

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Beeston with Bittering Parish Council held on **TUESDAY 30th APRIL 2013** in Beeston Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman: J. Farrall.

Councillors Present: J Kinnaird, B List, T Townshend

County and District Councillor M Kiddle Morris

2 Members of the Public.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Sharpin..

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012 had been circulated but could be read out if requested. No request was made. Councillor Kinnaird proposed and Councillor Farrall seconded the adoption of the minutes and these were duly signed as a true record.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2012**

Councillor Farrall read out his report as follows:-

The Parish Council (PC) has met 10 times since 26 April 2012, to deal with the usual Agenda of PC responsibilities, to elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman, to elect a further Vice Chairman and to co-opt one new Member.

The main issues have been: -

- 1 Representations to Breckland Council (BC) and Norfolk County Council (NCC) on Planning Applications
- 2 Broadband
- 3 Norfolk Minerals and Waste Plan
- 4 Highways in and around Beeston
- 5 Speed Watch
- 6 The Diamond Jubilee
- 7 Dog bins
- 8 Open Space Maintenance Contract
- 9 The Village Green
- 10 Beeston with Bittering website
- 11 S 106 Agreement, Longham Quarry
- 12 The 2012-3 Financial Position and a Budget for 2013-4
- 13 Membership of the PC

- 1 Planning Applications  
Power from Waste Centre, King's Lynn.

The PC repeated its objection on the grounds of its proximity to King's Lynn, where there might be pollution from the flue. A Public Local Enquiry is being held at present.

Development of 3 new dwellings, Brereton and Lazy Acre, Dereham Road.

The developer submitted a second set of proposals to Breckland Council (BC), which his agent claimed would overcome the Inspector's Reasons for Dismissing the Appeal held on 29 November 2012. The PC objected to the second application on the grounds that the layout did not avoid overlooking two existing dwellings and used a poorly-devised solution to the highway design. BC approved the second design and the developer later applied for the demolition of part of 'Brereton' as the means for providing a new access road. Because by then BC had already approved the second layout the PC's only recourse was to suggest that BC should negotiate improvements to conditions in the existing dwellings, with no effect.

### Re-cycling at Longham Quarry.

The PC repeated its support for a self-contained access for the development and asked Norfolk County Council (NCC) to refuse an extension of time for the development on the grounds that the developer had already been granted sufficient time to complete the restoration work within limits he had previously accepted. The new proposals incorporate a clearer restoration plan, which is an advantage.

### Extensions to existing dwellings.

There continues to a low volume of applications for this type of development, there may later be fewer as the new code on Permitted Development takes effect.

### Small Wind Turbines.

BC has now approved the erection of about 25 Wind Turbines in Beeston, enough to generate the equivalent of the power needed to supply 40 to 45 dwellings in an average year. The PC raised no objections in the past year.

## 2 Broadband

NCC has allocated a grant £15,000,000 to British Telecom (BT) for an increase in speed. The PC prefers BT to install the 'Infinity' system across the Parish, BT cannot commit itself but does plan to raise broadband speeds to 2.0 Mbps.

## 3 Norfolk Minerals and Waste Plan (NMWP)

NCC published a replacement plan on 27 April 2012 and consulted various bodies such as other local authorities, landowners and developers to determine which allocations to use. There is no longer a need for resources from within Beeston with Bittering and an earlier allocation for a waste recycling plant in Beeston was omitted. The PC objected to the volume of sand and gravel to be extracted in Beetley on the grounds these are too far from the A11 and Thetford where there is a high share of new allocations for development. The result would be unjustifiable and inefficient traffic on the local road system and the PC gave oral evidence to that effect at the Examination in Public of the NMWP in March this year. The Inspector will make his report within the next few months and may well refer to the need for a plan to exploit resources that are close to points of demand and to pay attention to lorry circulation.

## 4 Highways in and around Beeston

The results of the October 2007 Traffic Survey and other local observations point to the need for the footway on the west side of Dereham Road to be extended and for improved surface water drainage. The east side of Dereham Road at the school boundary is to be investigated for improvements to overcome existing unsafe and untidy features along the verge. Following the wet and cold winter of 2012-3 the incidence of potholes has increased significantly.

## 5 Speed Watch

The PC is on the point of setting up a local 'speed watch'. Among other things this should help to establish how far excessive speed represents a controllable hazard.

## 6 The Diamond Jubilee

The PC helped the village to organise a day of events to mark the occasion contributed £550 to pay for mugs and a cake. Income from sales on the day realised just over £700, from which the Organising Committee decided to grant £350 to two charities, The Air Ambulance and Help for Heroes. The event received good cover on TV and in the local press, Yvonne Ball, who was the Chair of the Organising Committee, wrote to the PC to express the committee's thanks for the work Cllr John Kinnaird had put into to the whole day.

## 7 Dog Bins

Three further dog bins have been installed in Back Lane, Dairy Drift and Syers Lane. These appear to be popular additions to the bin on the Village Green installed in 2011.

**8 Open Space Maintenance Contract**

The PC appointed a new contractor in 2012 and duly placed the work with him. The PC has advertised the contract again and found a second replacement contractor whom the PC has now appointed to the job.

**9 The Village Green**

Nigel Barnett, Fransham Forge, held a working session of Artist Blacksmiths from the UK and Europe that made a seat soon to be assembled and installed on the Village Green. The PC thanks a parishioner who has sponsored the material and transport costs of the work. For a balance of cost and control reasons he PC decided not to buy the existing Village Green.

**10 Beeston Website**

Paul Marchant has set up a website for the village, the PC is grateful for his endeavour and has reimbursed him for the costs involved.

**11 S106 Agreement, Longham Quarry**

Under a long-standing S106 Agreement NCC accepted £4,000 to improve footpaths in three parishes where either the increased traffic or the development itself might be a disadvantage. There are very few eligible paths although NCC, who hold the funds has proposed a range of measures that would cost much less than the original contribution. The three PCs are trying to negotiate for the money to be diverted to other non-commercial projects in their areas and thus far the developer appears to be willing for the change to happen. The process may take several months.

**12 The 2012-3 Financial Position and a Budget for 2013-4**

In 2012-3 the PC had an income of £6,400 from its precept and made grants to a range of local charities: -

Beeston Diamond Jubilee	550
New Dog Bins	310
Beeston Playing Field Committee	1170
Dereham CAB	50
Bittering Church grounds	100
Beeston Church Grounds	300 (pending)
Beeston Village Hall upkeep	750
Beeston Village Hall floor polisher	345

After three years of standstill the PC has been obliged to increase its local precept. Its recurring costs have increased at or above the rate of inflation and from 2015 onwards the PC will have to pay the cost of the four-yearly PC elections, previously a BC responsibility now to be transferred to its constituent PCs. Next year's budget sets out to balance income and costs from the resources due for the year, eg. the Village Hall and Playing Fields, other charities within the Parish, The Citizens' Advice Bureau and similar organisations and to establish a fund for PC elections.

**13 Membership of the Parish Council**

There have been two further resignations from the PC since the last Annual Meeting, Cllr Gay Davidson and Cllr Darren Barter, and one co-option, Cllr Becky List. There are hence two vacancies, which it would be vital to fill to enable the PC to have a good quorum at its disposal.

Julian Farrall 30 April 2013

**FUEL CHARITY ACCOUNT**

The Clerk reported that 49 parishioners received £20 from the Beeston Fuel Charity, of which 1 has not been cashed. The balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 is £188.27. The results of the rent review have not as yet been received.

**REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS****1<sup>ST</sup> BEESTON RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES**

No report was received

**BEESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL****St Mary the Virgin Beeston****Parochial Church Council report to Beeston Parish Council, for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012**

The general pattern of services has continued as previously, with services held in the benefice jointly, on the first and fifth Sundays of the month. Beeston observes Eucharist on the second Sunday and Rev Martin Joyce regularly officiated at these services throughout the year. No service is held on the third Sunday and Matins are held on the fourth.

Special services included Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, and Christmas. The Carol service included items by the Brownies and Rainbows, as well as by the King's Lynn Deaf Choir. We are grateful to the staff and children of Beeston School who once again held their Christingle service in the church. This was very well supported by friends and families.

There was one wedding, five baptisms and two funerals during the year.

There was no Mini Fete in 2012 as the PCC wished to support other organisations in the village in commemorating the Queen's Jubilee. In co-operation with Beeston School, Rev Martin Joyce, as the "Archbishop of Canterbury", conducted the (re-enactment) "Coronation of Queen Elizabeth" service as part of the village celebrations in June. To mark the occasion, the church bell was rung as the "Queen and Duke" arrived at the church. The PCC would like to thank the Parish Council for their support to the PCC and by making the Jubilee mugs available to children in the congregation at the end of this service.

Our churchyard is kept neat and tidy by both Mr Peter Cross and Rodney Walthew, as well as those who carefully tend their own family grave plots, and in some cases, those nearby. This is most appreciated as it is very much a time consuming job to cut the grass around and in between plots. We are very fortunate in that we have a very loyal band of excellent volunteers on our flower rota. They do a wonderful job in keeping the church interior attractive and clean. We are also exceptionally fortunate in having not one, but two organists and a first rate team of officers to ensure the smooth running of the church.

