

BEIGHTON WITH MOULTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2023, 7.30 pm at Beighton Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Joe Wright, Sophie Young, Kate Ashcroft, Edgar Matthews, Allan Wright, Jessica Jennings (Clerk) Grant Nurden, District Councillor

1. Attendance:

Apologies: None

Absent: Cllr Valerie Mack, County Cllr Lana Hemsall

2 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations:

For Agenda Item X – Cllrs Alan Wright and Edgar Matthews in their capacity as members of the Village Hall Committee.

3 Public Forum

3.2 District Councillor's Report – Grant Nurden

- Grant informed the meeting of the Broadland District Council Business Awards and said that it is open for nominations, with a deadline of 15th December.
- He will be attending a Broadland District Council briefing on nutrient neutrality. He is concerned about the impact it could have on rural communities and cited the recent news item of Marshalls Farm stopping their farming of pigs.
- His Ward Members grant has been fully spent for 23/24 and his 24/25 grant has already been committed to Freethorpe. However, there is still £500 left.
- He had attended the most recent Town & Parish Council Forum and once again advocated how informative they are and encouraged Councillors to join in.
- There is a Broadland District Council Grants Scheme, which involves community organisations applying for grants of between £1,000 and £15,000. Grant has submitted 2 applications; from Freethorpe and Reedham.
- There was no update on Beighton Pit.

3.3 Village Hall Report – Peter Howell

- The one regular hirer of the Hall, Saxability, has decided to stop using the Hall, as they have relocated to Postwick. This is a loss of a regular income.
- Bingo events have raised £1,970, although there has been a decline in the numbers attending but this has been attributed to colder weather and the road closures.
- Hall upkeep is expensive, with basic running costs of electricity / water and associated standing charges.
- He would like to see the Parish Council continue to help the Village Hall financially and to encourage residents to attend events and use the Hall. He doesn't think that committee members should have to fund things from their own pockets.
- There have been occasional bookings for a few hours but after each booking, a cleaner has to be paid to clean up afterwards.
- As it currently stands, the income generated is not enough to keep the Hall running.

- He requested that the Parish Council helps with the cost of grass cutting, which is £499 and is on the Agenda.
- He said that the field has not used for an event since June 2022 and that it is mainly used by dog walkers or to play on. He said that Village Hall funds can't continue to be used for paying for the grass cutting and he would like the Parish Council to take it on. He suggested adding the cost on to the Precept in order to fund it.

3.4 Public Participation

- The issue of speeding sugar beet lorries was raised and the potential dangers they posed, especially for school children getting on and off the school bus. Also that some lorries were driving through the village before 6.00 a.m. Requested that Parish Council write a letter to Cantley factory to request that they speak to drivers regarding speed and time.
Action: Clerk to send email.
- Flooding outside Hanton's Loke, probably due to a blocked ditch. Would like it cleared and drainage checking.
- Flooding also on High Road before the turning up to Stone Corner, which is causing traffic to swing out to over the centre of the road to avoid. As this is on a bend, this is dangerous.
- Flooding also an issue near Hopewell Gardens, and also causing cars to move out to avoid it.
Action: Clerk to email Highways.
- The SAM2 post outside Hopewell Gardens has had a bus timetable attached to it which is impeding movement of the SAM2.
Action: Clerk to email NCC to ask them to move it (either elsewhere or lower down the post)

4 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2023 were agreed to be a true and accurate account and it was resolved that the Chairman sign them.

4.2 Matters Arising:

None

4.3 Clerk's Report:

- Clerk reported that she had contacted Paul Sellick, NCC Highways, regarding the faded road markings at the junction at Peacock Corner in Moulton and the dirty speed signs. P. Sellick had replied that he would raise the location with their contractors to refresh the markings. He said there should be a 'Give Way' sign on Morley Road at the junction and would check it was visible, as with all the speed repeater signs.

5 **Correspondence of Note**

Broadland District Council – email regarding Review of Polling Districts

Councillors agreed that Clerk should send Cllr Allan Wright's response (which he had emailed the

Clerk) to this issue as the official response i.e. that the Village Hall meets the criteria needed to be a good choice of Polling station and not other venue in the community does. It provides good facilities.

