

**The next Beachamwell Parish Council Meeting will be held on
Tuesday 14th November starting at 3.00pm in Beachamwell Village Hall**

Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend, members of the public and press are welcome to attend.

Sarah Hunt

Locum Parish Clerk

Wednesday 8th November 2023

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
To consider apologies for absence.
2. **Co-option of new Councillors.**
To consider co-option of any applicants for the four vacant positions of Councillor.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive declarations of interest and to consider any requests for dispensations.
4. **Minutes**
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th September 2023.
5. **Public forum**
 - 5.1 County Councillor Fabian Eagle.
 - 5.2 District Councillor Peter Wilkinson
 - 5.3 Members of the public.
 - 5.4 Policing update: SNAP Meeting priorities set as targeting theft/shoplifting in the run up to Christmas.
The next SNAP meeting will take place 23rd January at 7pm. Venue to be confirmed. All welcome.
- 6 **Updates on items not elsewhere on the agenda.**
For information only, no decisions may be taken under this item.
 - 6.1 Telephone Box Refurbishment. Update. Cllr Siddons.
 - 6.2 'Lychgate' style protective roofed structure over memorial stone. Awaiting a quotation from S & L Restorations.
 - 6.3 Registration of the Village Green with the Land Registry – ongoing.
 - 6.4 Computer – Dell computer ordered and received. Update. Clerk.
 - 6.5 Dog bin installation – update. Cllr Siddons.
 - 6.6 SAM 2 Handover. Cllr Siddons.
- 7 **Highways**
 - 7.1 To report any issues to the Clerk for passing along to Norfolk County Council.
- 8 **Governance and administrative matters.**
 - 8.1 Risk Management review – to include SAM2.
 - 8.2 To review and adopt Financial Regulations.
 - 8.3 To review and adopt Standing Orders.
 - 8.4 To consider and adopt co-option Policy.
 - 8.5 To consider and adopt c-option application form.
 - 8.6 To review Insurance cover against Asset Register.
 - 8.7 To review and agree timetable and time of meetings for 2023/24.
January 9th at 7pm
March 12th to include Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm
May 14th Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7pm
 - 8.8 To consider the Biodiversity statement of intention as submitted.
 - 8.9 To note the Locum Clerk has not yet achieved access to the Parish Council Government Gateway account.

9 Parish Council assets

9.1 Parking issues on the Village Green. To receive estimated costs. Cllr G Siddons.

10 Correspondence

- 10.1 Breckland District Council, Polling station review. To consider any response.
- 10.2 To consider a donation request from Group4News.

11 Finance

- 11.1 To receive bank reconciliation.
- 11.2 To authorise payments as at Annex A and note receipt of £4,312.40 from Breckland District Council (second instalment of precept).
- 11.3 To review budget for 2023/24.
- 11.4 To consider precept for 2024/25.
- 11.5 To consider quotations received for Tree Survey of Village Green:
CGM –£437.50.
Ravencroft Trees – £255.00.
Golden Tree Surgeons –£285.00.
- 11.6 To note that 2024 is the final year of a three-year agreement with CGM for grounds maintenance quoted price £1,180.01 plus VAT. The last cut for 2023 was undertaken w/c 6th November 2023.
- 11.7 To note that the Unity account is now opened. To review signatories.

12 Planning

- 12.1 To consider consultee response to planning applications received from Breckland District Council:
 - 12.1.1 None at issue of agenda.
- 12.2 To receive notification of decisions made by Breckland District Council:
 - 12.2.1 3PL/2023/0927/F – Land adjacent to 8 Beachamwell Road. Change of use Proposed siting of 2 x residential static caravans for a temporary permission period of 5 years (Full). *Parish Council objection sent between meetings.* Withdrawn.
 - 12.2.2 3DC/2023/0259/DOC – Park House, The Street, PE37 8BD. Discharge of Condition 3 on 3PL/2023/0682/F (Discharge Conditions). DOC – COMPLETE.
 - 12.2.3 3DC/2023/0261/DOC – Park House, The Street, PE37 8BD. Discharge of Conditions No.10 on 3PL/2023/0682/F (Discharge Conditions). DOC – COMPLETE.
 - 12.2.4 3NM/2023/0092/NMA – Park House, The Street, PE37 8BD. Amendment to planning permission 3PL/2023/0682/F. Removal of flint from proposed side elevations and replacement with brick (Non Mat Minor Amend). PERMITTED.
- 12.3 Breckland Local Plan – community consultation – until 30th November 2023. Details from Clerk/available on facebook.

13 Next Meeting.

To receive items for inclusion on the next agenda.

To consider the passing of a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information.

16. Staffing matters.

- 16.1 To consider recruitment matters.

Minutes of the Beachamwell Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 14th September at 3.30pm at Beachamwell Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Pat O'Donnell, Diana Lambert (Chair), Geoff Siddons,

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Hunt (Locum)

1. Apologies

None.

The meeting NOTED the resignation of Richard James. The vacancy is being advertised from 14th September 2023.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Councillor Vacancies

No applications have been received for the three remaining vacancies.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th July 2023 were AGREED and signed by the Chair.

5. Public forum

5.1 County Councillor Fabian Eagle not present.

5.2 District Councillor Peter Wilkinson sent apologies to the meeting.

5.3 Members of the public. None present.

6. Updates on items not elsewhere on the agenda.

For information only, no decisions may be taken under this item.

6.1 Telephone Box Refurbishment. Cllr Siddons is intending to collect the red paint from the ex-Chair. There is a Gold crown on each box, paint specification/supplier to be sent to Cllr Siddons by Clerk. Any PPE necessary to be advised to clerk along with Risk Assessment. Cllr Siddons.

6.2 'Lychgate' style protective roofed structure over memorial stone. Awaiting a quotation from S & L Restorations.

6.3 Registration of the Village Green with the Land Registry – paperwork has been posted to conveyancer.

6.4 NOTED that the grit bins are on the asset list for Norfolk County Council and are therefore not Parish responsibility.

6.5 Dog bin label – purchased and applied. COMPLETED.

6.6 Defibrillator Pads have been replaced. Out of date pads to be donated to first aid training. COMPLETED.

6.7 To confirm the filing cabinet is in the Clerk's possession. COMPLETED.

6.8 Updating bank address to Locum Clerk and online access. Ongoing.

7. Highways

7.1 NOTED receipt of the 2024/25 50/50 Funding invitation from Norfolk County Council. To consider any suitable projects. None currently.

8. Governance and administrative matters.

8.1 Second laptop quote to be provided, budget up to £500 – office professional quote to be included. Cllr G Siddons – next meeting.

9. Parish Council assets

9.1 Dog Bin Installation NCC permission granted on Corner of Old Hall Lane/All Saints Way – Clerk to order green bin as previously installed on Village Green. Cllr Siddons to be provided with map and investigate installation costs.

9.2 Parking issues on the Village Green. Barrier options to be costed by Cllr Siddons – concrete boulders staked into ground, large flints, low lying post and rail fencing.

10. Correspondence

- 10.1 Email – an invitation to mark D Day 80 on 6th June 2024. National Beacon Lighting. NOTED. It is likely that the village hall committee will be organising a village event. Cllr Siddons to pass information along.
- 10.2 Advise from Norfolk alc received, it was NOTED that no permission was necessary for the church to lay the cable across to the church.
- 10.3 Email – Breckland Community Enabler – No attendance required at Parish Council meeting.

11. Finance

- 11.1 The bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.

Premium Account	£4,243.12
Community Account	£7,198.29
Less unpresented payments	£ 395.74
Adjusted bank balance	£11,045.67
- 11.2 Payments as at Annex A were APPROVED. PROPOSED Cllr O'Donnell, seconded Cllr Siddons.
- 11.3 The meeting reviewed the insurance quotations and schedules if available to the meeting. Expiration date 1st October 2023. It was AGREED to take out the policy with Zurich - £327.00. PROPOSED Cllr Siddons, seconded Cllr Lambert
- 11.4 Bank Signatories are currently: Cllr R James, D Lambert, P O'Donnell. Sharon Sweet Clerk still has internet access. The paperwork was completed to allow the clerk internet access. A letter was signed to update the address.
It was RESOLVED to open a Unity bank account at £6.00/month. Signatories to be: Cllrs P O'Donnell, D Lambert, G Siddons.
- 11.5 Third quotation to be obtained for Tree Survey of Village Green – next meeting:
CGM – £437.50.
Ravencroft Trees – £255.00.
Golden Tree Surgeons – not received to date.
Councillor Siddons to provide risk assessments to clerk and undertake trimming of ivy on tree on village green and repainting of metal seats with black paint.
- 11.6 NOTED that PKF have registered the Council's notification of exempt status – 23.7.23.

12. Planning

- 12.1 To consider consultee response to planning applications received from Breckland District Council:
 - 12.1.1 None.
- 12.2 To receive notification of decisions made by Breckland District Council:
 - 12.2.1 3PL/2023/0682/F – Garden Land Park House, The Street, Beachamwell, PE37 8BD. Erection of dwelling with new vehicular access. PERMITTED.
 - 12.2.2 3PL/2023/0600/HOU – Park House, The Street, PE37 8BD. Proposed removal of conservatory, provision of new front and rear extensions, reinstatement of roof and internal structures following fire damage. Provision of new garage and first floor annexe structure with balcony, outside staircase and new entrance gates and fencing (Householder). PERMITTED.
 - 12.2.3 TRE/2023/0179/TCA – Malthouse Farm, Old Hall Lane, PE37 8BG. T1 and 2 Yew reduction in line with BS3998 (200) reduce back to appropriate points 2-3m (reducing over extended limbs into main crown. Long term maintenance plan to reduce wind loading and to maintain trees within boundary.
T3 Yew sectional fell, clear and cut to near ground level, stump grinding to allow future planting. Yew is located next to structure (dwellings) structure damaged and black mould due dysfunctional growth in crown with medium limb failures/hazard beams (Tree Work App CA). No Objection.
- 12.3 Breckland District Council – Local Plan. To consider attendance at a preview session, 13.9.23 at 6.30pm, Dereham Memorial Hall or 19.9.23 at 6.30pm, The Guildhall, Thetford. Noted.
- 12.4 Local Validation List consultation. Noted.

13. Administrative matters.

- 13.1 The general Risk Assessment was AGREED as presented.
- 13.2 To note brackets returned to Westcotec and credit received. £62.40.

Mrs Sarah Hunt, 58 Hercules Road, Hellesdon, Norwich, NR6 5HH

Email: beachamwellparishcouncil@gmail.com

Telephone: 07355694133

14. Next Meeting.

- 14.1 To receive items for inclusion on the next agenda
 - 14.1.1 Risk Management Review. To include SAM 2.
 - 14.1.2 To review Financial Regulations.
 - 14.1.3 To review Standing Orders.
 - 14.1.4 To review insurance cover against assets.
 - 14.1.5 SAM Sign – to confirm that Cllr Siddons is now responsible for SAM2.
- 13.2 It was AGREED to held the next meeting on Tuesday 14th November at 3pm.

To consider the passing of a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information.

16. Staffing matters.

- 16.1 It was AGREED to continue with Mrs S Hunt as Locum.

