

Belton with Browston Parish Council Meeting
CHAIR: DAVID MILLS VICE CHAIR: NIGEL LIGHT

**Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 7th November 2023
At New Road Sport & Leisure Centre**

IN ATTENDANCE: D. Mills (Chair), N. Light (Vice Chair), K. Barber, S. Bridges, G. Searby, M. Cox, M. Greenacre, S. Neal, K. Ruddock (Clerk) and three members of the public including Borough Cllr Carpenter.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

PUBLIC SECTION

A member of the public was present at the meeting to report the following issues:

- There is a large hawthorn tree to the rear of Rosedale Gardens that has now started heavily leaning to one side. Who is responsible for the maintenance of trees and hedges in the Village? County Cllr Murray Smith has been contacted about this particular tree, the landowner of where the tree is sited needs to be identified so they can be contacted about it's condition.
- Would the Parish Council support getting the hole in the fence behind the Tavern P.H. Blocked off? The pathway there is private land not public land, there is a covenant within the land title deeds that access should only be for the owners.
The Chairman replied the area in question has been used as a walkway for many years by members of the public therefore it may not now be possible to block off this access.
- One of the drains in Fern Gardens car park has been blocked for sometime. This has been reported to GYBC, NCC and Anglian Water however they have all refused to take responsibility to get the drain unblocked. Can the Parish Council try to determine is responsible.
- There are now several cars being parked on the various grass verges in the village which is spoiling the look of the village, can anything be done to prevent them from being able to park there?
Cllr Greenacre replied there may be an opportunity for a bye law to be created which would then prevent vehicles from parking on verges in the village. It was agreed to obtain information further information from County Cllr Annison and Borough Cllr Carpenter concerning this option.
- The Tavern P.H. Does not have a license to hold outdoor music events however there was a noisy event during the summer that ran late into the evening. This was reported at the time to the Licensing Dept. at GYBC but no further action was taken.
It was agreed to notify Borough Cllr Carpenter about this to find as it may need to be reported to Environmental Services Dept. at GYBC.

The public section was closed and main meeting commenced at 7.09pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Riseborough, Gay and County Cllr Annison. To accept the apologies proposed Cllr Greenacre, seconded Cllr Searby. All in Favour.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Greenacre – Burgh Castle Parish Council. All Parish Councillors are Trustees of Belton Playing Field Charity. All Parish Councillors are Trustees of Belton Poor's Allotment Charity.
Cllr Cox – Item 12 Planning

4. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 03/10/23 had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. To accept the minutes as a true and accurate record proposed Cllr Greenacre, seconded Cllr Neil.

All in Favour.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Crown Gas – Reply concerning gas meter & standing charge

The Parish Council are still liable to pay the standing charge when it had been disconnected as the meter remained on site. The gas meter itself is not owned by Crown, it is owned by Meter Asset Manager, Energy Assets.

5. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

There were no Borough or County Cllr reports.

7. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCIAL MATTERS

	PAYEE/DETAIL	V.A.T	AMOUNT
DC	Post office 2 nd class stamps		£42.00
DD	BT – Clerks broad/tele	£11.24	£67.45
DD	Crown - gas	£9.27	£194.68
DD	EDF - electric	£26.13	£548.66
DC	Post Office - stationary	£1.33	£7.98
BACS	Employment		£4,332.56
BACS	K. Gipson – refund grass cutting items 134.09, New Rd items £15.71	£24.97	£149.80
BACS	K. ruddock refund – stationary and postage (bank)	£0.42	£5.95
BACS	Flameskill – fire alarm & emergency lighting testing	£26.10	£156.60
BACS	Electrical Systems & Design security lighting repair		£180.00
BACS	GY Services – Bland corner tree works	£76.95	£461.70
BACS	CCP Planning – neighbourhood plan (grant)	£660.00	£3,960.00
BACS	CCP Planning – neighbourhood plan (grant)	£60.00	£360.00
BACS	NCC – NDHA report neighbourhood plan (grant)	£40.00	£240.00
BACS	CPS scrubber/drier (final invoice)	£16.00	£96.00
DD	BT – New Road tele & broad	£9.37	£56.22
DD	Biffa – one months charge for euro bin	£15.63	£93.79
DD	TV License		£13.25
BACS	D. Skipper ½ van tax £160, steel toe cap boots £46.99		£206.99
	Total	£977.41	£11,173.63

