

BEIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

BEIGHTON AND MOULTON ST. MARY

Minutes of the Meeting of Beighton Parish Council held on Tuesday, 10th July 2012 in Beighton Village Hall at 8.00pm

Present:

Jenny Wright
Joe Wright
District Councillor John Pettman

Katie Hinde
Alex Fegan Read

In the absence of Auriol Innes and Val Mack, Jenny Wright was appointed as Chairman of the meeting.

Mark Walker, from Broadland Housing Association, and representing Saffron Housing Trust, gave a talk on the proposal for some affordable housing for the parish. As the site is technically in Lingwood parish, members of Lingwood Parish Council were also invited to attend the meeting. The proposal is for a minimum of six properties, one and two-bedroomed houses. Kate Devries from Broadland District Council explained that there is a housing need for Beighton residents which this site could meet, but that a housing need in Lingwood would probably require houses closer to the centre of Lingwood parish. A development for Beighton residents would not preclude a further development for Lingwood, if there were a housing need.

There was some discussion about the proposal and Lingwood councillors agreed to invite the Beighton councillors to their next meeting when the proposal would be considered. Mark Walker and Kate Devries were thanked for attending the meeting.

Declarations of interest in item on the agenda:

None.

Apologies:

Auriol Innes (Chairman) Val Mack
Brian Iles (County Councillor)

Public Forum:

1. There was some discussion about the reports of an alleged attempted abduction of a young girl locally.
2. A resident reported that local radio stated that British Sugar may start processing raw sugar shortly. The clerk will contact British Sugar.
3. There was some discussion about the maintenance of local public footpaths now that Norfolk County Council has stopped cutting the footpaths.

Co-Option:

Carol Phillips was co-opted onto the Council and welcomed as a councillor. She signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took her seat on the Council.

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2012 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Jenny Wright as Chairman of the meeting.

Matters Arising:

1. The clerk reported on the NALC annual conference; topics considered included the new Code of Conduct, modern methods of engaging with residents, pensions and freedom of information.
2. The Anglian Water hosepipe ban has been cancelled.
3. Letters of thanks were received from the Freethorpe First Responders and from the Lowland Search & Rescue for the recent donations.
4. A letter of thanks has also been received from Beighton and Moulton St Mary PCC for the donation towards the grasscutting in both churchyards. The PCC also sent a copy of their accounts for the year ended 31st December 2011.
5. The Village Hall committee has stated that ramps are available for disabled access to the village hall. They have also confirmed that they will install a switch for the outside light such that the light stays on for a few minutes after the hall is vacated.

Correspondence:

1. The Broads Authority sent an update to the Broads Landscape Character Assessment. This was noted.
2. John Gallop has completed the annual internal audit. The Annual Return has been sent to the external auditors, Mazars.
3. PC Ian Kennedy sent a report of one recorded crime since the last meeting.
4. The clerk had received a phone call about some maintenance required to trees on village hall land/field pathway. This was believed to be the responsibility of the village hall committee which manages the playing field.

Treasurer's Report:

	£
Balance b/f at 8th May 2012	3,379.33
Less: LGA 1972 s.137 donations	150.00
Less: transfer to savings	2,500.00

Receipts:

Interest received	0.45
VAT refund	10.00
BDC – new homes payment	700.00

Payments:

Clerk's fee and expenses, less PAYE	248.24
HMRC – PAYE July	24.80
HMRC – PAYE August	25.00
Acle PC - share of costs	29.52
Beighton Village Hall – room hire	15.00
John Gallop – internal audit	<u>69.00</u>
Balance c/f at 10th July 2012	1,028.22

Deposit Account	<u>6,533.93</u>
Total Monies	<u>7,562.15</u>

The above cheques were approved and signed.

Planning:

1. Affordable housing. It was agreed to support the site selected by Broadland Housing, in Lingwood parish.

Parish Plan:

It was reported that replies were received from one-third of the homes in the villages. The draft report is being prepared and will be shown to the public at a coffee morning on 1st September at Beighton Village Hall.

There was support for a village newsletter and offers of help in its production. It was also suggested that photos of the parish councillors should be put on the noticeboard to increase awareness about the Parish Council.

Footpaths:

Complaints have been received about the lack of maintenance for footpaths, especially the path from Chapel Road to Moulton. Responsibility for the maintenance lies with the landowner, supported by Norfolk County Council. NCC has decided not to carry out any maintenance, unless there is judged to be a serious risk.

The councillors supported the complaints and will continue to monitor the situation.

Clerk's Pension:

The clerk asked the councillors to consider joining the Norfolk Pension Fund. Employer's contributions to a clerk's pension are currently 19% (2013 – 19.5%) of salary, so would cost £284 pa at this year's rates. The clerk would contribute 6.5% of her salary.

It was agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting when there would be more councillors present.

General Power of Competence:

The General Power of Competence was brought in by the Localism Act 2011 ss1 – 8. The Power gives a local authority the power to do anything which individuals generally may do.

The eligibility requirements are that at least 2/3rds of the councillors must have been elected or stood for election and the clerk must be qualified. It was agreed that the Council met these requirements and it was proposed by Jenny Wright, seconded by Katie Hinde and agreed unanimously that the Council should adopt the General Power of Competence.

Code of Conduct:

The Localism Act 2011 abolished the Standards Board and requires every council to adopt a new Code of Conduct. BDC has drafted one suitable for parish councils, which was adopted by the Parish Council.

Councillors must complete a declaration of interests within 28 days.

Any Other Business:

1. The visit to the recycling depot at Costessey has been arranged for Thursday, 20th September at 9.30 a.m. Councillors were asked to confirm to the clerk whether they could attend.
2. A hedge in Kittles Lane was reported to need cutting back. The clerk will contact NCC Highways.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated: 11th September 2012