

MINUTES OF BEACHAMWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 11th July 2016 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Diana Lambert (Vice Chair), John Adcock; Pat O'Donnell; Mark Powell and Philip Spencer

District Councillor: Peter Wilkinson

Parish Clerk: Mrs Eileen Powell

Members of the Public: Mrs Leah Spencer

Apologies:

Councillors: Tom Sanderson (Chair); Julie Ive

Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:

None

Confirmation of the minutes of the meetings held on:

9th May 2016 4 accepted (Cllrs Adcock, Lambert, O'Donnell and Powell) and 1 against (Cllr Spencer)

24th May 2016 3 accepted (Lambert, O'Donnell and Powell) 1 against (Cllr Spencer) and 1 abstention (Cllr Adcock)

Public Participation

To consider a motion to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public and the District/County Councillor opportunity to inform the meeting

At the commencement of each meeting, the Chair advises any public present to raise their hand to indicate their wish to comment on any item. The Chair, upon seeing a raised hand, will suspend the meeting to allow for public participation

Mrs Spencer asked why a letter, re disabled access to Memorial Hall, had not been received from the Parish Council. Mrs Powell explained that one had not been sent. Cllr Lambert will write one.

Mrs Spencer then left the meeting.

Planning Applications for Considered:

1. 3PL/2016/0529/HOU: 15 All Saints Way Beachamwell: Conversion of existing garage including raising roof to created new bedroom above garage. Construction of sun room. [Permission granted 30th June 2016](#)

Matters Arising

1.	Highways	Highways Rangers visited 20 th June; Potholes at Narborough hill been done Mrs Powell contacted Swaffham Town Council about 'flooding' on road to Swaffham – they will check The roads have recently been tarred and chipped but no one knew that this was going to happen. Mrs Powell had contacted Highways about this and was told information is usually given so not sure what had happened in this case... However, a formal letter is to be sent re advanced notice in future. Cllr Powell proposed that we return to formally proposing and seconding Cllr O'Donnell seconded, majority agreed
2.	Pathways	FP13: Cllr Monson will speak to David Mills again See AOB 1 below
3.	Security and backup systems	Cllr Sanderson sent in the following note: 'I have met with Mrs Powell and will be setting up a backup email address. All emails to be sent to her as usual but she will have a separate backup address to send important emails to'.
4	Clerk's Contract	Cllr Sanderson sent in the following note: 'Cllr Ive and I have met and Mrs Powell has agreed to the basic premise of £10.00 per hour and 5 hours a week. Cllr Ive and I to sort the finer details of the contract out'.
5	Standing Orders to be reviewed	Nothing decided
6.	The Green Access Track	Cllr Sanderson sent in the following note: 'Murdo Mackenzie never got back to me re funding. I estimate £2,000.00 should cover labour, machinery and materials. Although season is over I can still get bodies in to complete this'. Cllr Lambert will negotiate to get them together.
7.	Cleaning of Parish Council Notice Board	Still pending. Mrs Powell will phone The Stebbings

Finance:

1	Current A/C	£4522.00
2	Business A/C	£998,48
3	Cheques paid and to be paid	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hire of BMH for extraordinary meeting 2016.05.24: cheque 100645 £15.00 2. Clerk's Expenses [Apr, May, June]: cheque 100644 £39.00 3. Clerk's Salary [Apr, May, June]: cheque 100646 £520.00 4. HMR&C Tax for Clerk's salary [Apr, May, June]: cheque 100647 £130.00 5. Hire of BMH for meeting 2016.07.11: cheque 100648 £15.00 6. Internal Auditor's fee £50 Everyone agreed 7. Hours for clerk from Transparency Grant from last meeting 8. Tax re hours for clerk from Transparency Grant from last meeting
4	Budget 2016 - 2017	Clr Spencer had drawn up a proposed budget – this is in addition to the budget drawn up for the January meeting. A long discussion took place. Clr Spencer withdrew his proposed budget.
5	Mazars: Internal auditor's report	Clr Spencer asked to see the Internal auditor's report. This had been dealt with at the May meeting. Clr Sanderson had sent in the following note: 'Accounts have been approved by Auditor. I have then signed them after the auditor's assessment to comply with Mazars stipulation. Have now been sent off'.

Correspondence

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

Information

1. Nalc Newsletters May, June,
2. CGM June Newsletter
3. Anchor - A respite break for you and your loved one
4. Norfolk Community Foundation: Grants
5. Broxaps Catalogues
6. Various agendas from Breckland
7. Community Action Norfolk Newsletter
8. Various Rural Services Network newsletters
9. Breckland Matters Newsletter
10. Hopkins Homes Annual Review
11. Anglian Water Private Pumping Stations
12. Planning Direct Newsletter
13. Parish Partnership scheme

Decisions/Comments

1. Invitation to Devolution Meeting:
2. Bridleway 11: see AOB 1
3. Public Rights of Way:
4. Various courses/meetings:
5. NCC's Transport Project:
6. South Norfolk area meeting:
7. Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with Town and Parish Councils:
8. Invitation to Local Plan Working Group for Interim Site Allocations and Settlement Boundaries Consultation
9. Police and Crime Commissioner - Norfolk ALC Area Meeting
10. Clerks and Councillors Networking Event - July - Norfolk

Other Business:

1.	Footpaths: 14 Mr John & Mrs Susie Rix; Mr Nevyn Ranner; Bridleway 11; Green Drove;	Letters have been received from various residents re footpaths problems. Clr Sanderson sent in the following note 'Footpaths in general: I have met with Albanwise environmental officer. Looks like vandalism on the Green Drove. A good sized oak tree has also been felled (inexpertly). Could everyone keep an eye out for possible problems here. Several other footpath issues. Suggest we have a footpath officer to whom all these issues are sent and can be dealt with by him or her and report to PC. Philip? Clr Powell formally proposed Clr Spencer to become Footpath Officer, seconded by Clr Adcock and agreed nem con.
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2.	Blocked drains:	Mr Steve Green (B/well) reported problem outside 3 Old Hall Lane. It was reported to Highways and matter dealt with promptly. Mr Green thanked the Parish Council Drains generally need to be looked at – two at top of village, way to Swaffham and St John’s Farm. Grups need to be cleared out. Mrs Powell to contact Saddlebow Depot
3.	Ownership of the Village Sign	Cllr Spencer reported that the village sign needs attention as showing signs of wear and tear. Question – who actually owns / is responsible for this sign? Mrs Powell to check with Mr Garner (Chair of BMH)
4.	Grass cutting:	Cllr O’Donnell stated that: 1. The grass cutting and strimming need to be done at the same time. The Green looks a mess if the tractor is used – should use the ‘stand on’ mower.. The sign is always knocked over. Mrs Powell to contact CGM. 2. The trees on the Green need to be lopped and offered to do this.
5.	Concrete Pad by Pig Silos	Cllr Spencer reported that Mr Steve Green (Shingham) concerned about mud still on road by pig silo’s. What is happening about the possibility of a concrete pad which was put to Mr Steve Hart earlier?
6.	Parish Partnership Scheme	Check 50/50 partnership. Cost of pea shingle for use on pavements through village.

County Councillor’s Report:

No report as Cllr Monson was unable to attend the meeting

District Councillor’s Report:

See attached

Cllrs Wilkinson was thanked for his report

Items for next agenda: None

Dates of forthcoming meetings:

2016: September 12th November 14th

2017: January 9th March 13th May 8th

The meeting closed at **10.00 pm**

Cllr T. Sanderson signed as correct 12th September 2016

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

PETER WILKINSON

REPORT JULY 216.

The Local Government Reorganisation Debate

A short paper which:

- a) outlines the risks of the Deal for the East as it stands; and**
- b) proposes areas for negotiation for Breckland District Council.**

1. Introduction:

For over seven months Breckland District Council has been negotiating, among other councils, around the potential implementation of a combined authority and a directly elected mayor. Initially, our then leader Michael Wassell agreed with the Conservative Group one red line which was that there would be no directly elected mayor. This view was confirmed by William Nunn at the April full council meeting. All other areas were open for debate with the final deal to be approved by the Conservative Group before being taken to full council.

On Thursday 10 March, those present at the Conservative group approved the continuation of negotiations. Both Michael Wassell and Anna Graves said that this was a non-binding agreement and that it was 'the beginning of the negotiations.' Since then it appears that only the most superficial of changes have happened in the body of the draft deal. In that vein I hope to outline some of the risks apparent in the latest published version of the non-binding agreement and propose for areas for negotiation to show that we are a member led council that drives the devolution agenda for Breckland residents.

2. Executive Summary:

In the current agreement there are three main areas of risk:

a) Governance

- i. there is a directly elected mayor for all of Norfolk Suffolk and Cambridgeshire concentrating a lot of power in one individual. This was and remains one of our 'red lines';
- ii. the agreement contains no guarantee that powers will not be taken from District County Councils using the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016;
- iii. It is not clear how the mayor's policies can be blocked (i.e. what size majority?);
- iv. We do not know the composition of the cabinet – the Greater Lincolnshire agreement guarantees every council a seat on cabinet – no such agreement currently exists for Breckland and the East. Breckland should be guaranteed a seat on the cabinet.

b) Funding

- i. £25m per year of annual funding is currently outlined in the agreement. This money is not controlled by the councils but by a Mayor and is a very small sum in the context of two counties especially when you consider the Norfolk County

Council's budget alone is over £1,000,000,000 – 40 times bigger than the sum on offer.

- ii. There is no indication that the funding is index linked. This means by the end of the 30 year agreement the value of the funding will have reduced to less than £15m in real terms at 2% inflation.
- iii. 'Specific funding flexibilities' are agreed in advance with the Government. This means that the Government has significant leverage in directing monies given to the combined authority to its priorities rather than the priorities of the region.
- iv. The government can stop providing the money to the combined authority unless the money is spent on government priorities rather than decisions being made locally as to what the priorities are.

c) Impact on constituents

- i. This proposal has the potential to impose no less than four new taxes on residents in Breckland – an infrastructure levy, a mayoral precept, a combined authority precept and a business rate supplement.
- ii. This structure could reduce the accountability of local government to our electors and provide them less ability to influence the decisions that matter to them.
- iii. There is no detail on what the costs of a new structure will be to people in Breckland.
- iv. There are proposals for the creation of a land commission and assets board. Breckland has a strong portfolio of assets which will be at risk if proposals go forward unamended.

3. 10 proposed high level areas for negotiation:

- a. A guaranteed seat on cabinet for BDC (every council in the Greater Lincolnshire deal has this);
- b. An increase in the amount of funding for the region to a minimum of £35m;
- c. A change to a blocking majority of 50% plus 1;
- d. Detailed information on cost of the structure;
- e. A guarantee that no powers will be removed from local authorities without consent;
- f. A exemption for Breckland assets being taken from Breckland control;
- g. There to be no directly elected mayor over the top of the combined authority;
- h. An agreement that there must be a full and meaningful consultation with the public prior to any agreement being ratified.
- i. Detail and guarantees around planning powers especially introduction of CIL that BDC has previously not implemented.
- j. A guarantee of the supremacy of local government over the funding priorities of the region.