Income:

New Road = £1313

Precept £31,144.00 Vat £851.14 Allotments £75.00

	Council A/C
Bank Balance BF	£96,671.62
Bank Balance after meeting payments	£124,774.09

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

One Year Short Term Investment & Savings account

Due to Cambridge & Counties having withdrawn their one year fixed term investment, it was agreed to open a new saving account and short term investment account with Lloyds Bank. Investing £50,000 at 3.60% will result with income from the interest totally £1814.79.

Parish Council Signatories

It was agreed to add Cllrs Bridges and Cox as the two new signatories for the Councils accounts.

Finance Working Party Meeting Date

Cllrs Greenacre, Mills, Riseborough, Light and Cox were confirmed as members of the Finance Working Party. The date of the next meeting to discuss the parish precept will be on Tuesday 21st November, 6pm at New Road Centre.

Ride on Mower Jack

The Caretaker has purchased a new jack for £70 so he can lift the mower to change/sharpen the blades. The Chairman stated when the jack is delivered he would arrange to meet the Caretaker to ensure the equipment is used safely.

Biffa Bin Contract

The clerk reported Biffa Bin have confirmed the Parish Council are currently in a one year contract, an early termination fee of £333 would be applied if the contract was cancelled at this stage. They have suggested an alternative, to enter into a new one year contract where they would provide the council with a new bin half the size of the current bin which would be emptied fortnightly instead of weekly. This would then reduce the cost from £72 per month to £31 per month exc vat.

New Road flood lighting repair

The following two quotes had been obtained :

JAW electrical Contractors £261.26

Electrical Systems & design £180

It was agreed prior to the meeting by all members to accept the Electrical Systems & Design quote, and the work has now been completed.

All the above items were then agreed enbloc, proposed Cllr Greenacre, seconded Cllr Searby. All in Favour.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- It was agreed to split the additional advertising & postage costs equally between the three parish councils. Proposed Cllr Greenacre, seconded Cllr Mills. All in Favour.
- It was agreed to approve New Road Sports Field to be listed as an open green space within the plan. Proposed Cllr Greenacre, seconded Cllr Light. All in Favour.

The following dates/times have been confirmed for the public consultation drop in sessions:

Burgh Castle Village Hall	Monday 11 th Dec	1pm to 4pm
St Olaves Village Hall	Tuesday 12 th Dec	10am - 1pm
Belton New Road Centre	Friday 15 th Dec	4pm - 8pm
Fritton Village Hall	Saturday 16 th Dec	11am - 2pm

8. EMPLOYEE APPRAISALS

It was agreed that Cllr Bridges will undertake the employee appraisals with Cllr Gay.

9. CCTV & SECURITY

- CCTV

The Clerk reported she had circulated to all members prior to the meeting a draft copy of a CCTV policy from Nalc. This is only a draft and can be modified accordingly to suit the Parish Council. After discussion it was agreed Cllrs Light, Mills and Barber will sit on the working party to adapt the policy.

- Security – Perimeter Trees

Cllr Light report both he and the Clerk had looked at the number of small trees/bushes at the top right hand side of the field next to the fence panel which is due to be repaired. There are six small trees/bushes that are currently preventing this side of the field from being accessed by the CCTV. Cllr Light proposed to remove the smallest three bushes/trees from this section of the field which would open the area up and improve security, it would also then create another 10-15 car park spaces which are needed in the summer for events. Once these have been remove the decision can then be made if the remaining three tree/bushes also need to be removed. Seconded Cllr Cox. All in Favour.

- Security- Repair to Fence Panel

It was agreed to discuss the New Road fencing repair within this item as it relates to New Road security.

Cllr Light reported he had obtained a quotation from AA Fencing totalling £247.50 to purchase palisade security fencing which could be installed at New Road to repair the damaged fence panel. Using this type of high level security fencing would prevent any further damage to this section of the fence and no one would be able to climb over it.

The Clerk reported Waveney fencing had supplied the following two quotations to repair the panel:

- To remove existing fencing and dispose. To supply and install approx. 4mtrs of 1.8mtrs high Duex, “twin wire” mesh fencing PPC Green All posts to be securely concreted into the ground. For the Total Sum of £450.00 + V.A.T.
- To replace approx 4mtrs of damaged chain link fencing with new green PVC coated chain fencing to match existing. For the total sum of £250.00 plus VAT

After some discussion it was agreed to ask the Caretakers if they would be able to install the palisade fencing, if not then to obtain a quotation from Waveney Fencing. Proposed Cllr Light, seconded Cllr Greenacre. All in Favour.

10.BELTON CROSS ROAD

Cllr Cox confirmed he had asked for this agenda item to discuss safety issues at the Belton Crossroads junction. Cllr Cox stated he was aware this item had been discussed by the Parish Council a number of times before but felt it needed to be revisited as the junction is lethal. Various issues including visibility at the junction were discussed by all members. Borough Cllr Carpenter added NCC had cut back vegetation at the junction by at least 2 meters during “no mow May” to ensure visibility was maintained. However it was generally agreed by all members that more is needed to be done to make the junction safer.

Borough Cllr Carpenter reported the installation of a roundabout would not be possible due to the expense, to install a new roundabout anywhere would cost NCC in the region of £1,000,000.

Therefore it was agreed by all members to ask both County Cllr Annsion and Borough Cllr Carpenter to push for a speed reduction on this section of the A143 which could then follow all the way through to Fritton and would then hook up to the 40mph limit in Haddiscoe.

Borough Cllr Carpenter confirmed he would progress this request on behalf of the Parish Council and will consult County Cllr Annison also.

11. NEW ROAD SPORT & LEISURE CENTRE

- Warm Hub – Children's Christmas Party

Cllr Light reported there is some funds remaining from the Warm Hub grant therefore would the Parish Council like to use the remaining funds to hold another Children's Christmas Party this year, which would be free of charge for the parents and children to attend?

It was agreed by all members that this event should take place, the Chairman and Cllr Barber agreed they would both be able to help on the day. Cllr Light confirmed he will then start to make arrangements including booking an entertainer for the event.

- Overspill Car Park Repair

Cllr Light reported approx 4 tonnes of hard core rubble is due to be ordered which the Caretaker will then use to fill the pot holes in the overspill car park.

12. PLANNING

06/23/0752/EU 6 Station Road South, Belton Certificate of lawful existing development relating to single story extension

It was agreed no comments will be submitted for the application above.

06/23/0789/HH 67 Rosedale Gardens, Belton Dropped kerbs & creation of hardstanding

It was agreed to submit no objections subject to neighbours comments for the above application.

06/23/0642/HH 12 Ranworth Close, Belton Retention of single storey side extension, replacement garage raised roof

It was agreed to submit no objections subject to neighbours comments for the above application.

06/23/0705/TRE 1 Beech Farm Barns, Beccles Road, Belton Works to A13 ash tree, raise crown to 5m & cut back overhanging growth

It was agreed to submit no objections subject to neighbours comments for the above application.

06/23/0746/TRE Wedgewood Sandy Lane, Belton Works to T1 oak tree reduce crown by 3.5m

It was agreed to submit no objections subject to neighbours comments for the above application.

Cllr Light made the point that he felt if the Parish Council did not object to retrospective planning applications then it would look as though the Council condoned them.

Cllr Cox added other factors should be taken into consideration and each application should be considered individually. There are times a new property owner can inherit an outstanding planning issue when they purchase their new property, there are types of ghost developments that are not picked up when searches of the property are undertaken by the solicitors.

Planning Application Comments submitted to GYBC prior to the meeting:

06/23/0547/CU Farewell Hales, Stepshort, Belton Change of use of existing building to a two bed bungalow

Belton with Browston Parish Council objects to the above application. There is not enough space on site for the existing building to be converted into a bungalow, and there would not be any space for vehicles to park as it would become a shared driveway.

06/23/0369/HH 11 St James Crescent, Belton Side extension to garage

Belton with Browston Parish Council would like to submit no objections subject to neighbours comments.

Notification of Planning Application Appeal:

APP/U2615/W/23/3325091 Land South Manor Farm, Browston Lane, Browston Outline planning application for the erection of 3 no. four bedroom dwellings, relocation of stables, and use of non residential land for equestrian grazing 06/23/0018/O

Planning Applications Approved:

06/23/0327/HH Woodlands rise, Browston Lane, Browston Removal or rear conservatory, erections of single storey extension & construction of chimney wood burner

Planning Applications Refused:

06/23/0574/HH 55 Station Road South, Belton Removal of roof replace with higher pitch roof to foam accommodation within roof space

Planning Applications Amendment Notice Accepted:

06/23/0566/NMA The Manor Barn, Browston Lane, Browston Non material amendment to pp 06/23/0388/HH

06/23/0351/CU New Road Centre Change of use – Car Boot Sales

GYBC Planning Dept have confirmed that Sports England have again objected to the planning application because it is not considered to accord with any of the exceptions to Sports England Playing Fields Policy or with Paragraph 99 of the NPPF. GYBC have suggested to now submit a management plan for the car boot and to submit an updated plan showing that non of the pitches will be used by the car boot.

13. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

It was agreed by all members to proceed with the award again this year. As previously there will be one award which will be open to residents of Belton with Browston, it will also be available to non residents of the Parish provided it is for works undertaken within the Parish. Nominations are to be sent to the Clerk, the deadline for nominations being 31st January 2024. The award will be presented by the Parish Council Chairman during the AGM in May.

14. GYBC – REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS

The Clerk had forwarded to all members details of a review of polling stations which is being undertaken by GYBC.

It was agreed by all members suggest New Road Sport & Leisure Centre as an alternative venue which could be used as a polling station.

The centre has many benefits such as a large car park which will hold at least 80 cars at any one time. New Road has full disabled access and disabled toilets, also the X11 bus service stops directly outside the entrance to the centre.

15. DASHWOOD CLOSE FLOWERBED

The Clerk had circulated to all members prior to the meeting documentation from a resident on Dashwood Close that has requested to obtain permission to install a new flowerbed.

After some discussion it was generally agreed this would be a good idea however what would happen to the flowerbed should the resident no longer be able to look after it?

It was agreed the Parish Council would support this request with the condition that should the resident no longer be able to maintain the flowerbed the plants are removed and the area is reseeded. The resident will now have to obtain permission from GYBC to install the flowerbed before they can start any work on it.

16. VILLAGE VOICE COUNCILLOR ARTICLES

The Clerk reported Cllr Riseborough has asked for this item to be on the agenda, both Cllrs Riseborough and Barber have sent in their articles. Cllr Searby reported she had submitted her article directly to the Village Voice. It was agreed all Cllrs to email their articles to the Clerk who will send them altogether to the Village Voice.

17. DATE OF JANUARY 2024 MEETING

It was agreed the meeting will be held on 9th January 2024, 7.00pm at New Road Centre.

18. TIME & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th December 2023, 7.00pm at New Road Centre.

The main meeting was then closed at 8.10pm