continue until a solution can be found.
- iii The two outmoded notice boards at Bittering and on the Village Green have been replaced.

8 Beeston Website

Paul Marchant continues to service the website, the PC thanks him for his time and effort in this task.

9 Membership of the Parish council

There are still vacancies to be filled and a further new vacancy through the procedures for nominating candidates for election to the PC. The PC has the authority to co-opt the two original vacancies and will put the new vacancy on the agenda for the next meeting to be held on 19 May 2015.

Julian Farrall

28 April 2015

FUEL CHARITY ACCOUNT

The Clerk reported that 47 parishioners received £30 from the Beeston Fuel Charity, of which 6 have not been cashed. The balance as at 31st March 2015 is £659.77.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

1ST BEESTON RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES

Annual Report for Beeston Parish meeting 28th April 2015

1st Beeston Brownies and 1st Beeston Rainbows

The Rainbows and Brownies have had another busy year. We celebrated 100years since the start of Brownies and both units enjoyed weekend at the regional Activity centre for a weekend of

adventurous activities . The leaders enjoyed this weekend too as it was full catered for, there were instructors to lead all the sessions and we had proper beds to sleep in.

The Brownies have all achieved their first Aid badges and craft badges the rainbows have completed Roundabout seasons and All about me badges.

Both Rainbow and Brownie units attended the District thinking Day Activity afternoon to celebrate thinking day and the Birthday of our Founders lord and Lady Baden-Powell.

In the summer the leaders attended the Norfolk international Guide and Scout jamboree and hosted an international contingent. The Brownies were able to come for the day and share the some of the excitement.

November saw the Rainbows and Brownies away again over night on a Frozen themed weekend. During which they gain their Can You Build a Snowman Challenge badge.

Many of the units in the Dereham Area are facing issues with leadership . so far we have been lucky in retain sufficient leaders to allow our programme to continue. Over the Last year numbers in both units has lowered , this matches the trend in the schools years ,and we do have a health waiting list for next year of Girls awaiting their birthday to join the rainbow unit..

We are currently looking at becoming Provider of the Children's university to support and enhance our girls education attainments. We hope that next year we will be reporting favourable on this point and have our first graduation in the offing.

The Rainbow Leader 'Rose' Caroline Chant was present with her Silver D of E award at Christmas and is working on her Queen's Guide award . 'Rose' was also the first recipients in Norfolk of the Newest award in Guiding the Buddy award for her services to enable others to full take part in Guiding The award, designed to recognise young women in guiding who act as buddies to their peers within units, at events or on camps and holidays, to enable other members with a wide range of special needs to access all the amazing opportunities on offer to them through Girlguiding.

BEESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Di Walthew read out the report..

FRIENDS OF BEESTON SCHOOL

No report was received.

BEESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

No report was given.

BEESTON CRICKET CLUB.

Brian Parke presented the report.

The cricket club had a mixed season with the first team coming second in division eight of the Norfolk Cricket league and the second team finishing one from bottom in Division Four of the West Norfolk League. This season both sides will be competing in the Norfolk cricket league.

The club has around 30 members with 12 being between the age of 14 to 20. We as a club are trying to encourage our younger members by playing up to five from this age group in the 2nd team every week and also 2 in the 1st team.

The club has this year secured sponsorship for new caps from D C engineering (East Anglia) who are based at Swaffham and are looking into other avenues for sponsorship and funding for some new equipment etc. The club will be doing training sessions for juniors of all ages on Thursday evenings from 6p.m. until 7.00 p.m. and adults from 7.10 p.m. until 8.30 p.m..

BITTERING PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Jane Napier Wilson presented the report.

Bittering Parva St. Peter & St. Paul: *f f c* T H E C H U R C H

" O F E N G L A N D

PCC Annual Report for 2014 — — —

.Diocese of N o r w i c h

**The Ecclesiastical Parish of Bittering Parva St. Peter & St. 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.

- Churchwardens appointed for 2014 were Dr. Jack Leggett & Miss. Jane Napier-Wilson.
 - Members & Officers of the PCC duly elected to office in 2014 were:-Lay vice-Chair & Building & Fabric Officer :Dr. Jack Leggett. PCC Secretary: Jane Napier-Wilson. PCC Treasurer & Minutes Secretary: Mrs. Pat Baldwin. Deputy Warden: Mrs. Pat Hall. Electoral Roll Officer, Deanery Synod Representative & "Friends of Chair: Mrs. Barbara Marsden. Other PCC members:-Mrs. Janet Leggett.
 - There were 6 names on the Church Electoral roll at the APCM in 2014.
 - Bittering Parva St. Peter & St. 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 during each month. Regular monthly worship at Bittering Parva SS Peter & Paul is possible only through the faithful ministry of its Clergy, its Readers, its Wardens, our Accordionist Mr. Dick Hall, and its people. **Q,**
 - On average people attended normal Sunday worship (on last Sunday of each month)
 - Attendance at the Major Festivals:- Harvest 8 Christmas Carols 38: Easter 6.
 - Our grateful thanks go to all who so generously contribute their gifts to the life of our parish church; esp. those who faithfully clean & decorate our church.
 - The Children & Young People Protection Policy & Vulnerable Adults Policy are both under the oversight of Rev. Kevin Blogg.
 - Bittering Parva SS Peter & Paul meets its own direct costs of ministry, including maintenance of its church building; and it gave £10 to Norfolk Churches Trust.
 - Bittering Parva generously contributes to the Benefice expenses of its full-time priest.
 - Parish Share for 2014 was £500 of which the PCC was able to pay 100%. £89 remained in General Funds (not including Building Fund) as a working balance.
- Summary of Specific Parish News (other information available on request)**
- *Church & Village* has been regularly used to better communicate with our village community.
 - A copy of this Report will be delivered to each property during the next round of pastoral visiting by Rev. Robert Marsden.

- Various maintenance and works have been done to/in the Church & as well as planting within the Churchyard.
 - The PCC is sincerely grateful to Beeston with Bittering Parish Council for its continuing generous support towards the cost of Churchyard maintenance.
 - A very popular "game stall" was run at the 2014 Gressenhall Fete.
 - Our traditional Carols by Candlelight Service was again very well attended (38), with participation from readers of all ages.
 - We again hosted the Group Holy Communion in August. There were 2 Weddings during 2014.
 - We hosted the Group Mothering Sunday Service with Easter Bonnet Parade. Bittering Parva SS Peter & Paul is grateful to Mr. Michael Hewkin for conducting an Independent Examination of the PCC books, Records and Annual Accounts.
- Date: 19/3/2015

BEESTON SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Beeston Primary School 2012 – 2013

A report from the Jenny Harris Chair of Governors read out at the meeting.

Our school motto is "Be all you can be" and staff and governors work together towards helping every child to fulfil its potential. This is done by encouraging and fostering a spirit of independence and a thirst for learning. Whether a child is gifted and talented, disadvantaged or vulnerable, or whether they have additional needs we want them to be all that they can be.

At present we have 65 pupils on roll and our projected numbers for September 2015 are 72. Our present financial stability allows us to continue to have 3 classes supported by 3 teaching assistants and we also employ a SEND co-ordinator.

In September 2014 the Government introduced a New National Curriculum. Our staff have worked together to develop a curriculum which is broad and balanced but also excites our pupils whilst developing their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Across the school the children's studies have included learning about pre-history, the Romans, homes and houses, space travel, the sea and also the environment. These areas of learning have been supported by trips and workshops with a variety of experts including archaeologists, museum staff and wildlife centre staff. Y5/6 also took part in a multi-agency event which was to raise their awareness of what they can do to increase their own and others safety. Safety was also the focus of the Anti-Bullying week and Road Safety week.

The children are also being coached on a weekly basis by the Community Sports Federation and swimming instruction takes place at Swanton Morley School pool. The school also put on a Christmas production "A Midwife Crisis" which gave a modern slant on the traditional Christmas story.

Story and Maths Cafes have also taken place over the year. Parents, Carers and grandparents are invited into school to join the children in a story session followed by a practical activity based around a theme. These sessions also give the staff the opportunity to explain the teaching of specific areas of the curriculum. New entrants have also been invited to special story café to welcome them into school. These events are well supported by parents and carers.

Our school values its links with the local community and with also providing its pupils with links to the wider world. Our school website and in particular our class blogs gives our children the opportunity to show case their work and achievements with a wider community.

In November our junior classes gathered around Beeston Church War Memorial on Remembrance Day. Having researched the names on the War memorial the children read out the names of the fallen, their home address, their regiment and the location of their final resting place. The prayers were led by the Reverend Boston and several parents, governors, and a relative of one of the fallen

were able to join us for this act of remembrance. This was a poignant moment which brought together past and present generations.

As mentioned last year Mr Perry took part in the Big Battlefield Bike Ride from Brussels to Paris. He raised over £6,000 for Help for Heroes. He found the experience very humbling and at times very emotional. Fund raising continues to be an important feature of our school. This year the school has supported The Macmillan Coffee Morning, the Poppy Appeal, Save the Children, the NSPCC and Red Nose Day.

Our active parent group "FOBS" continues to raise funds towards the cost of transport for school trips. These trips are an important part of providing relevant experiences linked to learning. Their most recent event raised over £200.

Good behaviour is an important feature of a good school and is developed through our Behaviour Policy. The policy encourages self-discipline and tries to develop children's self-esteem. Good behaviour is reinforced and praised and encouraged wherever possible. Good behaviour is recorded on a Corporate Award Chart and acknowledges corporate attendance and behaviour. A class works towards gaining 100 award points. In the summer term the whole school were rewarded with a trip to High Lodge at Thetford Forest. Stars class achieved their corporate target at Easter and decided to have a party.

The school continues to run an Early Starters Club and also a Teatime Club. The Early Starters Club runs every morning and the Teatime Club operates after school from 3pm until 4.30pm, every day except Friday. The Teatime Club enables children to catch up with homework or use the computers, or even just the time and space to chill out with friends.

Under new regulations our governing body is due to be reconstituted. We are always interesting in hearing from members of the community who would like to be governors. As governors we attend meetings twice a term and undertake training. This training has included child protection, performance management, basic finance and protecting public money. Through our School Development plan governors have specific areas of responsibilities and meet with staff on a regular basis.

Jenny Harris
Chair of Governors

BEESTON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Fiona Crump presented the report

This year has been a rollercoaster of a year and without the hard work of the Committee members it would have been even harder. My thanks to all who have helped. We made a number of savings with light and heat and water costs coming down and prices negotiated down and also with no waste collection. The hall has had a full check and any problems rectified, the boiler serviced and a new pump fitted. The theft of the large mower caused us and the cricket club a problem. Thanks to Rob Mullenger who cut the outfield this was minimised until a new mower was acquired from Ben Burgess with insurance money. Security was improved with a new alarm fitted and supplied by Gerry Taylor at Alarming UK. Bookings are steady with the Brownies, Dancers, Yoga, Cricket Club, Coffee mornings parish Council meetings as well as the Affinity trust for training days, also parties and celebrations. Funds are standing in good order and total £3686.07.

Future events for the year are a summer fair in June, Disco and BBQ in August, Beeston entertains in October plus the Christmas draw and bingo.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

This was read out by the Clerk.

County Councillor for Necton and Lauditch
Report for 2014 – 2015

The Council Tax levied by Norfolk County Council (NCC) will remain the same for 2015/2016.

