

BEACHAMWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 2020 commencing at 7.40pm

This meeting was held virtually in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

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

No members of the public present

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance

1. Apologies

No apologies had been received.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 16th September and Extra-Ordinary Meetings on 19th October and 2nd November 2020, having been circulated to all prior to the meeting, were agreed as correct following a proposal by Cllr Lambert, and seconded by Cllr O'Donnell.

4. Matters arising

All matters arising to be dealt with under other items on the agenda.

5. Public forum for electors to address the council

No members of the public were present.

6. Highways issues

a. Footpaths – footpath diversion (Hall Barn FP13 and BR19a). There had not been any update from Norfolk County Council but it was reported that official footpath plaques had now been installed in the area in question. As the footpath was now accessible and the signs appeared to have resolved the issue it was agreed to take no further action and remove the item from the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Village Sign repairs

Cllr Sanderson advised that he had received a bill for the pointing up work completed on the stonework at the base of the sign. He had queried this bill as it did not show a breakdown of hours and it was more than he had been expecting. No response had been received to his query at the moment so item to be carried forward to next meeting. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be issued to the resident who had sandblasted and repainted the sign. Clerk to issue letter and place item in next Group 4 News in relation to the sign.

8. Finance

- a. Update on Simple Servicing Authority for bank accounts – It was reported that after lengthy phone calls from the Chairman and the Clerk to the national helpline the problem had been resolved and the Clerk now had view only online access to the bank accounts.
- b. Cheques to be approved and signed for October-November – the following payments were due by cheque, direct debit (DD) and standing order (SO):

HMRC	PAYE for Sept-October(SO)	£111.60
Miss S Thorpe	Wages for October-November (SO)	£458.04
CGM Group Ltd	Grounds maintenance October (DD)	£152.27

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

Miss S Thorpe

Clerk's admin

£58.54

£780.45

It was agreed to authorise the cheque payment, direct debits and standing orders, proposed by Cllr Sanderson, seconded by Cllr Lambert.

- c. Reconciliation of Cashbook – the Cashbook had been balanced to 31st October 2020. Copies of the bank statements and bank reconciliation had been issued to all members. Following a proposal by Cllr Sanderson, seconded by Cllr James, it was agreed to approve the reconciled cashbook.
- d. Draft budget and Precept planning for 2021/22 - The Clerk had provided a draft budget for consideration by members. The draft budget showed that expenditure could exceed income by approximately £1640. The figures were discussed and views were expressed that the Precept could need to be increased next year following a decrease for the current year by £1500. Further information to be provided at the January meeting when a decision would need to be made on setting the Precept.

9. Planning

Applications received since last meeting –

- a. **3PL/2020/1102/F Early Years childcare provision and family centre, including 2 no residential caravans, c/u land at Land between 8 & 11 Beachamwell Road, Drymere.** Further information had been provided which included a detailed business plan since the PC had discussed the application at the meeting on 2nd November. The application was discussed. Following a proposal by Cllr Sanderson, seconded by Cllr Lambert, it was agreed by all that the PC would continue to OBJECT to the application for the following reason: whilst the PC was not against the principal of development at the site it did object to the application in relation to Highways Safety over concerns about the volume of traffic that the development would generate.

Decisions received from the District Council – None

Breckland District Council had advised that they would look into the Garden Centre at 12 Drymere to see if planning permission was needed.

10. Nominees to put forward to RAF Marham for a Christmas card

RAF Marham had asked the PC to nominate 10 household to receive a card and small gift as they were unable to hold the usual Christmas Lunch. The Clerk advised that the PC would be unable to provide details of residents without their consent and it had therefore been suggested that the cards and gifts be sent out to one Councillor who would then distribute to residents. Cllr O'Donnell had agreed she was willing to do this and would consult the list of residents who had attended the lunch previously to draw up the list. It was agreed by all that this was the best option. Clerk to advise RAF Marham.

11. Parish Council Representative for Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC)

NALC had advised that they had become a co-operative organisation and one of their aims was for member councils to be able to now have a greater involvement in how they operate. Councils were able to nominate a representative to attend their virtual meetings every few months to input to their priorities, to get updates on actions being taken and to be able to stand for/vote on behalf of their council in elections to their Board. It was agreed by all that Cllr James should be the PC representative.

12. Correspondence

An email had been received from a resident expressing concern about the condition and safety of the poplar trees on the road verge near the corner of The Street and St John's Lane which was land belonging to the Chairman. A second email had been received from the resident advising that the Chairman had contacted her to advise that he would be removing the dead trees and would also look at the condition of the remaining trees. The resident had asked for the matter to still be mentioned at the meeting to say that although it was still ongoing, it had been for the time being very satisfactorily resolved, and to thank the Chairman for his response.

13. Update from Borough and County Councillor

District Councillor Wilkinson provided a report on Breckland District Council (BDC) activities. The report advised: BDC were still holding virtual meetings, with staff working from home, the services and support to the public and members was continuing at a high level, with no detrimental effect. During the latest Government lockdown BDC had reinstated the community help hub for its residents, emergency accommodation for the homeless and rough sleepers would be continuing indefinitely. The contact number for all emergencies was

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

01522 782246 (housing.advice@breckand.gov.uk). BDC has been allocated a further £6m Government funding to help support Breckland businesses who might have future problems due to Covid 19, help would be allocated on a discretionary basis. BDC had for the 5th year running won a national RSPCA award for its work in animal welfare, the new BDC animal welfare officer would not only cover Breckland but would work with all animal welfare organisations across Norfolk.

Cllr Wilkinson also provided an update regarding the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where he is a Governor of the Trust. The hospital currently had 19 patients who were Covid 19 positive, none of them were on a ventilator at the moment. Since the start of the pandemic the hospital had discharged 328 patients, who had recovered, but sadly 169 patients had died.

County Councillor Eagle was not present and no update had been provided on Norfolk County Council.

14. Members concerns and agenda items for the next meeting

Cllr O'Donnell advised that she had been contacted by a former Councillor in relation to the defibrillator. All of the information held by the former Councillor had been collected by Cllr O'Donnell and was to be passed to the Clerk, who would review the information and then consult a Parish Councillor of a neighbouring PC for advice on maintenance and the correct process for looking after the device. Item to be placed on the next agenda to consider further.

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

15. Date of the next meeting

The date of Wednesday 20th January 2021 was confirmed for the next meeting which would be held virtually.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.36pm