

MINUTES OF BEACHAMWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 11th May 2015 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

Present:

Councillors: John Adcock (Chair), Julie Ive, Diana Lambert (Vice Chair), Mark Powell, Tom Sanderson, Philip Spencer and Darren Wakelen

County Councillor: Cllr Ian Monson [arrived late as he had been to another Parish Council Meeting]

District Councillor: Cllr Peter Wilkinson

Parish Clerk: Mrs Eileen Powell

Members of the Public: Mrs Janet Blackburn, Mr Gordon Ranger and Mrs Helen Ranger

Apologies:

Members of the Public: Mrs Leah Spencer

Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:

None

Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2015

Cllr. Lambert proposed that they are accepted, Cllr. Powell seconded the proposal, passed nem con and signed.

Matters Arising

1.	Highways Update	a) Big pot hole at entrance to Equestrian Centre. b) Signpost arms still loose. Was reported and will be dealt with asap. c) Cow parsley obscuring view at end of White Road.
2.	Salt/Grit Bin at Shingham	Cllr Sanderson and Cllr Wilkinson are going to look into this problem.
3.	Registering Community Asset Great Danes Country Inn	Cllr Spencer will take this over.
4.	Triangle of land outside The Lodge	All required information has been passed onto Mr Walker.
5.	Recycling Bin (Bottle Bank)	Final payment has been received – see below
6.	Sign ‘The Green’	It was agreed to pay the £96 requested to change the position of the sign.
7.	Bus Stop now refurbished inside	All agreed the inside of the Bus Shelter looks good. Mrs Spencer has offered to put up the first exhibition – this was accepted
8.	Suggested use of Bus Shelter:	<i>Email from Helen Martin: I understand that Beachamwell Parish Council recently contacted my colleague Paul to enquire about the timescales for improving the bus stop by the bus shelter on Chestnut Walk in Beachamwell. I am pleased to advise that we could fund improvement works at this location next year (15/16) if a scheme can be agreed. I have met with Paul on site to discuss the scope of works and a sketch showing our proposals is attached for your consideration. We are very keen to ensure that the works to improve access to the bus do not result in ponding of surface water in your shelter and believe that our proposal will enable better access to the bus, without this occurring. To move forward the scheme needs the support of the Parish Council, the County Councillor, the Highway Engineer and the bus operator, and so I would be grateful if you could review the attached plan and let me know your comments. Parish Council accepted the proposal</i>

9.	Rural Settlement Boundary	Let it drop for the moment and see what happens in the Autumn
10.	Parish Council Website	Mrs Powell will be attending a course.

Planning Applications for consideration / considered:

1. 3PL/2014/1113/F Erection of eco lifetime home with stables, paddocks, grass riding area, all weather riding surface and new trees [withdrawn]
2. 3PL/2015/0083/F 38-40 Old Hall Lane PE37 8BA. Alts & extend dwelling & erect 1 linked new dwelling, including new access driveway & garages for both. Planning Permission Refused [see below]
3. 3PL/2015/0189/F Proposed building Site: Adjacent to 4 Drymere – construction of semi-detached cottages. Planning Permission Refused
4. 3PL/2015/0465/F 38-40 Old Hall Lane PE37 8BA. Alts & ext to extg dwelling, erection of linked dwelling & garage & garages for extg dwellings inc. access

Public Participation:

Cllr Adcock asked that a motion to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public an opportunity to inform the meeting be considered.

The meeting was suspended at 8.47 pm as requested, proposed by Cllr Lambert, seconded by Cllr. Sanderson and agreed nem con.

Mrs Blackbourn asked for an explanation of item 3 Matters Arising. Cllr Sanderson obliged.

Although Public Participation is a flexible item on the Agenda it was requested that it is placed as item 4 in future. This was agreed.

The meeting was re-opened at 8.59 pm proposed by Cllr Lambert, seconded by Cllr. Sanderson and agreed nem con

Finance:

1.	Current Account	£5983.94
2.	Business Account	£779.87
3.	Recycling – Final Payment	£253.25
4.	Payment for Internal Auditor	£50.00
5.	Bank Mandate	Cllr Sanderson and Mrs Powell's names to be added to this
6.	NALC Subscription for 2015 - 2016	£101.70

Correspondence

As always, emails from County, NALC, Rural Services etc are circulated to Councillors and if relevant to parishioners.

