

Belton with Browston Parish Council Meeting

CHAIR: KEN BOTWRIGHT VICE CHAIR: NIGEL LIGHT

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 1st November 2022 at New Road Sport & Leisure Centre

IN ATTENDANCE

K. Botwright (Chairman), N. Light (Vice Chair), K. Barber, N. Brown, S. Bridges, M. Greenacre, D. Mills, G. Searby, L. Staff, H. Williams, I. Walpole, K. Ruddock (Clerk), and two members of the public including Borough Cllr Myers.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

PUBLIC SECTION

There was no public section.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hillier, Cameron and County Cllr Annison. To accept the apologies proposed Cllr Botwright, seconded Cllr Searby. All in Favour.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Burgh Castle Parish Council – Cllr Greenacre. Belton FC – Cllr Brown. Also note all Parish Councillors are Trustees of Belton Playing Field Charity.

3. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 04/10/22 had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. To accept the minutes as a true and accurate record proposed Cllr Bridges, seconded Cllr Mills. All in Favour.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- Waveney Drive/St Johns Road Cherry Tree It was reported the cherry tree which was removed from Waveney drive/St Johns Road is due to be replaced and set in November by GYBC.
- Commemorative Oak Tree Borough Cllr Myers reported Paul Kelf is looking into whether GYBC are able to supply a mature (approximately 5 years old) oak tree for the Parish Council to commemorate King Charles III, it will depend on the cost to do so. It was agreed the oak tree could be planted on the area of land near to Bell Lane/Heather Rd.
- Defibrillator Berry Close Cllr Brown confirmed he had enquired into obtaining funding from the FA to purchase a new defibrillator however was advised this would not be possible.
- Borough Cllr Myers confirmed Belton FC could apply for funding from both his and Borough Cllr Cameron's ward budget, community organisations are able to apply for the funding Parish Councils are no longer able to do so. Borough Cllr Myers confirmed he will forward the relevant paperwork onto Cllr Brown as it is thought applications have to be submitted to GYBC by the end of December.
- COSHH assessment & training Cllr Mills confirmed he is looking to hold the training session next Tuesday/Wednesday.

5. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The following updates had been received from NCC Highways Dept which had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

Back Lane, Belton/Fritton - The NCC Maintained Unsurfaced Road is inaccessible to vehicles and cyclists, in places it is only two feet wide. This road runs from Beccles Road, Belton to New Road, Fritton.

This is a soft road and is expected to carry light traffic with little maintenance or upgraded provided to all such routes in the County as a whole. I am afraid that further opening up could encourage traffic use, which could detract from the pedestrian /trails use. Parts were passed to GYB services to provide a price for clearance as requested but unfortunately many of the overhanging trees are boundary trees and privately owned. Unfortunately this is not considered to be a high priority in expending budget to fully open to traffic.

- Village Signs

“Welcome to Belton signs” are installed on New Road, Beccles Road and Stepshort. The installation of the signs took longer than expected for which you have my apologies. Hopefully signs in your electoral area will be provided much quicker in future, if deemed a necessary addition.

- Urban grass cutting in-house for Parish

As has been indicated to the parish council NCC have a goods and service level agreement with Great Yarmouth Borough Council for the grass cutting across the whole borough, which based on the sheer quantity has low rate £ per m2 to NCC for the grass cutting compared to that which some villages in other areas outside the borough are paid. Therefore we have a cost effective model in place and we would not look to delegate this element away from the Borough agreement. Some figures were supplied concerning rights of ways cutting directly by the rights of way team and this may be more of a possibility as is not part of the GYBC contract, this can be considered further.

- Cleaning village drains

All gullies are on a schedule the frequency of which depends on the type of road (for example the section of New Road from Stepshort to Bracon Road all gullies are cleansed annually – last cleansed 15 October 2021 due again shortly. In other side roads the frequency is a less (typically either 2 or 3years), but note many were cleaned last October. NCC also has undertaken several ad hoc cleanses at previously reported locations such as The Green which had an ad hoc cleanse on 21 November 2021.

- Belton Crossroads – mini roundabout / Signage (Slow) / speed limit 40/50mph?

Latest costings on roundabout construction costs show £1m plus costs are expected on a rising scale. I am afraid that a roundabout on the A143 the crossroads would far exceed the budget constraints and scale of project for the RSCF funding which is set at about £10k/ scheme within the overall £1m budget. Any speed limit change though would be data driven based on accidents and mean speeds. I suspect this would not be put forward as part of the RSCF programme.

- Rectory Corner white lines

There are no plans to introduce white centre lines on Beccles Road which is still relatively rural and in a 30mph limit, such measures have relatively strict DfT criteria for adherence to. The similar lines installed on Bracon Road are where the more built up urban environment is, and the road slightly wider, meeting the criteria.