6 Planning

2023/2992 Manor Hall Farm, Reedham Road, Moulton St Mary

Proposal: installation of 3 x 6 ground mounted solar panels and change of use from agricultural to domestic use of land.

Councillors discussed this and although they had no outright objections, raised concerns over the change of use from agricultural to domestic and any potential for future building on the land if the solar panels were ever removed. Concerned over possibility of farmland getting subsumed into building land in the future.

7 Finance

Balance as at 30th September £12,831.82

Payments made:

Jessica Jennings	McAfee Security	£ 49.99
Jessica Jennings	Clerk's Expenses	£ 51.30
Jessica Jennings	Clerk's Fees (October)	£ 186.56
HMRC	Tax (October)	£ 37.80
Norfolk Pension Fund	Clerk's Pension (October)	£ 60.88
Moulton St Mary Church	Grass Cutting Grant	£ 380.00
Beighton Church	Grass Cutting Grant	£ 380.00
Peter Howell	Replacement V' Hall Key	£ 11.90
HMRC	Tax (November)	£ 38.00
Jessica Jennings	Clerk's Fees (November)	£ 188.36
Norfolk Pension Fund	Clerk's Pension (November)	£ 60.88
Beighton Village Hall	Meeting Hire (November)	£ 20.00
Royal British Legion	2 x Poppy Wreaths	£ 60.00
	Total:	£ 1,525.67

Payments received:

Lloyds Bank	Interest (October)	£ 12.51
Lloyds Bank	Interest (November)	£ 15.00
	Total:	£ 27.51

Bank Balance as at 30 th November	£11,333.66
Business Account Balance	£13,584.43
TOTAL FUNDS:	£26,918.09

8 Items for Discussion

8.1 Budget 2024/25 – to review and agree proposed Budget

Councillors reviewed and discussed the Clerk's proposed budget and were in agreement. Propose budget is £8,567 which includes an earmarked CIL spend of £1,330 for replacement bollards in the Village Hall carpark and a new noticeboard.

8.2 Precept – to agree on Precept amount for 2024/25

Councillors considered the Precept amount to request from Broadland District Council. They agreed that the Parish Council has a healthy amount of money in its accounts combined. The issue of whether or not the Parish Council should meet the cost of the Playingfield grass cutting was discussed in terms of the Precept and whether or not it should be raised by £500 to allow for this cost, as it is used by the Community.

The current Precept is set at £7,134.

The Clerk said she would do the costings of the difference this would make to each household's charge on the Council Tax once she has received the figures for the Tax Base from B.D.C. Once this has been done, Councillors will make a decision.

Carried forward to next meeting (9th Jan 2024)

8.3 Village Hall -to consider the general situation of the Village Hall.

This was not discussed further, as it was agreed that it had already been mentioned in the Public Participation under the Village Hall Update.

8.4 Village Hall – Carpark bollards & Noticeboard: to consider costings.

Councillors agreed to replace 10 (out of a total of 52) of the bollards in the Village Hall car park and also to replace the Village Hall Noticeboard.

The costs are expected to be approximately as follows:

Bollards - £12.60 each, painted with reflector, wooden post with steel soil rod to prevent rotting, = £126.00 incl VAT

Post Fix cement x 5 bags = £35.00

Total: £138.60

Noticeboard - Outdoor, lockable noticeboard, aluminium frame 1220x1031mm

Edusentials Ltd £491.94 inc VAT

Boards Direct. £516.00 inc VAT

Total: Approx £500

It was noted that these costs are for materials only and not labour. Clerk to contact Beighton Builders for an estimate. The VAT will be able to be claimed back. The costs for this have already been approved to come out of CIL money.

8.5 Tree Planting Grant: request to plant trees on Playing Field

Councillors discussed a request sent from a Parishioner asking if they could consider applying for Norfolk County Council's Community Tree Project Grant to plant trees on the playing field in order to create a natural area.

As the Parish Council does not own the Playingfield this was not a decision that could be made by them, as it would be the landowner's decision. The Landowner has said that they do not have any plans to plant trees on the field.

9 **Items for Next Agenda / Information:**

- Nothing was raised at this point for the next meeting.

With no more business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.20 pm

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 9th January 2024, 7.30 pm, Beighton Village Hall

Signed:

..... J. Wright (Chairman) Date: