

BEACHAMWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 29th March 2021 commencing at 7.30pm

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 Fabian Eagle	County Councillor
	Cllr Peter Wilkinson	District Councillor
	Miss S J Thorpe	Parish Clerk
	Mrs Sharon Sweet	
	No other members of the public present	

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance

1. Apologies

No apologies had been received.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Sanderson declared an interest in item 9.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 20th January and Extra-Ordinary Meeting on 3rd March, 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

Cllr Eagle had responded to the email sent to him in relation to the footpath diversion (Hall Barn FP13 and BR19a); he had advised that the matter was still in the legal hands and had been delayed due to Covid 19.

5. Public forum for electors to address the council

No members of the public were present.

6. Arrangements for appointment of new Parish Clerk/RFO

The current Clerk/RFO had advised that she was giving her notice due to having too many other work commitments. A possible replacement had been found of Mrs Sharon Sweet, who was present at the meeting. She provided some information on her skills and experience. Following a proposal by Cllr Lambert, seconded by Cllr O'Donnell all were in agreement to offer her the position and to delegate the authority to agree the terms of employment to Cllr Sanderson. The date of the next meeting was to be changed to Monday 17th May to accommodate the availability of the new Clerk. Thanks was expressed by all to the current Clerk for all of her work during the last 18 months.

7. Highways issues

- a. Speeding in the village – information had been passed to the PC from several residents expressing concern about the increase in speeding vehicles in the village, and particularly on Chestnut Walk. The matter was discussed; it was felt that delivery drivers were a bit part of the problem. Cllr Eagle advised that he had some cardboard cut-out signs of toddlers which could be placed between wheelie bins and gave the appearance of a child about to run out in the road. He also had some temporary signs which said “think – slow down” which he was able to lend to the village. He advised that both of these options had proved helpful in other villages. The PC also considered the option of purchasing a Speed Activated Messaging Sign (SAM2) in future, these were quite expensive but 50% of the cost could be covered by an application to the NCC Parish Partnership Scheme for 2022/23 and Cllr Eagle advised that he would be

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

willing to contribute £500 from his Highway budget. The Clerk had discussed the speeding issue with the new Beat Manager for Norfolk Constabulary and he had agreed to add Beachamwell to his rounds when using a speed detection device. It was agreed to try installation of the “toddler” and “think” signs at this point and see how effective they were before considering any other options.

- b. Pot holes were reported at the junction of St Johns Lane with White Road and further along White Road towards the Hall gates when travelling east. *Clerk to report to Highways.*

8. Parking issues on The Street

Replies had been received from residents’ regarding the letters issued in response to complaints about parking across the footpath at two properties on The Street. The replies had advised that the residents had no other option due to the lack of space for parking on their driveways. It was reported that the current occupants of one of the properties would be moving out shortly as the landlord was planning to sell the dwelling. It was agreed to take no further action on this issue.

9. Approval of cost of repairs to road behind the Church

Cllr Sanderson had arranged for the repairs to be carried out. All agreed that this was a good job and an improvement on the situation. Following a proposal by Cllr Lambert, seconded by Cllr O’Donnell, it was agreed to approve the cost of £492 plus VAT for the work.

10. Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2020/21

The Clerk advised that an auditor needed to be appointed each year. Following a proposal by Cllr Sanderson, seconded by Cllr Lambert, it was agreed to reappoint Mrs Christine Hurley from Fincham.

11. Finance

- a. Cheques to be approved and signed for February-March – the following payments were due by cheque, direct debit (DD) and standing order (SO):

HMRC	PAYE for Jan-Feb (SO)	£114.40
Miss S Thorpe	Wages for Feb-Mar (SO)	£458.04
CGM Group Ltd	Grounds maintenance Mar (DD)	£221.63
Miss S Thorpe	Clerk’s admin/defib pads	£130.02
Starboard Systems Ltd	License for accounts software	£116.10
DH Sanderson & Son Ltd	Repairs to road near Church	£590.40
Norfolk ALC	Subscription for 2021/22	<u>£149.22</u>
		£1779.81

It was agreed to authorise the cheque payments, direct debits and standing orders, proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr O’Donnell.

- b. Reconciliation of Cashbook – the Cashbook had been balanced to 28th February 2021. 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.

12. Planning

Applications received since last meeting –

- a. **3PL/2021/0375/F Proposed agricultural building and 2 No. mobile holiday cabins at Forest Edge Arena, Drymere.** The application was discussed. It was agreed by all that the PC would SUPPORT the application.

Decisions received from the District Council –

- b. **3PL/2021/0010/HOU Detached oak framed garage with a first-floor storage area above at Keepers Cottage, 57 Shingham.** The application had been withdrawn.

Appeals made to the Secretary of State against a decision to refuse planning permission –

- c. **3PL/2020/0778/O Erection of 4 dwellings at land west of 10 The Street.**
 d. **3PL/2020/0818/F Proposed development of 2 No 3-bedroom detached bungalows at land behind 3 Bungalow, Old Hall Lane.**

The appeals were briefly discussed. No further comments needed to be made by the PC.

13. Correspondence

Advance notice of the closure of Gooderstone Road, Beachamwell had been given for a 2-day period from Friday 21st May for resurfacing work. The restrictions would take place from 7am-7pm.

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14. Update from Borough and County Councillor

District Councillor Wilkinson had provided a written report on Breckland District Council (BDC) activities prior to the meeting which had been passed to all members. The report advised: At the last full BDC meeting, a budget for 20/21 was passed by members. The council had produced a balanced budget under severe national financial restrictions, the council is looking to save over £3m over the next 4 years, and still invest in frontline services. £42m of Conservative grant funding has been delivered by BDC to businesses across Breckland, BDC spring back programme has been launched to support high street businesses, a £2m fund is available to enable businesses to adapt to working in a Covid environment, helping towns with a delivery plan, helping streamline pavement license applications and supporting street furniture. Breckland customers can now conduct business online by holding video calls with officers. BDC had launched a new innovative programme to support young careers across Breckland, this was part of a £11m investment supporting vulnerable families, an ambitious programme including online events, which was aimed at building confidence, developing aspirations and personal development.

County Councillor Eagle provided a verbal report on Norfolk County Council (NCC) activities which advised: NCC had released details of a plan to plant 1 million trees in the County; members highway budget had been increased from £6k to £10k to help with this initiative. He would be in support of planting cherry trees on the approach into the village. The Swaffham on demand bus initiative had received funding to go ahead with the project. Bird flu lockdown restrictions were coming to an end but members of the public should be aware that cases of bird flu did still exist. Verge cutting was to be reduced as it can encourage motorists to slow down. One full cut would take place in May and then a selective cut later in the year. The Norfolk & Waveney NHS integrated system was working well but residents still needed to be vigilant regarding Covid 19. NCC elections would be taking place on 6th May 2021.

Cllr O'Donnell left the meeting at this point due to her telephone battery.

15. Members concerns and agenda items for the next meeting

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

16. Date of the next meeting

The date of Monday 17th May 2021 was confirmed for the next meeting which would be held in the Village Hall. This would be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.24pm