- New Road flooding, Bradwell

As per previous reply on 18 February 2021, which in summary, indicated that the soakaways were cleared in February 2021 and that saturated land was a major factor in the flooding on New Road. (Subsequently to that reply one of the soakaways also had an additional ad hoc visit in October 2021. All the nearby gullies were cleansed again October 2021 with no issues reported by the

drainage contractor). As indicated previously, a drainage scheme brief does remain on our forward capital programme for consideration against other such requests awaiting future funding. It is of note that as part of that brief it is suggested that discussions could be held with the farmer about the creation of watercourse/ponds or the like, if a design option requires it)

● New Road Cycle/Footpath:

I am afraid that the Contract documents may not be shared. The specification for cycle ways are standardised in terms of construction depths, but as design initiative on this path, a ‘stiffer’ surface material was used which allowed for savings on back edgings. Remedial works and issues were reported to the design team and were undertaken by the contractor at their cost, to the weed damage which pushed though at a joint line along a section of the path within.

● Station Road South pavement/road delineation and pavement resurfacing?

Unfortunately funding for footway resurfacing schemes is limited and prioritised. The Street Scene Inspector does visit and is aware of the constraints of scheme funding, from these visits I can report positively that we have undertaken some patching to the footways on this road. For example 140m² was patched in November 2021, 20m² patched in July 2021, 160m² patched in March 2021.

● Cherry Lane, Browston - Relocation of signs to make them more visible to HGVs.

The inspector will be asked to check the existing unsuitable for HGV signs (one at either end) to make sure they are in good condition and visible.

● New Road, Belton, between Bell Lane bridge and Bracon Road -Road Surface

Unfortunately funds for resurfacing schemes on this class of road, such as the resurfacing scheme on Stepshort in 2020, have reduced considerably. The road is regularly inspected for safety defects including the cracking and loss of surface chip. Records indicate it was surface dressed in 2007 so it will be put forward for this ‘sealing’ treatment on a future programme as funding permits.

It was agreed the response concerning Back Lane and the Belton Crossroads in particular were very unsatisfactory. The Chairman added since receiving the update from the Highways Engineer he had emailed Tom McCabe, the Director of Community and Environmental Services at NCC to ask that both issues are revisited.

6. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCIAL MATTERS

	PAYEE/DETAIL	V.A.T	AMOUNT
BACS	(Norton Peskett) PoweredbyPie – local authority searches land A143 Belton Pit	£27.01	£162.05
BACS	Employment		£4,809.41
BACS	K. Gipson – refund for warm hub items £159.65, maintenance items £53.37	£25.01	£213.02
BACS	Refund K. Ruddock for stationary	£9.90	£59.34
BACS	D. Skipper – ½ van road tax		£145.00
BACS	K. Gipson – ½ van road tax		£145.00
BACS	Electrical Systems & Design – 5 year electrical testing (New Road)		£500.00
DD	BT	£17.54	£105.26
DD	ESPO - gas	£4.97	£104.43
DD	SSE - electric	£199.99	£1,310.43
	Total	£284.42	£7,553.94

	Council A/C	New Road A/C	Ring fenced Balance
Bank Balance October	£91,485.54	£106.38	£40,994.00

Bank Balance November	£85,305.52	£106.38	£40,994.00
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Payments into New Road: £1056.50

To propose payment for the above finance sheet Cllr Mills, seconded Cllr Botwright. All in Favour.

Mower Blades Quotation from Ben Burgess Supply & fit £190.98. Supply only £73.93 (plus vat & carriage)

Cllr Light reported Ben Burgess have confirmed the warranty of the grass mower will not be effected if he and the caretaker fit the new blades. Therefore it was agreed to proceed with the supply only quotation of £73.93.

Quotation from Electrical Systems & Design During the five year electrical test three fans were identified as needing to be replaced. The quotation to supply and fit a new extractor fan in the kitchen, toilet and changing room totals £569. It was agreed to replace the fans in the kitchen and toilet. Cllr Light added currently the caretaker is buying packs of paper towels for £20 per pack, it may be more economical to change to hand driers which cost £30 per unit.

7.2023/24 PRECEPT

The Clerk reported she had circulated to all members prior to the meeting a draft copy of the precept, along with the minutes from the Finance Working Party meeting which was held on 25th October. Currently the draft precept contains an increase of 10%, however there is still a deficit of £5000 due to the increase in the electric supply for New Road. The contract with SSE has now expired, Utility Aid have been contacted who have provided the Clerk with in excess of 30 quotations from various providers, including SSE. The most competitive quotation being a two year contract with EDF. Cllr Light reported he had spoken to the Chairman of NALC about the situation of raising the precept, several issues had been discussed. Generally the advice being that it would not be prudent to not raise the precept sufficiently to cover all expenditure. The shortfall would then be passed on and will become much greater in later years. The Council could also look to change from a Finance Working Party to a Finance Committee when setting the precept. After some discussion Cllr Light proposed to accept the precept but with an increase of 22% which would therefore include the full budget needed for the New Road electric. Seconded Cllr Staff. Yes: 10, Abstain: 1. Carried. A copy of the precept is appended to and does form part of the minutes.