Fundraising occasions included the Lent Lunch, Norfolk Churches Trust Cycle Ride, a choir concert and Harvest Lunch. Funds raised at the Lent Lunch were sent to the charity "Empowering Women in Papua New Guinea". We are indebted to Beeston Brewery, and Mike, the Village Butcher, for their co-operation in making the Bonfire BBQ so successful.

(Although major building work has been successfully completed, recent inspections revealed very urgent replacement/repairs to several windows an absolute necessity. Estimated cost at approx. £1600.00 +VAT per window).

There were six PCC meetings, held during the year, as well as occasional extra ordinary meetings as the need arose. Held in the Village Hall, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, of which Rev Martin Joyce is chairman, elected the following officers:

Vice chair: Jill Scott

Churchwardens: Wendy Carter, Andrew Lawrence

Secretary: Di Walthew

Treasurer: Wendy Carter

This report provides a great opportunity for us to thank the people living in our community who, in so many ways support our endeavours. We thank you for this support, your friendship and your generosity.

**FRIENDS OF BEESTON SCHOOL**

No report was received.

**BEESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

No report was given.

**BEESTON CRICKET CLUB**

The club last year put two teams into the West Norfolk League with the first team finishing mid table in Division 3 and the second team finishing one off the bottom in Division 4. The club also ran training sessions for youngsters as well as adults on Thursday nights. These were well attended by the children of the village. The club will again be running 2 teams and doing sessions for youngsters in the coming season. The club is also looking to get some more equipment, e.g. bowling machine, bats, etc., either through grants or sponsorship or other funding.

**BITTERING PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL****Bittering Parva SS. Peter & Paul****Annual Report for 2012**

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Wendling 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.

- Churchwardens appointed for 2012 were Dr. Jack Leggett & Miss. Jane Napier-Wilson.
  - Members & Officers of the PCC duly elected to office in 2012 were:- Lay vice-Chair & Building & Fabric Officer : Dr. Jack Leggett. PCC Secretary: Jane Napier-Wilson. P CC 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 2012.
  - 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 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.
  - On average 8 people attended normal Sunday worship.
  - Attendance at the Major Festivals:- Harvest 7: Christmas Carols 40: Easter - no service.
  - 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 £15 to Norfolk Churches Trust.
  - Bittering Parva generously contributes to the meeting of Benefice expenses for its fulltime priest.
  - Parish Share for 2012 was £1 500 of which the PCC was able to pay 33%. £409 remained in General Funds (not including Building Fund) as a working balance.
- Summary of Specific Parish News (*other information available on request*)
- The Bishop of Lynn, Rt. Rev. Jonathon Meyrick, attended & preached at our Carol Service, which was again both well attended & appreciated.
  - The PCC updated its *Committed to Growth* Growth Plan for 2013 - 2018.
  - The PCC is sincerely grateful to Beeston Parish Council for its generous support towards the cost of Churchyard maintenance.
  - Various maintenance and works have been done to/in the Church & as well as planting within the Churchyard.
  - Mr. Geoff Baldwin very kindly replaced our Public Noticeboard.
  - A set of "Mission Praise" hymn/song books was kindly donated by Gressenhall St. Mary.
  - *The Friends of Bittering Parva* ran a very enjoyable Pancake Day event in February; and a well-attended "60s Night" at the White Horse Longham in May. A fund-raising Coffee

Morning was held in October.

- The Church Building & Fabric Logbook was written with the kind assistance of Dr. Jack Leggett (Churchwarden) & Mr. Christopher Codling (Architect).
- We again hosted the Group Holy Communion in July. This was followed by a Picnic at Lodge Farm - with sincere thanks to Roger Kemp.
- There were no Occasional Services held here during 2012.

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: 18/4/2013 Churchwardens: J. Leggett J. Napier-Wilson

### **BEESTON SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

Beeston Primary School 2012 – 2013

A report from the Chair of Governors.

There are 66 children on roll and they are taught in 3 classes.

The SATS results in the summer were excellent. In English all the Y6 children achieved level 4, with 50% achieving level 5. In Maths, 89% achieved level 4 and 40% achieved level 5.

The school continues to provide the children with an enriched curriculum. The children have visited Bewilderwood, Amazonia, The Sainsbury Centre, The National Space Museum and London to name just a few. They have been excellent ambassadors for the school.

Fundraising is also an important feature of life at Beeston School. Cakes have been baked, sport shoes put on in order to raise money for such worthy causes as the Macmillan Cancer fund, Children in Need and Sports Relief.

