

BEACHAMWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2020 commencing at 7.50pm in the Village Hall

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr Tom Sanderson	Chairman
	Cllr Diana Lambert	Vice Chairman
	Cllr Richard James	
	Cllr Pat O'Donnell	
	Miss S J Thorpe	Parish Clerk
	Cllr Peter Wilkinson	Borough Councillor
	17 members of the public	

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Fabian Eagle (County Councillor) and Cllr Peter Wilkinson (Borough Councillor) had advised that he would arrive late due to attending another meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 6th January 2020, having been circulated to all prior to the meeting, were agreed as correct and signed following a proposal by Cllr Lambert, and seconded by Cllr James.

4. Matters arising

None

5. Public forum for electors to address the council

The Chair advised that he was aware members of the public had attended with regard to a planning application and if they wished to speak at any point they should raise their hand.

6. Highways issues

- Email regarding restricted access to footpaths and bridleways – an email had been received from the Wednesday Walkers advising of problems with Footpath 10 and the junction of Bridleway 9 and Bridleway 11. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the landowner.
- Footpaths – footpath diversion (Hall Barn FP13 and BR19a). The matter had been discussed during the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Sanderson had suggested the resident contact Cllr Eagle to ask for his continued support to resolve the issue.

7. Finance

- Update on Simple Servicing Authority for bank accounts – Cllr Sanderson had been into a local branch and this had resulted in the address for correspondence being changed; however, the Clerk still needed view only online access. Another letter was signed advising the bank to add the access to the Clerk's existing authority.
- Cheques to be approved and signed – the following payments were due by cheque and standing order (SO):

HMRC	PAYE for January (SO)	£55.80
Miss S Thorpe	Wages for February (SO)	£223.48
HMRC	PAYE for February (SO)	£55.80
Miss S Thorpe	Wages for March (SO)	£223.48

Chairman's signature.....Date.....

Miss S Thorpe	Clerk's expenses, admin, training	£60.90
CGM Group Ltd	Grounds maintenance	£39.00
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Clerk's training	£88.00
Beachamwell Village Hall	Hire of hall for meeting	<u>£15.00</u>
		£761.46

It was agreed to authorise the cheque payments and the standing orders, proposed by Cllr Sanderson, seconded by Cllr Lambert. The cheques were signed.

- c. Reconciliation of Cashbook – the Cashbook had been balanced to 31st January 2020 and the figures were confirmed by sight of the bank statements to the Chairman.

8. License with Scribe for accounts software

The Clerk advised that her other Parish Councils had all agreed to take on a license for accounts software with Scribe, who had agreed to offer a discount of 25% off the usual rate as the Clerk had multiple Councils. The cost would be £96.75 plus VAT per annum. The matter was discussed, following a proposal by Cllr Sanderson, seconded by Cllr James, it was agreed by all to enter into a license with Scribe.

9. Planning

Applications received since last meeting –

- a. **3PL/2020/0205/O Outline planning permission for 5 dwellings with all matters reserved except access for site to the rear of 1-10 The Street.** The application was considered by members. Cllr James provided information on the reasons for refusing the previous application at the site and whether these would still apply to this application which was on a smaller scale. The following is a summary of concerns expressed by members and residents during the discussion:

- Access – not enough space for two vehicles to pass and a footpath
- Safety of pedestrians
- Highways concerns – road unsuitable for development
- Physical infrastructure – sewerage system unable to cope with increase
- Ownership of land near to the Highway – Cllr James agreed to check Land Registry and Cllr Wilkinson advised that NCC Highways would also check
- Overlooking existing properties
- Further applications would follow as the remainder of the field would not be suitable for agriculture due to lack of access
- Loss of grade 3 agricultural land
- Lack of detail on the proposed dwellings
- A request to ask Breckland DC to extend the timescale for responses – this was not approved as it was felt it would not be granted and that there was sufficient time for residents to respond.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would OBJECT to the application for the following reasons which were material considerations:

- Highways issues – traffic generation, vehicular access, highways safety
- Capacity of physical infrastructure in the public drainage system
- Not a sustainable development – location of application site was outside a rural settlement with no local services or sustainable transport choices which was contrary to Policies DC2 and CP14 of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan.

Cllr Sanderson advised residents that they should also submit their own comments individually.

Cllr Wilkinson advised that he had listened to the comments made by members and residents and that he would support the decision to object the application. He would look at the Local Plan to find relevant policies.

Cllr Wilkinson had arrived near the start of the discussion on the above item.

Decisions received from the District Council –

- b. **3PL/2019/1388/F Timber frame log cabin for a holiday let at 5 Drymere.** The application had been withdrawn.

Chairman's signature.....Date.....

10. Correspondence

- a. Information on a "Gadget Savvy Market Place" event being held on 27th March by Your Voice in Breckland who were a voluntary organisation working with the public and agencies to ensure that older people are represented and have a voice in the provision of services which impact on their lives. Poster advertising event had been put on the notice board.
- b. RAF Marham had advised of a new dental practice which would shortly be opening in Marham. Poster advertising practice had been put on the notice board.
- c. Feedback from Breckland DC Town & Parish Forum which had been held on 12th February.
- d. Information from Priscilla Bacon Hospice on their service and requesting a donation.

11. Update from Borough and County Councillor

Breckland District Council (BDC) update – District Councillor Wilkinson provided a report which advised that the budget for 2020/21 had been approved, it would see a rise of £4.95 per annum for a Band D household making the new cost of £1.75 a week.

BDC were committed to an "Empty Homes Policy" to try and reduce the number of empty homes, up to £11,500 was available to help landlords, but they must meet national standards and agree to work with BDC to house people on the waiting list. This policy would also help to reduce anti-social behaviour around empty properties.

£1m would be invested in projects to help vulnerable people and the silver social events would be continuing.

A "Daisy Programme" to help reduce domestic violence in the home was also being supported.

Equipment could be borrowed from BDC for volunteers wanting to get involved with the Great British Spring Clean which ran from 12th March to 13th April.

Cllr Wilkinson advised he had championed the proposal for a new dental practice in Marham. He also advised of the work being done locally by Norfolk & Suffolk 4x4 Response and there need for donations to support their work. Cllr Sanderson advised that the Parish Council had a policy of not making any charitable donations to organisations based outside the parish. Cllr Wilkinson advised that Narborough were holding a VE day celebration on Friday 8th May at 3pm in the Community Centre and that residents were welcome to attend.

County Councillor Eagle was not present so no update was provided on Norfolk County Council.

12. Members concerns and agenda items for the next meeting

Items to be passed to the Clerk within 10 days of the next meeting.

13. Date of the next meeting

The date of Wednesday 6th May 2020 was confirmed for the next meeting which would be the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.48pm