

DRAFT COPY

BELTON WITH BROWSTON

PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR : BRIAN SWAN
VICE CHAIR : PETER NICHOLS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 18th APRIL 2017
AT THE NEW ROAD SPORT AND LEISURE CENTRE, BELTON

IN ATTENDANCE

Parish Councillors B. Swan (Chair), P. Nichols (Vice Chair), R. Brotherton, N. Brown, D. Buckworth, M. Dinsdale, M. Graystone, G. Newman, I. Walpole, K. Palmer (Clerk), Borough Cllr Myers and 15 members of the public representing various local organisations.
The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Parish Council Chairman opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming. Apologies for absence had been received from Parish Cllrs Barbara Clark, Margaret Greenacre, and Lee Staff. Reverend Rosie Bunn, Borough Cllr Brian Lawn and County Cllr Alan Grey.

2. MINUTES

The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 26th April 2016 had been prior circulated. To accept the minutes as a true and accurate record. Proposed Mr Utting, Seconded Mrs Richmond. All In Favour.

3. ANNUAL REPORT

By the Parish Council Chairman Brian Swan.

First of all let me say that this year has been overshadowed by the deaths of our council chairman, John Rudrum, our Norfolk County Councillor, Colin Aldred and by the Councils monitoring officer who dealt with any disputes and offered advice, that was Chris Skinner, head of the legal team at Norfolk County Council, all these in a matter of a few weeks, they will all be greatly missed, our thoughts go to all their families.

I have only taken on the chairman's position from last months council meeting so this is more of a general report, I would like to thank all Parish Councillors, including Vice chair Peter Nichols who took over on Johns passing, our two Borough Councillors Adrian Myers and Brian Lawn and express our thanks for the work of Colin Aldred at County. Special thanks as well to our clerk, Kate Palmer for keeping the council on the straight and narrow, the caretakers, David Skipper for keeping ahead of the ever continuing litter problem and Daniel Nichols and his predecessors for their work maintaining this (New Road) building.

Thanks also to our users here especially Bohemians YFC but not forgetting ALL the groups that we have now and the party users, it has reached the stage where some bookings are facing refusal if specific slots are required , we have in fact had our best years income ever for this building.

In the Parish thank you to everyone who reported grass cutting problems to us, we transferred our contact for New Road, The Churchyard, Bell Lane and Bland Corner to GYB Services for a better price, however it was obvious that this was not working for us and we were very fortunate to get our previous contractor, Garden Guardian, back on board at very short notice.

We had two Parish Partnership schemes completed where half the cost comes through a finance

scheme at County Council, the “Wigwag” lights at the school and the 'trod' path near the village sign were successfully completed. We also funded the clearance of the dyke at Bland Corner, without this work every few years there could well be surface water flooding on that corner.

In the coming year I would like to see areas at each side of the footbridge cleared up and hopefully some clearance on the New Road banks to make the street lighting there more effective, we are also considering plans for security cameras to cover the Bell Lane Field and New Road building although that would be a major cost, I hope to have the opportunity to work with councillors in the parish and beyond in achieving these and other aims.

4. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Parish Council Chairman reported this years Citizen Of The Year as a joint award and is awarded to Mr Bill Richmond and Mrs Sue Richmond for all the groups and activities that they are involved with in the village.

5. VILLAGE VOICE

The report for Village Voice was presented by Cllr Swan, the report is appended to and does form part of these minutes. It was also noted that there is currently a vacancy on Village Voice Board. Anyone interested in the position to contact Cllr Swan.

6. BELTON POORS ALLOTMENT

Mr Dick Utting read through the annual report. Please note a copy of this report and the annual accounts are appended to and both form part of the minutes. Following the advertising of one Trustee vacancy this year two new Trustees are to be appointed, this being Jane Clarke and Martyn Rudrum. As the usual number of Trustees is four Jennifer Utting will carry on as a Trustee until the AGM and will then resign, but will continue in the background to assist with the post of Treasurer/Secretary. To propose the new trustees Mr Richmond, Seconded Mrs Myhill. All In Favour. Following the report the annual accounts were duly signed by the Chairman. The Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Utting for all their work over the last year.

7. PARISH ACCOUNTS

Please note this report has been compiled by Cllr Swan but read by Cllr Buckworth.

It has been another very steady year overall for the Parish Council finances, we have finished the 12 months within £900.00 of a break even budget, and that was on the positive side - which is not bad on a turnover of over £70K

The best sign this year is a considerable increase in booking incomes at his (New Road) centre with overall income up just over £4000 due to more regular users and an increase in party bookings, lets hope that this can progress further

The increase was partly offset by increases in wages and pension contributions which is inevitable these days.

I would again emphasise that although we have a very healthy reserve we must be aware that Great Yarmouth is the only district council in Norfolk to give financial support directly to Parish councils in the form of a grant with the Parish Precept funds and we would be hard pressed to put that £12K on to the Council tax in a single hit should the Borough decide that this is a line of saving that they can adopt.

My thanks to Kate for her excellent work with the finances during the year and especially her ability to get the final accounts out within days of our year end on April 1st.

I am now passing the financial portfolio over to Darren, who is reading this report and trust that we can keep things on an even keel in the years to come.

8. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

There was no representative available from the Police to make a report.

Great concern was voiced regarding the lack of foot patrol within the village, there is a need of more uniform officers to be seen. It was agreed for the clerk to write to the Police expressing the concern from residents and the disappointment that no one could attend the meeting. Borough Cllr Myers stated he has written to Chief Inspector Wiltshire a number of weeks ago concerning this subject and is yet to receive a reply. This will be followed up shortly if nothing if no contact has been made.

9. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Reports were given on behalf of the following organisations. Please note copies of all reports are appended to and do form part of the minutes.

John Green Institute Trustees	Belton and District Historical Society
Belton and Lothingland Produce and Crafts Show	
Wednesday Morning Drop In – JGI Art Group	
Digital Camera Club	Belton Scouts
Belton Lunch Club	New Road Sport & Leisure Centre
Belton Charity Fund Raisers	
Belton W.I.	

Borough Cllr Myers reported after hearing the news there will no longer be a school crossing patrol officer in the village he will be taking the matter up with NCC, as before the wig wags were purchased he and County Cllr Aldred had been guaranteed they would not replace the Officer. It was agreed the clerk to also send a letter to NCC about this.

Secondly he will be arranging a meeting with the Chairman of the Environment Committee at GYBC concerning the spray weed killing which has been used again this year, following previous a statement that this method would not be used again. It was agreed the Chairman and and Cllr Brotherton will also attend this meeting, and a letter may be sent to GYBCs following the outcome of the meeting.

10. OPEN FORUM

-The Chairman stated there is currently one vacancy on the Parish Council, any one who is interested please contact either himself or the clerk.

-Concern was voiced at various parking problems around the village including the Station Rd North/Bracon Road corner. Borough Cllr Myers stated he will discuss all issues with the Parking Enforcement Officers.

-It was again asked would each of the Parish Councillors be prepared to write a small article to be published in the Village Voice? The article would give a small insight into their particular role on the council, their interests etc. One would be included in each issue so it would only need to be done once a year by each member. Also would one member per month be able to attend the Saturday coffee morning at the JGI? The Chairman stated this would be discussed again at next months Parish Council meeting.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 8.35pm