Our links with the village are important and this year's Diamond Jubilee celebrations provided an opportunity to strengthen these links. Our annual Christingle Service has now become part of village tradition and this year it created a traffic jam in the village.

The school continues to keep alive its links with the 392nd that were based at Wendling. The children worked with the Norwich Archive Office as part of Remembrance week looking at artefacts linked to the 392nd. The school then featured in their newsletter.

There have been several changes to our governing body but after a successful recruitment campaign we have 3 new parent governors, one local authority governor and a new clerk. We now have a full governing body comprising of 3 parent governors, 2 local authority governors, 2 community governors, 1 staff governor and our headteacher.

### **BEESTON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE**

AGM MEETING 22nd APRIL 2013

We have had a fairly uneventful year, although we have lost two more committee members and our cleaner, Margaret, was taken ill and unable to work. Fortunately her daughter-in-law, Annie, has been able to come instead and seems to be very conscientious and keen to make the Hall look good. As Tina retired from the committee we were left without a treasurer once again. I offered to take on the accounts temporarily. However, when Fiona Crump moved into the village she agreed to be our new treasure and we are very grateful to her.

After more work was done to the heating there have been fewer problems but it has not always been reliable and Wayne has had to sort it out on several occasions. We are always very worried that it will be working for the yoga class and Wayne often comes up to check it beforehand. Unfortunately the fence has been broken and still needs mending. Wayne is very busy at present but will do it when he can find the time.

The bookings have been very much the same but with the addition last year of the Circus Workshop which came for several days. All the primary school children enjoyed learning new skills and then giving performances at the end of the week. A bucket collection raised about £125 for the Hall funds. A new table tennis club has started on Saturday mornings and we were given a table tennis table so it is good to see it being used. A Zumba class also started but closed again after a few weeks because of lack of interest. The Brownies held a Christmas Fair and that was well attended.

Robert Wall held another disco evening and hog roast and raised several hundred pounds that was shared between the Village Hall and the Cricket Club. The donation for the Hall has gone into our fund for new play equipment. The Cricket Club held their Bingo sessions that also resulted in additional funds for the Hall.

The Jive dance sessions will be held here again twice a month, together with ballroom dancing as before. The coffee morning has been changed from Friday morning to Monday in the hope that might enable more people to come.

Beeston Entertains was held in June and was the usual success, raising more funds. The Cricket Match and fun day was rather hampered by the weather and very few people came during the day. However, several more came in the evening and we held the usual disco and barbeque and even managed to raise a small profit. We have decided to try a slightly different format this year by having a taster sports session from Active Norfolk, a bouncy castle and other attractions with a barbeque at lunch time as well as during the evening. The Brownies are holding a plant tombola stall and will help with the teas. Hopefully this will attract more people. Jonathan has arranged for the event to be opened by our MEP, Vicky Ford. We are holding a Race Night on May 31st and another Beeston Entertains will take place on June 22nd. The Cricket Match and Sports Day will be on July 13th.

Our main aim now is to improve the play facilities and we have obtained quotes for more play equipment. As this is very expensive we plan to exhibit the details at the Cricket Match and ask for suggestions as to which pieces of equipment would be most appreciated. We have been investigating grants and donations that may be available to help finance this project.

#### **BEESTON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE.**

Charity registration: 268730

#### **Financial Statements 2011/12 and 2012/13**

	2011/12	2012/13
<b>£ £</b>		
<b>INCOME</b>		
Hire of hall/field	2871	2698
Social/fundraising events	406	1465
Recycling	148	104
Parish Council Grant	1313	3208
Donations	50	122
Insurance Claim	10096	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14884</b>	<b>7596</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Water, Heat & Light	2002	2062
Insurances/Subs/Licences	1115	1189
Funding Events	230	352
Cleaning/Maintenance	13612 *	1742
Postage/Stationery	13	2
Donations	270	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16972</b>	<b>5616</b>
<b>SURPLUS/-DEFICIT</b>	<b>-2088</b>	<b>1980</b>

\* Includes repairs re Ins claim

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT****Norfolk County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Division****Annual Report – 2012/2013**

The past year has seen work continuing on making the Council more efficient to balance the books in light of changes to the way central government funds local Councils. Through efficiencies and redesign of services the Council has managed to save £135m from the annual budget while protecting core services such as adult social services, childrens services, libraries, the fire and rescue service, recycling centres, highway maintenance and our museums. The Council has however managed to keep tax levels down and 2013/14 will be the third year that there has been no rise in the County Council share of council tax.