An extra £150m has been granted by central government for highway maintenance and repairs. This will be forwarded in roughly equal payments over the next 6 years, it has not been decided what the extra money will be spent on but I understand that stalled capital projects such as resurfacing work and junction improvements will take priority.

Over 141,000 homes are now benefitting from the NCC/BT £30m (£15m from Central Government and £15m from NCC) Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) contract to provide superfast broadband. A second, £12m contract (BBfN2), is now in place to increase the superfast broadband coverage to 90% of household across Norfolk.

Government have also granted £18m to NCC to improve infrastructure in Norfolk Schools.

The Parish Partnership Scheme which funds small scale highway improvements will be funded at 75% by NCC in the next round, only a 25% contribution will be required from the participating Parish.

Previously this was a 50/50 cost sharing arrangement.

County Farms has been put on a much firmer financial footing and the 16,000 acres of Council owned farmland now contributes £2.5 to frontline services.

The Council changed from a Leader and Cabinet system of governance to a Committee system last May. A review of how the Committee system is working and an assessment of the need for improvement was promised for November last year but has not, as yet happened. There is some discontent among Members about the way the new system is working and that the "democratic deficit" is more marked than under the old Cabinet system which the introduction of the committee system was supposed to address.

Mark Kiddle-Morris

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

This was read out by The Clerk.

Breckland District Councillor for Launditch Ward **Annual Report 2014/15**

On May 7th elections will take place for Breckland District Council based on the new ward boundaries determined by the Boundary Commission in their review of last year. Launditch ward will remain essentially the same as before but with the addition of 2 new parishes; Fransham and Newton-by-Castle Acre.

Breckland has frozen Council Tax for the forthcoming year and has set a balanced budget for the next 2 years despite cutbacks in grants from central government and without cutting services or charging for car parking. This has been achieved by sharing our senior management with another council, sharing costs for revenue (Council Tax) and benefit administration with 5 other local councils, renegotiating service delivery contracts and managing the commercial property portfolio to produce income equal to that from Council Tax. Breckland's Council Tax remains the lowest in the country.

Progress on the new Local Plan (which will replace the Local Development Framework) has been maintained despite some changes to national planning policy which has necessarily altered some aspects of our emerging plan. The first Issues and Options consultation has been undertaken and comments are being analysed. The Preferred Options consultation will take place later this year with, hopefully, examination and adoption in 2016.

Breckland have been running innovative and award winning Economic Development programmes, Grants 4 Growth and REV Active, using money from the European Union. These mainly "green" initiatives have given £900k in grants to small businesses who have added inward investment of over £4.9m thus creating 118 new jobs and safeguarding over 280 jobs.

On the 1st October the recycling revolution was launched which saw a much wider range of waste, which previously went to landfill, recycled through the black bin collection. We have increased the

number of subscribers to the garden waste collection (Brown Bin) by over 800 and a record of 8000 tonnes was composted.

Breckland have successfully procured a partner in a Local asset Backed Vehicle (LABV) which has the potential to run for the next 15 – 20 years and will see regeneration, housing and community projects brought forward using Breckland assets and the developer skill and expertise of our partner. The first project to be started is the hotel and cinema complex in Thetford.

The Communities team still have grants available for projects in the future it is easy to apply through the Breckland website. A new switch and save initiative will be launched this year, last year's campaign saved an average of over £110 on utility bills. The Tour of Britain cycle race is coming to Breckland on the 12th September, Bawdeswell being the nearest location.

This is my last report as your District Councillor as am not seeking re-election on May 7th. Your new councillor will be Elizabeth Gould who is elected unopposed, Elizabeth lives in Beeston and has represented the Spingvale and Scarning ward for a number of years and I know she will represent your interests diligently.

Mark Kiddle-Morris
District Councillor.

OPEN FORUM.

In the Open Forum a parishioner raised the matter of a dog on Watery Lane whciuh had bitten someone and chased horse and sheep. The meeting was informed that instances like this should be reported to the Dog Warden but this had not been done at the time.

The meeting closed at 1933