

MINUTES OF BEACHAMWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 9th March 2015 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Brian Cockerill, Diana Lambert (Vice Chair), Mark Powell and Tom Sanderson

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs Eileen Powell

Members of the Public: Mrs Janet Blackbourn, Mr Mike Craske, Mrs Teresa Craske, Mr Doug Saunders, Mr Philip Spencer, Mr Darren Wakelen, Mrs Kirsty Wakelen, Mr Graham Williams, Mrs Sonia Williams and Mr Michael Wright

Apologies:

John Adcock (Chair) [America]

Pat Clarke [Unwell]

District Councillor: Cllr Mike Nairn [see District Councillor's report below]

Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:

None

Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2015

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

Matters Arising:

1. Highways Update	Next Highways ranger visit will be 30 th March
2. Salt/Grit Bin at Shingham	Cllr Adcock and Mr Green met Mr Paul Groom. Suggestion was not accepted matter pending
3. Registering Community Asset Great Danes Country Inn	Papers to be circulated
4. Triangle of land outside The Lodge:	A letter supporting Mr Walker's application has been sent.
5. Recycling Bin (Bottle Bank)	This has now been removed. <i>Teresa Tufts wrote: We will still qualify for a payment for the glass recycled through the bank this year and are guaranteed payment for 14/15 so we will receive at least £253.25. We will be contacted at the end of April with the full details</i>
6. Sign 'The Green'	Still waiting for the final quote contractor via Jason Elliott
7. Bus Stop	Pending
8. Suggested use of Bus Shelter:	Quote accepted. Councillors agreed that the work should go ahead.
9. Trees and hedges in The Street	Cllr Sanderson - Pending
10. Elections	Information received has been displayed on notice board
11. Rural Settlement Boundary	Mrs Powell to write to Mike Brennan (Planning) as to why Beachamwell was put on the list of villages which don't have a Settlement Boundary when the Parish Council voted to keep the settlement Boundary.
12. Web Site	Mrs Powell has been and is looking into this.

Planning Applications for consideration / considered:

1. Erection of eco lifetime home with stables, paddocks, grass riding area, all weather riding surface and new trees 3PL/2014/1113/F	Still waiting to hear from Breckland Council
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	Parish Councillors Decision <i>The majority of the Councillors, on the whole, do not have a problem with this application.</i> <i>However, they are concerned about;</i> <i>1). The closeness to the bungalow next door.</i> <i>2). The adverse effect this could have on the light to the bungalow.</i>
3. 3PL/2015/0189/F Proposed building Site: Adjacent to Drymere – construction of semi-detached cottages.	<i>Comments submitted by Drymere residents to Breckland circulated before Councillors comments discussed.</i> <i>5 objections, 1 no objection. 1 abstention</i>

First Public Participation:

Cllr Lambert 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 7.55 pm as requested, proposed by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr. Cockerill and agreed nem con.

The lengthy discussion in this part of the meeting was pertaining to 3PL/2015/0189/F Proposed building Site: Adjacent to 4 Drymere – construction of semi-detached cottages. The points raised were:-

1. Drymere is a tiny hamlet in an agricultural and forestry setting. It is inappropriate for any development to take place as it would change the heart of Drymere. (There are only 14 residents in the hamlet and 6 have submitted objections on line)
2. If permission is granted for this application it will open the door for further development. This is not appropriate on agricultural land and will not be sustainable in the long term.

3. There is concern about other fields in Drymere which could become possible building plots – there is already one field where there is a wooden building with a front door and letter box. Apparently the owner has already installed a septic tank and mains water supply.
4. There are few services in Drymere:-
 - There is no mains sewerage. There is concern about the septic tanks in use as they are not draining as well as could be expected.
 - The proposed buildings will be on higher ground immediately opposite to another property – concern that the septic runoff could/would contaminate this property's ground. If/when water overflows who will be responsible?
5. Highways – concern was expressed by all the residents of Drymere who were present, that the road, which is narrow and bendy, is in a poor condition. It is too narrow for the volume of traffic and size of vehicles, especially horse boxes, large vans and large agricultural machinery.
6. Concern was expressed about privacy.
7. Stone curlews have been seen nesting near the road by 'Arthur's Belt' which is a belt of trees almost opposite the proposed development. Concern was also expressed about the effect on the abundant wildlife in general.

The meeting was re-opened at 8.20 pm proposed by Cllr Cockerill, seconded by Cllr. Sanderson and agreed nem con

Finance:

1. Current Account	£4244.45
2. Business Account	£779.87
3. Payment for clerk to attend election workshop	£30.00 payment for Election workshop was approved. Mrs Powell to attend.