“The Big Conversation” of 2010/11 identified those services that the majority of the public valued and the County council has prioritised those wishes. In addition the following projects have come to fruition over the last year:

- The Norfolk Community Construction Fund has provided £4.5m this year and next to supply grants for community projects and has helped parish councils and other village organisations to improve facilities in their communities.
- The “Better Broadband” campaign has secured £15m from central government and been matched by the County Council allowing a £30m contract to be signed with BT to provide at least 2Mb broadband speeds to 99% of Norfolk by 2015.
- A new £1m recycling centre has been opened in Dereham.
- Allocated £2m this year and next to fund local highway improvements requested by parish councils. The parish council contribution has been reduced from 50% to 25% of the total cost for next year and in retrospect for last years completed projects.
- £3.5m has been invested to support 500 apprentice placements to help young people into work and to provide an increased skill base to aid economic recovery.
- Norfolk spends £14m each year providing the library service and we have made some changes to the way we operate the libraries to ensure they remain open. The Norwich Millennium Library is the most used library in the country with 1.3m visitors.

Better road and rail communication links with London and the Midland have always been seen as vital to the economic wellbeing of Norfolk. The long running campaign to have the A11 dualled has at last met with success and will undoubtedly attract investment in Norfolk along the A11 corridor. However, the A47 link from the Midlands is probably of more importance and the economic benefits of a dualled A47 to the majority of Norfolk between Kings Lynn and Yarmouth would be enormous; the campaign for this improvement is being led by the County Council. Vital investment in the track between Kings Lynn and London has been secured allowing better capacity shorter journey times after a successful campaign by the County Council and local MP's.

Highway maintenance and winter route clearance have always been high on any agenda at parish council meetings and of concern to residents. In the past year over £2m of extra money has been put into summer road maintenance to repair the trouble caused by the really cold weather over the last few winters in 2012 we spent some £44m in maintaining Norfolk's roads. Gritting of roads during frosty and snowy weather has caused some concerns to residents as to why “their road” is not gritted. Each settlement is provided with one gritted route (not always the most convenient) to the nearest main access route, each operation to grit these priority one routes costs in excess of £45k and these are sometimes done twice in 24h. Therefore there is little room, in budget terms, to increase the length of any gritted route.

In all it has been a challenging year for Norfolk County Council which has seen a careful reduction in budget requirements which has produced an under spend from the requirements forecast allowing some of the surplus to be put to projects as outlined earlier. With good financial management over



the next year I am positive that we can maintain the services we provide to the people of Norfolk and provide the stimulus to the local economy that will encourage the provision of meaningful jobs when the economy grows in the future.

Elections take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> this year to elect a new Council.

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

### **DISTRICT COUCILLORS REPORT 2013** **LAUNDITCH WARD**

As with all local Councils Breckland District Council has suffered from the tightening of the central government purse strings over the last year. The rate support grant (RSG) was reduced in 2012 by just over 12% making a "hole" in the budget of around £1.2m.

However, the Council had planned for this eventuality and pioneered the appointment of a shared chief executive with South Holland Council which led subsequently to a shared senior management team saving both councils around £0.5m. Reorganising some departments allowed efficiency savings to be realised which amounted to £0.2m. New homes bonus and other non-ring fenced grants made up for around £0.5m. So for 2012/13 the Council was able to keep tax levels the same as the year before without cutting any services.

Breckland have the lowest Council tax in the country which for 2012/13 stood at £64.05 for a band D property; 69% of properties are in the A-D bracket and the services provided by the Council are paid for by the £2.3m of tax which we collect for our own use and through a commercial property portfolio that currently produces revenue of £2.2m

I would remind you of some of the services the Council provide:

- Refuse collection and fly tip removal.
- Planning and building control
- Licensing of taxis and pubs
- Planning strategy and policies
- Homelessness and social housing
- Council tax collection (for NCC, Police and towns and parishes)
- Food hygiene and health and safety inspections

Central government will continue to squeeze budgets to reduce their borrowing; in 2 years' time, 2015/16, Breckland will be facing a budget shortfall in the region of £2m. To partly bridge the shortfall the Council have been permitted to raise council tax above the 2% ceiling for 2013/14 and have increased the band D tax by £4.98 or 9.6p per week, which will increase the tax take by £200k. You may remember that early last year we carried out our "Big Conversation" with the electorate where we asked for suggestions as to where we could reduce services or charge for some things that are not charged for. Charging for car parking was the hot potato. Surprisingly a majority of respondents were in favour of raising council tax which we have done and not made a charge for car parking.

Undoubtedly we will have to find more ways to reduce our budget over the next few years and to do this without reducing or deleting the services we provide and the public expect.

The meeting closed at 1933