Payments for Authorisation September Meeting of Beachamwell Parish Council

Sarah Hunt	Payroll and WFH - Sept	£372.74		£372.74	chq 100860
Sarah Hunt	Expenses - phone credit	£10.00			
	dog waste bin sticker	£1.99			
	O2 telephone	£79.00			
	Defibrillator pads	£59.95			
	stamps	£40.00			
	phone credit	£10.00			
		£200.94		£200.94	chq 100861
Sarah Hunt	Payroll + WFH - October (no				
HMRC	mtg)	£372.74		£372.74	chq 100862
	to end October	£173.20		£173.20	chq 100863
CGM	Grounds Maint/July	£143.20	£28.64	£171.84	DDR
CGM	Grounds Maint/Aug	£143.20	£28.64	£171.84	DDR
					chq 100865
Westcotec	Additional Brackets	£104.00	£20.80	£124.80	£62.40
	Credit note received (1 set)	£52.00	£10.40	£62.40	
Village Hall	Hall Hire - sept x 2 2023	£24.00		£24.00	chq 100864

Risk assessment template

Company name: Beachamwell Parish Council – telephone box refurbishment Shingham

Assessment carried out by: Geoff Siddons

Date of next review: 24/09/2024

Date assessment was carried out: 24/09/2023

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Exposure to heat	Persons stripping paint could be burned from blow torch use	Ensuring the necessary skill and experience	Supply PPE, tool box talk, record tool box talk	Supervisor on the day	Start of works	
Exposure to chemical fumes	Persons stripping paint then painting could inhale fumes from burning paint or solvents	Ensuring the necessary skill and experience, tool box talk	Supply PPE, tool box talk, record tool box talk	Supervisor on the day	Start of works	

Exposure to abrasive materials	Persons stripping paint could suffer abrasion from abrasive pads or paper	Ensuring the necessary skill and experience, tool box talk	Supply PPE, tool box talk, record tool box talk	Supervisor on the day	Start of works	
Working at heights	All – risk of fall from ladder	Assess ground levels and suitability for ladder	Ensure any equipment used is fit for purpose, tool box talk, record tool box talk	Supervisor on the day	Start of works	
Traffic	All – risk of collision	Usually less than 20 vehicles per hour pass in either direction	Work in progress and please reduce speed signs, lookout in place wearing minimum class 2 hi viz. tool box talk, record tool box talk	Supervisor on the day	Start of works	
Exposure to paint splashes	All		Supply PPE, ensure immediate medical needs pertaining to paint solvents are available tool box talk, record tool box talk	Supervisor on the day	Start of works	

More information on managing risk: www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/

CO-OPTION POLICY AND NEW COUNCILLOR PROCEDURE

Beachamell Parish Council

1. Introduction

This policy sets out the procedure to ensure there is compliance with legislation and continuity of procedures in the co-option of members to Beachamwell Parish Council. The co-option procedure is entirely managed by the Council and this policy will ensure that a fair and equitable process is carried out.

2. Co-option

The co-option of a Parish Councillor occurs when a casual vacancy has arisen on the Council and no poll (by-election) has been called for by parishioners. A casual vacancy occurs when:

- A councillor fails to make their declaration of acceptance of office at the proper time;
- A councillor resigns;
- A councillor dies;
- A councillor becomes disqualified; or
- A councillor fails for six months to attend meetings of a council committee or subcommittee or to attend as a representative of the Council a meeting of an outside body.

The Parish Council is required to notify the District Council of the casual vacancy and then advertise the vacancy to give electors the opportunity to request an election. If ten electors write to the District Council within fourteen working days requesting an election, then one is called. A polling station will be set up by the District Council and parishioners will be asked to vote for candidates who will have put themselves forward by way of a nomination paper. The Parish Clerk will advertise the process on notice boards, website and any other means in use by the council at the time. The Parish Council will be required to pay the costs of the election. If only one candidate applies, they are elected without a ballot.

If residents do not request a ballot within fourteen days of the vacancy notice being posted, the Parish Council is able to co-opt.

3. Confirmation of Co-option

On receipt of written confirmation from the District Council that the casual vacancy can be filled by means of co-option, the Parish Clerk will advertise the vacancy on the website, Facebook page and notice boards. Councillors are also encouraged to approach anyone who meets the criteria below.