Decisions:

Date 2015.05.03

1. 3PL/2015/0465/F 38-40 Old Hall Lane PE37 8BA. Alts & ext to extg dwelling, erection of linked dwelling & garage & garages for extg dwellings inc. access [see above]
2. Email from Mrs Pennell re Churchyard Volunteers Lead should be taken by PCC
3. Light Pollution Conference – does anyone wish to attend? Cllr Powell will be attending
4. Registering Community Asset – Great Danes Head - See Matters Arising

Information:

Date 2015.05.03

1. 3PL/2015/0189/F 38-40 [see above] Planning Permission Refused
2. Clerks & Councils Direct

Other Business

1	Trees at Shingham Churchyard [Cllr Lambert]	Leylandii branches are hanging over graves. Can they be cut back? a) Cllr Sanderson will discuss with Mr Hugh Mason and PCC - Mr John Sanderson b) Cllr Spencer will discuss with Dr Baker
2	State of phone box on the Green	Mrs Powell to check with BT
3	Spares for K6 Red Telephone Box?	None required

4	Transparency Code [Cllr Spencer]	There is to be a sub committee. Cllrs Spencer and Ive.
5.	Heritage Open Days in Breckland – suggestions?	a) Cllr Spencer to organise a walk to Toot Hill b) Cllr Sanderson will check with Mr Hugh Mason about the possibility of a visit to St Botolph's Church, Shingham.

County Councillor's Report:

See attached report from Cllr Monson
Cllr Monson was thanked

District Councillor's Report:

Cllr Wilkinson is our new District Councillor. He introduced himself and gave a brief run down on election results for Breckland – 49 councillors in total made up of 42 Conservative / 4 Ukip / 2 labour / 1 independent.
Cllr Wilkinson was thanked.

Items for next agenda: None

Dates of forthcoming meetings:

2015: July 13th, September 14th, November 9th

2016: January 11th March 14th, May 9th

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Cllr J. Adcock signed as correct 13th July 2015

Norfolk County Councillor Report Spring 2015

Ian Monson Member for the Brecks Division

The 2014/15 year has been difficult. Grant reductions from Government coupled with spiralling costs and increased public expectations have eaten into the Councils reserves. Efficiency savings have been made through redundancy and improved good practice, but this has not arrested the growing financial deficit. The current Rainbow Coalition, led by Labour, seems unable or unwilling to take the necessary measures to correct the slide that will without doubt continue to worsen over this current year.

In regard to services, Adult Social Care, in spite of a few well publicised disasters, is offering improved long term care in modernised Care Homes with care at home also being expanded and improved. There is much greater co-ordination with the NHS to find places for patients who have to be discharged from hospital. There is still along way to go. Credit must be given to the hundreds of Care Workers the Council employs who 24/7 are looking after our rapidly increasing elderly population. They do an excellent job and I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Children's services, another vital department at County Hall has recently adopted a more proactive approach to stop the continuing increase in looked after children. This is centred on spotting the problems in families earlier and trying to improve them before the child has to be taken into care. There has been limited success here and costs have been reduced. In Education more schools are

becoming independent Academies and this has necessitated a reduction in Council administration costs. However the Council can still offer professional advice and help if needed. It still remains open as to whether the schools are improving or not from these changes.

Our Libraries and Museums have had another record year in visitor numbers, offering an excellent and varied service, and this is in spite of considerable funding reductions.

Trading Standards, also with reduced funding have had to keep up with the ever increasingly sophisticated criminal fraudster. I take my hat off to the officers in this department for what they have achieved over the year.

Our Fire Department has lost 5% of its funding last year, but through sheer dedication and training it is still rated as one of the most efficient fire services in the Country.

Roads and Transport have also seen funding reductions and a few more bus services have been cut through lack of use. However this part of Norfolk has not been badly affected. Service maintenance to our roads has been kept up, and the Rangers continue to help Parish Councils at a local level. This has been mainly due to a series of ring fenced government grants.

One of the biggest blows to the Council's budget has been the cancellation of the Incinerator project last year. Cancelled at a cost of £35 million, we are now also faced with double the cost of disposal of our waste for at least the next five years. This amounts to finding an extra £20 million each year.

These are difficult times. With the Council politically gridlocked, decisions are not being made as they should. Weak leadership of the Administration does not help, but I can assure you I will do my personal best to make sure services get properly and fully delivered right down to local Parish level.

IM