

BEIGHTON WITH MOULTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2020 at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Joseph Wright (Chairman), Ivan Cator, Valerie Mack, Kathleen Ashcroft, Edgar Matthews, Allan Wright, Jessica Jennings (Clerk)

Plus Brian Iles, County Councillor and 4 members of the public.

1. Attendance

Apologies received and accepted from Sophie Young and Grant Nurden (District Councillor)

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

3. Public Forum

3.1 Brian Iles, County Councillor – reported that the Budget had been approved at the beginning of February, with a 1.99% general increase and a 2% increase for Adult Social Care. The Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) is a big issue and has been cut by approx. £10 p/week, causing problems for those on low incomes but Norfolk County Council can't change that as it had previously opted to stick to the Government guidelines. It is offering help by sending advisors to help people with finances and to make sure they are claiming all grants and benefits they're entitled to. Brian also reported that another issue is Devolution as opposed to Unitary. Unitary had been rejected and Devolution will be implemented which will link Norfolk and Suffolk financially, with a Mayor overseeing both counties and lobbying the Government on their behalf.

3.2 District Councillor's Report – read out in Grant's absence but included the following:

- The GNLP consultation closes on 16th March and it is important that as many people as possible put forward their views, whether for or against the proposals.
- BDC's budget for 2020/21 was approved at a meeting on 20th February. Council Tax will increase by £4.38 for a Band D property and there will be no increase in the fee charged for the brown, garden waste bin.
- The Council also approved the Council Tax Assistance scheme, due to come into effect on 1st April 2020 and which replaces the Council Tax Reduction scheme. The new scheme will take account of fluctuations in household income of those on Universal Credit and will also simplify the administration process.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2020 were agreed to be a true and accurate account and it was resolved that the Chairman sign them.

4.2 Clerk's Report

Clerk had contacted Highways to see what progress had been made with the list of concerns sent for the Rangers to look at in February. Highways responded that potholes on Daubers Lane should have been filled in but drainage issues throughout the area were a major problem. Some digger work is waiting to be completed and work has been programmed for

gullies / offlets in Moulton St Mary. The French drain on the slip road at Acle on to the A47 has been done. Clerk to keep chasing and to inform them of any other concerns as they arise. *NB At the meeting, flooding due to a blocked gully on Morley Road, opposite the barn conversion, was raised, as was the continuing issue of water running off the High Road in Beighton into the driveways of the bungalows. Clerk to inform Highways.*

Clerk reported that both she and Kate Ashcroft had attended the meeting for Councillors and Clerks to meet with Jerome Mayhew MP, on 6th March. Clerk had sent a summary to Councillors of most of the points raised and said that any issues specific to Beighton / Moulton St Mary can be sent to him at any time.

Clerk also notified the meeting of the forthcoming road closure of Branch Road, Halvergate, from 8.00pm on 27th March to 6.00am on 28th March. She will put this on to the website nearer the time.

5. Correspondence of Note

Clerk highlighted the e'mail that had been circulated regarding the Great British Spring Clean which runs from 20th March to 13th April. Councillors were asked to consider if there was a need for a litter pick and, if so, whether to do an official GBSC one or whether to arrange a general community litter pick through Broadland District Council.

Discussions included some McDonalds litter on the road near the public footpath across the fields that leads to Chapel Road and on the main road through Beighton but it wasn't felt that there was generally enough of a litter problem to warrant a litter pick. Rubbish dumped on Acle Road was mentioned – Clerk to report to BDC.

6. Planning

New Barn Cottage, 29 Chapel Road, Beighton, NR13 3LF

Lawful Development: Existing Use / Development

Certificate of Lawful Use or Development Existing – Use of Land as Residential (Garden) Curtilage

At the request of Broadland District Council, this was discussed for the second time with the focus on whether the Parish Council knew of any instance within the last 10 years when the land in question was not used as a garden. It was agreed by the Parish Council that due to its location, it was impossible to view from the roadside and that they could not say for certain whether there had been any break in its use as a garden or whether it had been used as such continuously. Clerk to inform the Case Officer.

7. Finance

7.1 The following payments were agreed and cheques signed for

Village Hall Hire	March Meeting	£ 19.00
Norfolk Pension Fund	February / March	£ 98.62
Jessica Jennings	February /March Wages	£ 270.94
HMRC	February / March	£ 66.60
	Total:	£ 455.16
Bank Balance as at 24 th February		£ 4,750.21
Outstanding Cheques		£ 455.16

Projected Balance	£ 4,295.05
Business Account Balance	£ 13,584.43
TOTAL FUNDS:	£ 17,879.48

8. Items for Discussion

8.1 Parish Meeting & Parish Council AGM, 12th May – Clerk asked for confirmation of arrangements for the meetings and reports expected to be given. Councillors confirmed that Agenda items should be as previous years with some minor changes as necessary. The Chairman’s report should be done in advance of the meeting and delivered to parishioners, making them aware of the meeting and inviting them to it. To be put on Website / Facebook page too. Councillors to provide refreshments between themselves – Clerk to e’mail and arrange/confirm nearer the time.

Allan Wright gave his apologies in advance for the meeting.

8.2 Operation London Bridge – Location for Copper Beech – this item to be carried forward to next meeting (May 12th) as still not clear on suitable locations.

8.3 Internal Audit – Councillors agreed to use John Gallop as their internal auditor, as per previous years and based on the quote given to the Clerk. Clerk to confirm acceptance with John Gallop.

8.4 Dog Fouling – Councillors discussed areas of particular concern regarding dog fouling and Clerk distributed official Dog Fouling signs to be put up. Areas identified were: the footpath running from the Church to Sandy Lane, with a sign to go at the Sandy Lane end, the footpath behind the Village Hall, at the steps towards Lingwood, and the Kissing Cross footpath. Normal bins can be used for disposing of bags too. The possibility of having more dog bins was briefly raised but dismissed, as BDC have said in the past that there is no justification for extra bins. Clerk to check past Minutes. Any new bins purchased would also lead to the extra cost of having them emptied. Clerk to check current prices of bins and emptying charges.

9. Items for Next Agenda:

None raised.

With no more business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.10 pm

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 12th May 2020, 7.30 pm, Beighton Village Hall

Signed:

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J. Wright (Chairman) Date: