

# **Belton with Browston Parish Council Meeting**

**CHAIR: DAVID MILLS      VICE CHAIR: NIGEL LIGHT**

**Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 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, J. Minnis, J. Riseborough, K. Ruddock (Clerk).

***The meeting commenced at 7.00pm***

## **PUBLIC SECTION**

There was no public section.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Gay, County Cllr Annison and Borough Cllr Carpenter. To accept the apologies proposed Cllr Greenacre, seconded Cllr Cox. 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.

### **3. COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION**

The Clerk reported she had received a letter from Mrs Joanne Minnis expressing an interest at being co-opted onto the Parish Council, this letter had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Cllr Bridges proposed to co-opt Mrs Minnis onto the Council, seconded Cllr Cox, all in favour  
Yes:8, No:1. Carried.

### **4. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Minutes from the meeting held on 07/11/23 had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. To accept the minutes as a true and accurate record propose Cllr Mills, seconded Cllr Greenacre. All in Favour.

### **5. MATTERS ARISING**

- The Clerk reported she had met with an Officer from the GYBC Elections Team at New Road Centre. The officer stated during the visit after attending both the JGI and New Road that the polling Station for the Parish will remain at the JGI as New Road centre is not centrally located within the village.
- The Clerk reported there had not been any further information concerning vehicles being parked on grass verges in the village. During discussion it was generally agreed a number of roads in the village do have an issue with vehicles being parked on verges, this being due to there not being enough parking spaces on the various estates. A number of roads are effected including Bracon Road and Heather Road.

### **6. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

The Clerk she had received the following update from Borough Cllr Carpenter:

#### **Large hawthorn tree to the rear of Rosedale Gardens**

The ownership of the leaning tree needs to be established. If it is on Council land then it will need to be inspected. If it is located on privately owned land then the owner needs to be identified and contacted.

#### **Gap in the fence behind The Tavern P.H.**

This has been an ongoing issue and the main complaint was that off road bikes were using the gap as a cut through in the early Summer, which was reported to the Police. If it is privately owned then it would be the decision of the property owner as to what to do with it. If the gap has been used by members of the public for a very long time and left open then there may be something in common rights that might preclude closing it.

## Blocked Drain

Ownership of the drain in question needs to be established once the exact location is confirmed.

## **7. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCIAL MATTERS**

	<b>PAYEE/DETAIL</b>	<b>V.A.T</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
DD	BT – Clerks broad/tele	£12.37	£74.20
DD	Crown - gas	£13.47	£282.86
DD	EDF - electric	£31.40	£659.36
DC	Amazon – ink cartridges	£5.83	£34.99
DD	Biffa - Bin	£	£69.12
BACS	Employment		£5,931.21
BACS	K. Gipson – refund payment ½ van tax £168, New Rd items £38.04, car park rubble £162.38, grass cutting £132.92, allotments tap £20.78	£41.34	£522.12
BACS	K. Ruddock refund – diaries	£0.60	£3.58
BACS	D. Skipper – safety gloves	£1.66	£9.98
BACS	Norfolk Association Local Councils – Clerks AGM		£25.00
BACS	Ben Burgess – mower blades	£18.55	£111.20
BACS	Electrical Systems & Design – supply & fit meter check to Bohemians tea hut hook up		£88.00
DD	BT – New Road tele & broad	£9.37	£56.22
BACS	CCP Planning	£160.00	£960.00
BACS	N. Light – refund for replacement engine on mower plus parts		£58.00
	Total	£294.59	£8,885.84

***Income: New Road = £1117***

**Allotments £375    Bohemians Advertising Boards £150    Poorlands Charity Refund £180.00**

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

	<b>Council A/C</b>
<b>Bank Balance BF</b>	<b>£124,774.09</b>
<b>Bank Balance after meeting payments</b>	<b>£115,990.29</b>

## **8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Clerk and Cllr Greenacre reported the public consultation has now commenced. The regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed on the Parish Council website and a hard copy will be available at all the halls during the drop in sessions later this month. The link to complete the survey is can also be accessed from the Parish Council website.

## **9. JGI PARKING & DOG FOULING COMPLAINT**

The Clerk reported she had been contacted by a member of Brandon Lewis MP's office to be informed that a resident has submitted a complaint concerning car parking around the JGI and dog fouling in the village. It was reported people attending the hall are parking across neighbouring property driveways blocking access and also park in such a way as it causes a problem for buses to get through. It was also reported there is a great amount of dog foul that is not being picked up by dog owners around the village.

It was agreed for the Clerk to notify Bill Richmond concerning the car parking to remind all hall users that they can park in the Tavern P.H. car park. It was also agreed to place an article in the Village Voice about the dog fouling.

## 10. 2024/25 PARISH PRECEPT

The Clerk reported the finance working party had met on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November to discuss the first draft of the precept, a copy of the minutes from this meeting had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

Following the meeting a second draft of the precept had been prepared by the Clerk which includes all changes made by the Working Party, this draft had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

The draft precept contains an increase of 34.8% from the following year. This rise is due to GYBC cutting the open spaces element of concurrent function grant, which means £12,950 will no longer be paid to the Parish Council. This fund was used to pay for grass cutting of Bell Lane, the Churchyard and New Road field, it was also used to pay for litter picking in the village by the caretaker.

GYBC have estimated the 2024/25 Base Tax Rate will be 1148. With the proposed Parish Precept being £77,326 this would mean a Parish Council Tax Band D property would be paying £67.35 for the year. This equates to a rise of £16.92 a year for a band D property (£1.41 per month) from 2023/24.

Cllr Greenacre proposed to accept the draft precept, seconded Cllr Light. All in Favour.  
Please note a copy of the precept is appended to and does form part of the minutes.

## 11. NEW ROAD SPORT & LEISURE CENTRE

### Perimeter fence repair update

The Clerk reported both Parish Council Caretakers have stated they would not be able to install palisade fencing. Cllr Riseborough confirmed he would be able to provide a quotation to install this type of fencing. Cllr Riseborough added the Parish Council needs to make sure it considers any health and safety implications by adding this type of fencing. The Chairman stated relevant signage would need to be installed.

### Update on boiler installation

Cllr Light reported the new system should be fully installed and up and running by Friday this week. Two new thermostats are needed as the old ones are not compatible with new system. GY Heating originally quoted £270 per thermostat, however after discussion they have agreed to supply and fit 2 basic wireless thermostats for £240.

### Gas, electric and broadband quotations

The Clerk reported Utility Aid had provided the following gas and electric quotations.

#### Gas

SSE Protect	rate 1 = 7.279	standing charge 57.22	estimated annual spend £4250.29
EDF	rate 1 = 9.00	standing charge 25.00	estimated annual spend £4497.47
British Gas Lite	rate 1 = 8.95	standing charge 52.15	estimated annual spend £4572.09

#### Electric

SSE Protect	rate 1 = 27.73	rate 2 = 22.65	standing charge 136.08	estimated annual spend £5046.62
British Gas	rate 1 = 30.86	rate 2 = £24.81	standing charge 62.00	estimated annual spend £5055.89
Engie	rate 1 = 40.43	rate 2 = £33.82	standing charge 98.00	estimated annual spend £6885.16

It was agreed to proceed with the SSE Protect quotations for both the gas and electric quotations. The gas supply will see a decrease of 37% from the current contract and the electric a 53% decrease from the current contract.

### New Road Centre - Telephone & Broadband

The Clerk reported the following quotations

XLN Telecom phone & Broadband basic £17.95 p/m (no telephone package)

BT Broadband only £40 p/m

BT Broadband & telephone £49.95 p/m

It was agreed to proceed with the XLN telecom contract.

To propose en bloc to accept the above quotations Cllr Bridges, seconded Cllr Searby. All in Favour.

Digger hire to remove three small trees/bushes, fill in trench and remove concrete post base on Bell Lane.

The Clerk reported the Caretaker will be able to hire a small digger for one day for £60. The caretaker will undertake the work in the new year instead of doing the weekly grass cutting. Cllr Risebrough added this work will need to be undertaken once the repair to the perimeter fence has been completed. This was agreed by all members.

## **12. ALLOTMENTS**

The minutes from the allotments working party meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October and AGM held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting, the minutes were noted. Cllr Barber confirmed he had met with two new allotment holders which have now taken on two of the vacant plots. and will be meeting with the third later this week. The remaining two vacant plots will be reallocated in the new year once the previous holders that have now moved plots have removed all of their items.

Cllr Light reported he had been making some enquiries about purchasing a plot of land which would then be used for allotments in the future. Cllr Riseborough confirmed he will also make some enquiries and will report back at the next meeting.

## **13. PLANNING**

Comments for applications already submitted to GYBC prior to the meeting:

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

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

Applications Approved:

06/23/0705/TRE 1 Beech Farm Barns, Beccles Rd, Belton Tree works T13 ash & G1 holly

06/23/0789/HH 67 Rosedale Gardens, Belton Drop kerb, creation of hardstanding for parking

Applications Partially Discharged:

06/23/0562/CD Land at Heath Liveries, Browston Discharge cond 5 pp 06/21/0910/F planting & landscape

Applications Refused:

06/23/0547/CU Farewell Hales, Stepshort, Belton Change of use, existing building into 2 bed bungalow

Notification of planning Appeal:

Planning Inspectorate Appeal Ref: APP/U2615/D/23/3332276

55 Station Road South Belton

Proposed removal of roof, replace with higher pitch and raise eaves to form accommodation within roof space. External insulation to main walls with render finish. Application Ref: 06/23/0574/HH Council Appeal Ref: 1207

## **14. TIME & DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7.00pm at New Road Centre.

*The main meeting was then closed at 7.37pm*