Correspondence:

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

Decisions:

Date 2015.01.23

1. Email – Signposts
2. Email – Draft letter re The Lodge Triangle

Date 2015.01.27

1. Email & correspondence – Voluntary Gritting of Footpaths

Date 2015.01.29

1. Quote for Bus Stop Renovation
2. 2nd email re Voluntary Gritting of Footpaths

Date 2015.02.24

1. Forthcoming Highways Rangers visit – any work?
2. Diversion Order 2015 – Beachamwell Bridleway no 11 – (part)

Information:

Date 2015.01.23

1. Email - Bus Stop Improvements
2. Letter – Top Garden Services
3. New Anglia Growth Hub

Date 2015.01.29

1. Fire Risk services
2. Email confirming Removal of Bottle Bank

Date 2015.02.04

1. Information collected at Town & Parish Forum

Date 2015.02.24

1. Clerks and Councils Direct Jan 2015

Other Business:

1. Use of Village Green for Open Garden day	No objection
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Second Public Participation:

Cllr Monson, after having attended another Parish Council meeting, joined us. Cllr Lambert asked that a motion to suspend the meeting a second time to allow members of the public an opportunity to inform the meeting be considered.

The meeting was suspended at 8.35 pm as requested, proposed by Cllr Cockerill, seconded by Cllr. Sanderson and agreed nem con.

Points covered pertained to the 3PL/2015/0189/F application - Proposed building Site: Adjacent to 4 Drymere – construction of semi-detached cottages. They were;

- Proper reasons for objecting to plans not just “don't like it...”
- Access is important and concern was expressed about this. Entrance/sight-line should be 70 yards each way. Cllr Monson will talk to Council about these concerns.
- Cllr Nairn to be asked if he would support objection to this application?

The meeting was reopened at 8.55 pm proposed by Cllr Sanderson, seconded by Cllr. Cockerill and agreed nem con

County Councillor's Report:

- There is to be tree felling at Drymere by Forestry Commission so public access is banned for 3 months
- County Hall has approved budget. Agreed 0% increase in council tax.
- Seriously squeezed government grants.
- Budget has been slashed.
- Active Norfolk is being promoted
- Roads – extra money from Government - £150 million. This should enable a good programme of road repairs.
- Track signs Shingham - Gooderstone. If it is County perhaps it could be checked and they can repair.
- The query about the Downham Market signposts in Beachamwell will be checked by Cllr Monson. Mrs Powell to send him relevant emails.

Cllr Monson was thanked for his report

District Councillor's Report:

Cllr Nairn not present but sent the following email:-

Dear Eileen

It is with some regret that I will not be able to attend the Parish Council Meeting tomorrow evening. Please accept my apologies but I have other commitments that preclude my attending.

I would wish to say, that you will have another District Councillor after 7th May and I hope that he will have an enjoyable and fruitful relationship with Beachamwell Parish Council as I have enjoyed. It is with regret, that due to the Electoral Commission's review of the Warding Boundaries in Breckland that I will no longer be representing Beachamwell at Breckland District.

With regard to Planning Application 3PL/2014/1113/F: Erection of eco lifetime home with stables, paddocks, grass riding area, all weather riding surface and new trees. I have noted the objection put forward by the Parish Council. Also note the request that you formally request me to represent the views of the Village, should the matter be called forward

to be examined by the Planning Committee. I have previously advised you that I had been approached by the applicant before plans were to be submitted as to how he should proceed. Accordingly, I told him to seek the guidance of the Planning Officers and that of all designs, those which were eco friendly and were energy efficient with a low carbon footprint were looked upon favourably. I have reviewed the application and would agree that the exterior design may not be in keeping with the immediate environs. As to item 2, I note that NCC Highways do not seem to have raised any concerns. I would ask if there is anyone from your village who is going forward to speak. They may not necessarily have to be a member of the Parish Council but it certainly carries more weight if they are. Each speaker will have three minutes to speak, either for or against the development.

I am prepared to speak in respect of the exterior design aspect and to note that there is a body of feeling against the application in general. I would also note that of an electorate of 270, only 47 members of the Public Attended the Parish Council's EGM on the 8th December 2015. Once again, I apologise for not being able to attend your meeting and I would therefore take this opportunity to wish you well for the future.

Kind Regards

Mike Nairn

Items for next agenda: None

Dates of forthcoming meetings:

2015: May 11th Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed at 9.07pm

Cllr J. Adcock signed as correct 11th May 2015