Cllr Greenacre proposed to accept the electric contract quotation supplied by EDF for a two year period. Seconded Cllr Walpole. All in Favour.

It was suggested further income for New Road could be generated by contacting the Caravan Club. The company does hire various sites for 4 weeks at a time during the summer months for their members, this could provide a good income for the Parish Council.

8. NEW ROAD SPORT & LEISURE CENTRE

The minutes from the Working Party meeting held on 6th October were noted.

Purchase/Hire of Floor Cleaner

The options to purchase/hire a new floor cleaner were discussed, the three options being:

- To purchase a second hand machine from Facebook Market Place for £900 (to purchase new would cost approximately £4500) the unit comes with a battery squeegees and discs. Cllr Light confirmed he would be willing to go and pick the unit up from Middlesex therefore there would be no extra costs incurred for mileage or caretaker hours.

- To purchase a new machine from Hugh Crane £1465/£1950 (mains/battery), which comes with a one year warranty.
- To lease a cleaner from CPS Cleaning for £100 per month, the hire includes parts, repairs and servicing.

Cllr Light voiced frustration that it had been agreed by the New Road Working Party to proceed with the purchase of the second hand unit. However the Clerk clarified it had not been an agenda item and therefore needed to be agreed by the Parish Council, the Chairman had sourced two other options which needed to be presented to the Parish Council before a final decision is made.

After some discussion Cllr Brown proposed to purchase the second hand unit for £900, seconded Cllr Staff. Yes: 9, No: 1, Abstain: 1. Carried. Cllr Light confirmed he would look to purchase the unit the following day.

Cllr Greenacre proposed if the second hand unit is no longer available on Facebook to proceed with hiring a cleaner from CPS for approximately three months to allow time to try to find another second hand unit. Seconded Cllr Bridges. All in Favour

Warm Hub

Cllr Light reported the New Road Caretaker has donated a Sky dish and he has donated a Sky box which can be used by the warm hub, a TV license has been applied for. No one has attended the hub as yet but this was expected due to the mild weather. Items such as tea bags, coffee, biscuits and squash have been purchased. It was agreed to hold off from purchasing any other items such as a toaster and griddle until the hub becomes busy. Borough Cllr Myers added, GYBC have reported there is funding now open for residents in the Borough to help with the cost of living crisis, however applications have to be made by the 13th November.

Christmas tree. After some discussion it was agreed to purchase a tree from Burgh St Peter for approximately £25.

9. JANUARY 2023 MEETING DATE

It was agreed the meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th January 2023, 7.30pm at New Road Sport & Leisure Centre.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chairman reported application of the designated area has been submitted to GYBC. The GYBC consultation has been advertised in the Village Voice, on Facebook, the Mercury and on the three parish websites. A public meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd November, 7.30pm at New Road Centre.

11. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

It was agreed the closing date for the award will be 31st January 2023.

12. PLANNING

Comments sent to GYBC prior to the meeting for the following application:

06/22/0846/CU. The Pastures, Cherry Lane, Browston

Proposed change of use of domestic swimming pool (C3) to public swimming pool it was agreed to object to the above application.

The Parish Council have already stated, on two previous occasions, the issue is the detriment to the amenity of the residents of Cherry Lane, namely parking. Many residents of Cherry Lane have complained about cars being parked on the single lane road and in residents' drives! This issue has not changed i.e. there is insufficient parking for this to be available to members of the public.

Our previous comments:

06/20/0624/CU "The Parish Council objects to the planning application above, it was agreed by all members there is no need for a public swimming pool in the village. However, if the application is approved the Parish Council would like the condition added that all vehicles of visitors to the property must be parked within the property curtilage, no vehicles must be parked along Cherry Lane."

06/21/0239/F "The Pastures, Cherry Lane, Browston. Variations of cond 6 – opening hours, The Parish Council agreed to object to the above application until adequate parking is provided on site." It has also been noted that in the planning application the applicant has stated no hazardous substances will be stored on site, when in fact there will be quite harmful chemicals (chlorine) will be needed on site to keep the pool clean.

06/22/0906/TRE The Rectory, Beccles Rd, Belton. Fell to ground trees in heavy decline. It was agreed to send no objections subject to neighbours' comments for the above application.

13. TIME & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th December 2022, 7.30pm at New Road Sport & Leisure Centre.

14. INCAMERA RESOLUTION

To consider a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting in accordance with the public bodies (admissions to meetings) act 1960.s 1, in order to discuss resignation of caretaker and auction of Belton Pit land.

15. RESIGNATION OF CARETAKER

The Clerk reported she had received notification from Mr Saunders that he has resigned from his position as caretaker. It was agreed due to the increase in costs in the next financial year, the position for a third caretaker can no longer be funded.

16. AUCTION OF BELTON PIT LAND

The Chairman reported the auction is now live and will finish at 3pm tomorrow. Cllr Light added there had been an offer to underwrite the auction for £35,000 which had been rejected.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 8.50pm