4. Eligibility of Candidates

The Parish Council is able to consider any person to fill a vacancy provided that:

- He/she is an elector for the parish or,
- has resided in the parish for the past twelve months or rented/tenanted land or other premises in the parish or,

- had his/her principal place of work in the parish, or
- has lived within three miles (direct) of the parish.

There are certain disqualifications for election, of which the main ones are:

- holding a paid office under the local authority;
- bankruptcy;
- having been sentenced to a term of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) of not less than three months, without the option of a fine during the five years preceding the election;
- being disqualified under any enactment relating to corrupt or illegal practices.

5. Co-Option Process

Candidates will be requested to submit information about themselves using the adopted application form at least five working days before the next meeting of Full Council. This information will be circulated by the clerk to councillors, and an item to co-opt a councillor will be placed on the agenda of the meeting. All such documents will be treated by the Clerk and Councillors as strictly private and confidential.

Candidates will be invited to attend the meeting. If there is more than one candidate, the Councillors vote on who to co-opt. This decision-making process will take place in the open part of the meeting.

No co-option may take place outside of a Full Council meeting. An additional meeting may be called if necessary.

Councillors elected by co-option are full members of Council.

6. After Co-option

The co-opted member must sign an acceptance of office form. He/she can then take their place and join the meeting. A register of interests form will also be given. This must be returned to the Parish Clerk, or sent directly to the District Council, within three weeks. This document will be published on the District Council's website.

The Parish Clerk will, within five working days of the meeting, send the new Councillor by email a copy of the Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, as well as a link to the website which contains additional policies. The dates of future meetings and available training will also be given.

By accepting office all new councillors will be expected to:

- Undertake training for new councillors, as a minimum. However, it is encouraged the councillors attend as many courses as possible, to ensure that councillors have a thorough understanding of the functions and legislature of parish councils;
- Use a parish council email address exclusively for all formal Council business and they should not be used in any other way; This email will be subject to any Freedom of Information requests made.
- Ensure they do not make reference to the Council or its services or represent themselves on behalf of the Council on social media without formal permission from the Council to do so.

APPLICATION FOR CO-OPTION

Thank you for your interest in becoming a parish Councillor. Please provide the below information to assist in the council making their decision.

Full Name and Title	
Home Address	
Home Telephone	
Mobile Telephone	
Email Address	

About You:

Please provide the council with some background information about yourself:

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Clerk to the Council: Sarah Hunt, Beachamwell Parish Council, 58 Hercules Road, Hellesdon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR6 5HH
Tel: 07355694133

Email: beachamwellparishcouncil@gmail.com

Reasons for applying:	
Please provide the council with your reasons for wanting to become a Parish Councillor.	

Signature	
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Please return your completed application to the Clerk to the Parish Council. Your application will be considered at the next available Parish Council meeting, the Clerk will be in touch to let you know the date and time. At that meeting a vote will be held to decide your co-option to the Parish Council.

Data Protection Act (2018): The information provided on the application form will remain private and confidential.

1. **In order to be eligible for co-option as a Parish Councillor, you must be a British Subject, or a citizen of the commonwealth or the European Union; and on the date of the poll or election, 18 years of age or over; and be able to meet one of the following qualifications set out below:**

Please tick which one applies to you:

a) I am registered as a local government elector for the parish; or

☐

b) I have, during the whole of the twelve months preceding the date of my co-option, occupied as owner or tenant, land or other premises in the parish; or

☐

c) My principle or only place of work during those twelve months have been in the parish; or

☐

d) I have during the whole of the twelve months resided in the parish or within three miles of it.

☐

2. **Please note that under Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972, a person is disqualified from being elected as a Local Councillor or being a member of Local Council if he/she:**

a) Holds any paid office or employment of the local council (other than the office of Chairman) or of a joint committee on which the Council is represented; or

b) Is a person who has been adjudged bankrupt or has made a composition or arrangement with his/her creditors (but see below); or

c) Has within five years before the day of election, or since his/her election, been convicted in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man of any offence and has been sentenced to imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for not less than three months without the option of a fine; or

d) Is otherwise disqualified under Part III of the representation of the People Act 1983 for corrupt or illegal practices.

This disqualification for bankruptcy ceases in the following circumstances:

I. If the bankruptcy is annulled on the grounds that either the person ought not to have been adjudged bankrupt or that his/her debts have been fully discharged;

II. If the person is discharged with a certificate that the bankruptcy was caused by misfortune without misconduct on his/her part;

III. If the person is discharged without such a certificate

In i and ii above, the disqualification ceases on the date of the annulment and discharge respectively.

In iii, it ceases on the expiry of five years from the date of discharge.

DECLARATION

I..... herby confirm that I am eligible for the vacancy of Beachamwell Parish Councillor; and the information given on this form is a true and accurate record.

Signature.....

Biodiversity

Background

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must;

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth¹. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and the sea.

The Local Area

Beachamwell Parish Council is a rural village, with a considerable number of natural areas, including hedges, ditches, and farmland.

Parish Council responsibilities

The Parish Council is the owner of the village green. It owns no other land. The Parish Council is responsible for the grass cutting of the village green.

What the Parish Council will do

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Parish Council, especially when commenting on planning applications.
- It will reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides used on Parish Council owned land
- It will review how it manages the land, this may include but is not limited to;
 - Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates
 - Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates
 - Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required.
- As owner of the village green the Parish Council will
 - Consider where there could be a margin of uncut grass to allow longer grasses to grow
 - Allow fallen tree branches to remain, if safe, to allow invertebrates to habitat
 - To preserve the trees and encourage biodiversity area under the trees will be wilded, either to grow as long grass and flowers..
- Any hedges are cut outside of the bird nesting season.
- The Parish Council will look to purchase and install bird and bat boxes in the Parish Council owned trees.
- The Parish Council will look to promote biodiversity via the Parish Council website.

¹ As defined in 'Biodiversity 2020: a strategy of England's wildlife and ecosystems' by DEFRA

10.1 – Correspondence.

Under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, all local authorities have to undertake a review of all polling districts and polling places every 5 years. Breckland Council has launched its consultation on its existing and proposed polling places. The aim of the review is to ensure:

- all electors in a constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances,
- as far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place is accessible to all electors who are disabled.

The Acting Returning Officer (ARO) has been consulted on the current polling arrangements and the ARO's proposals can be viewed on our Website at: [Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2023 - Breckland Council](#)

We invite you to submit any comments on the existing arrangements, or on the (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals by midnight on **Friday 17 November 2023**.

Comments can be made by:

- using the online form available on the website: [Comment on the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review 2023 - Breckland Council](#);
- in writing to: Electoral Services, Breckland Council, Elizabeth House, Dereham, NR19 1EE;
- or email to elections@breckland.gov.uk

Kind regards

The Elections Team

GROUP 4 NEWS

For the Parishes of Barton Bendish & Eastmoor; Beachamwell, Shingham & Drymere; Boughton and Wereham

16 Tinkers Way
Downham Market
Norfolk
PE38 9TQ

E:mail: Group4News@gmail.com

Web: www.group4news.co.uk

Tel: 01366 386125
07779 787499

6th September 2023

Dear Parish Clerk

Group4News

We are writing to you as "The Partners of Group 4 News" who have studiously published Group4News for more years than we care to remember. This is an entirely volunteer led organisation and all the income received from advertising is used to pay for the printing of Group4News, which is produced monthly, except that we produce a combined December/January edition. Hard copies of the magazine are hand delivered to every household in the 4 Parishes of Barton Bendish & Eastmoor; Beachamwell, Shingham & Drymere; Boughton and Wereham.

We believe that G4N, as we call it, is a very useful publication in that, as well as enabling many local business to advertise their services, it contains details of the many events going on within the 4 Parishes, information about transport links, church and civic events. Of course, for many of us who have access to the internet and the ability to travel, much of this information is readily available but for the elderly, particularly those with mobility issues, the regular copy of G4N is their window to the wider world, particularly in relation to rural matters. It was for those reasons that G4N was first published.

For most of its life up until 2020 matters were relatively stable but the onset of Covid 19 made life quite difficult for many, including many local business, and, although the worst of the problems caused by the pandemic are behind us, our income, and consequently our reserves suffered as many small businesses folded and advertisers have found new and cheaper ways to advertise using Social Media. Furthermore the problems caused by the Russian Invasion of Ukraine, which has resulted in significant increases in many costs, particularly of paper used for printing the magazine, is making the viability of G4N seem very doubtful.

Of course, like every other business faced with increasing costs, we could simply increase the rates we charge for advertising and we have done that over the years and will continue to do so in the future. However the recent significant increase in printing costs cannot easily be recouped as most of our advertisers are on annual contracts; furthermore, because of the effects of Covid19, our reserves are lower, so we are at a crossroads.

We are now at a time when we have to make some hard choices. Our options seem to be:-

1. Run the magazine down to a close by taking no new advertising and not renewing the contracts of existing advertisers as they close. This would mean increasingly reducing the pages available for "parish matters" to match the available income.
2. Keep the magazine going by increasing rates as and when we can (i.e. when contracts run out and provided advertisers are prepared to pay more) albeit this may mean some restrictions on the availability of space for local advertising in the meantime.
3. Significantly reduce the pages available for local parish advertising, perhaps a maximum of 3 pages per parish (to include all advertising of parish events).
4. Seek funding from local Parish Councils, say £250 p.a. from each Parish.

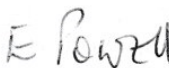
Because we believe that the magazine is a useful asset to the wider community our preference is to keep it going in its present form and for that reason we are asking Parish Councils to consider a modest subsidy. If that is not forthcoming then we will do what we can to keep going but, as indicated above, that is very likely to result in the final product being of far less use than the present model.

We would appreciate it if this matter could be raised at the next Parish Council meeting and, subject to availability, will gladly attend to answer any questions.

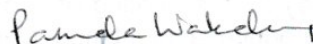
Yours sincerely,



Alan Pickering



Eileen Powell



Pam Wakeling

Letter sent by Email to the Parish Clerks of:

Barton Bendish
Beachamwell, Shingham and Drymere
Boughton
Wereham



Parish Council <beachamwellparishcouncil@gmail.com>

Breckland Local Plan

1 message

Planning Policy Team <Planning.PolicyTeam@breckland.gov.uk> 6 October 2023 at 15:00

Hello,

Breckland Council is reviewing its Local Plan. The new Local Plan will be a guide for the growth and development in Breckland that will shape our district to 2046.

We would like to hear your views as part of a community consultation across the district.

Please take a moment to share your view on the Issues and Options stage of the Local Plan. The Local Plan covers issues such as the number and type of new homes, which areas are best for future growth, the economy and jobs, transport connections, protecting the natural environment and addressing climate change.

This phase of consultation will be open until **30th November 2023**. Next year, there will be another opportunity to review and comment on the draft version of the new Local Plan.

Share your views online:

Visit brecklandlocalplan.commonplace.is to add your comments.

Join a consultation event:

- **Wednesday 11th October**, 6.30pm-7.30pm – via Zoom (sign up at brecklandlocalplan.commonplace.is)
- **Saturday 14th October**, 12pm-3pm – Swaffham Market, Market Place, Swaffham
- **Tuesday 17th October**, 10am-1pm, Dereham Market, Market Place, Dereham

You can also share your views by:

Email: planning.policyteam@breckland.gov.uk

Post: Planning Policy Team

Elizabeth House

Walpole Loke

Dereham

Norfolk, NR19 1EE

Everyone with an interest in their village, town or local area can have their say. The more people that get involved, the better the aspirations of our communities will be reflected.

Please encourage your friends, neighbours and family members to get involved and share their views.

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