

**Minutes of the Meeting of Beeston With Bittering Parish Council held at Beeston Village Hall
on Monday 25th March 2024 at 7:00pm.**

Present: Jim Pitt, Chairman
Mandy Hall
Peter Cook
Natalie Arnold
Suzie Tucker – arrived at 7.02
Natalie Gould, Clerk

Also present: There were no members of the public present. District and County Councillor Mark Kiddle Morris was in attendance.

1 Public Forum

There were no requests to speak.

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr Greene and Cllr Scott have sent their apologies ahead of the meeting.

3 Declarations of interest for items and applications for dispensations

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Approve minutes of meeting 26th February 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. This was proposed by Cllr Hall and seconded by Cllr Arnold. All were in favour.

5 Norfolk District/County Report

It was confirmed that the council tax has gone up by nearly 5%. It was noted that there was a big hole in the social care budget that was discovered in October.

The devolution deal is still going ahead at the moment, with the next vote taking place in July which would change the constitution for a directly elected leader to be the leader of the council. This person will not be a councillor, but will lead the council, similar to the way a mayor works.

ACTION: Cllr Kiddle Morris has produced a bi-monthly report and this will be circulated to the councillors once received.

With an increase of less than £5, Breckland's council tax is still the lowest district council tax in the country.

The local plan consultation will be out from mid April to the end of May. Cllr Kiddle Morris has only seen the draft version of the current plan and things may change for the version coming out in April. This version will go out to all statutory consultees, including the environment agency and highways.

6 Planning

a) Applications received

None received.

b) Applications received since the publication of the agenda

None received.

c) Planning decisions

None received.

d) Planning decisions received since publication of the agenda

None received.

e) Enforcement updates

Nothing outstanding.

7 Correspondence

The correspondence list was reviewed.

8 Finance

a) To note Bank Reconciliations

The bank reconciliation was noted.

b) To note Accounts

The banking payments were noted.

c) To approve items for payment:

N. Gould	Salary	£172.80
HMRC	Income tax	£43.20
N. Gould	Expenses	£216.83

Cllr Hall proposed that the payments were agreed and Cllr Tucker seconded. All were in favour.

d) To approve payment of invoices received since the publication of the agenda

There were no additional invoices.

e) To appoint an internal auditor

It was agreed that Andrew Stewart will conduct the internal audit again this year. Cllr Tucker proposed the motion, Cllr Hall seconded and all were in favour.

9 Action Log

The action log was reviewed and the following updates were noted.

The beacon rental idea has been quashed so this can be removed from the action log.

Canary yellow caps with the parish logo on have been arranged, rather than hi-vis as discussed last month. These are being printed locally for a cost of £9.95 each. These are for members of the parish council to wear when representing in their councillor capacity.

10 Litter Pick Review

35 people assembled for the parish litter pick, collecting 25 bin bags of rubbish, 2 bicycle wheels, one rat, a car tyre and a one armed wheelbarrow.

The next one will be arranged for sometime in September.

11 Grass Cutting Contract

Following the end of the previous grass cutting contract, two quotes were sought and discussed. Cllr Pitt knew both of the quoters and so remained out of the decision process. Cllr Cook

proposed that Glass and Grass Norfolk be given the grass cutting contract for both the Millenium Lakes area and the Village Green. Cllr tucker seconded the motion and all were in favour.

12 D-day event & Beacon

The parish council will be running a D-Day celebration event at the village hall from 5.30pm onwards, with a fish and chip supper, 40's dress up & kids games.

ACTION: Cllr Pitt will find out the limit on people numbers at the village hall.

Based on 16 tables, with 4 people per table, the proposed audience would be 64. The proposed cost is £10, in line with a previous event run by the village hall committee.

ACTION: A teaser is to be placed in the church and village magazine.

Although the event will not feature a beacon, a tilly lamp of peace will be used instead.

Agenda item: Cllr Tucker will speak with Gemma about organising a poster for advertising.

13 Millenium Lakes Footbridge

Cllr Cook has found some railings suitable for the Millenium Lakes footbridge. The cost for this will be around £570 if the price cannot be negotiated. Cllr Hall proposed that a purchase of up to this amount be agreed and Cllr Arnold has seconded the purchase. All were in favour.

14 Speedwatch Update

Approval for the speedwatch sites has been given. The volunteers have all been contacted to organise suitable dates for the training. Dates are being looked at for this to take place in May.

15 Local Policing Update

After a request for an update on local policing in the area, the following report was provided.

In the last 28 days they have only had one call for service from Beeston with Bittering which was for a missing person matter.

They strongly recommend that parishes are represented at their public Priority Setting Meetings which are held every 3 months and provide an opportunity for local concerns or questions to be raised directly with the local policing team.

The next Dereham meetings are the 5th June, 4th September and 11th December. All of these will be held in the Dereham Council Offices at 7pm.

16 Agenda items for meeting in April 2024

- Next years dates
- Push April meeting stuff rather than May
- D-day

Meeting closed at 8.07pm.

Date of next Parish Council meeting: 22nd April 2024 at 7:00pm