

BELTON WITH BROWSTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Ken Botwright Vice Chair: Nigel Light

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 9th MAY 2023

at New Road Sport & Leisure Centre

IN ATTENDANCE

Parish Councillors K. Botwright, N. Light, K. Barber, M. Greenacre, D. Mills, J. Riseborough, K. Ruddock (Parish Clerk), Borough Cllr G. Carpenter, Revd. R. Bunn and six members of the public representing local groups.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Cllr I. Murray- Smith and Sue Richmond.

2. MINUTES

The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 19th April 2022 had been prior circulated. To accept the minutes as a true and accurate record, with one amendment, proposed Cllr Light, seconded Mr Richmond. All in Favour.

3. ANNUAL REPORT

Parish Council Chairman Ken Botwright 2023 report.

- The Council Tax Support Grant from GYBC to Parish Councils has been withdrawn, a significant impact to the PCs income. The Concurrent Function Grant which pays for grass cutting and litter picking in the parish is under discussion by GYBC and may also be withdrawn?
- Parking at drop-off and pick-up times at the Moorlands School continues to be a problem, I contacted the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust in December 2022 who informed me that he will discuss this with the Executive Head Teacher, I have heard nothing since. The police have been informed, as some parents are parking illegally.
- A defibrillator will be installed between Dashwood Close and Berry Close i.e. the area with a high density of elderly residents as requested by a parishioner.
- Three “Welcome to Belton signs” have been installed
- Replacement trees have been planted on the green spaces at St Johns/Waveney and St Johns/New Road/Farman Close.
- Neighbourhood Plan: It was agreed Belton with Browston, Burgh Castle and Fritton with St Olaves Parish Councils would work together to produce a neighbourhood plan, one plan for the whole area. A Neighbourhood Plan gives Parish Councils greater weight in terms of development. 347 surveys were completed which is an excellent response, equating to 14% of households. We are progressing well with this task, a steering group meets every 6 weeks. Several reports have already been produced including the main *140 page Evidence Base*, *105 page Housing Needs Assessment*, *70page Special Views*, the *40 page Area Survey* and *80 page Local Green Spaces*, the *Design Code report is imminent*. We are currently working on ‘*The Aims and Objectives*’ from which Policy will be determined for the draft

- *neighbourhood plan*. The cost of producing the neighbourhood plan is Government funded
- i.e. at no cost to the Parish. We are currently waiting for the 2023/24 grant funding to open to apply for funding to complete the Neighbourhood Plan.
- I attended a presentation relating to grants available from the ‘Hornsea Three Community Fund’ from its Hornsea Three offshore wind farm development. Due to the significant increase in energy costs the PC may apply for a grant to install solar panels on the south facing New Road pavilion.
- This last year whenever we have asked GYBS/Norse to undertake hedge trimming, tree surgery we have received the response NO, but we can provide a quotation. This company was contracted to NCC under whose remit this falls. The PC has neither the budget, equipment or trained operatives to undertake this work and both GYBC and NCC refused to undertake the work. I have, after 5 years of emails and having to resort to the threat of taking further action, finally received funding to trim Back Lane. This was undertaken by Michael Riches who has done a very good job and Back Lane, an NCC maintained unsurfaced road, also part of Angles Way, now looks like the archetypal English Country Lane and more importantly is now accessible.
- GYBS/Norse have now been replaced by GYS, the former an independent company, the latter a part of GYBC <https://www.greatyarmouthservices.co.uk/welcome> The avenue, which has always been open to parishioners, about highways issues including pot holes and overgrown hedges can be reported online to NCC <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/> or contact the Parish Clerk or the Chairman to report them.
- The PC has taken on the maintenance of the rural Public Right of Way footpaths within the Parish, mostly Browston.
- The request for a mini roundabout at Belton X roads was denied as it wasn’t considered an accident blackspot and the cost would exceed one million pounds.
- Centre white Lines on Beech Farm / Rectory Corner was requested, as motorists tend to be over the middle of the road at this location, this was also denied as it isn’t classified as an urban area.
- The road surface of New Road was reported September 2022 and subsequent reports of this and Station Road North and South have received no response from NCC.
- GYBC Audit of Play Spaces resulted in the probability of removing the equipment from Nursery Close and focusing on Bell Lane as the main open space and play area, as this is located in the centre of the village. Existing play spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with GYBC Policy E3.
- Identified quantity deficit in informal amenity green space provision, more green space required, and, prioritised quality enhancements required at: Rosedale Gardens, (two sites), Fern Gardens, Caledonian Way/Crofters Walk, Heather Road, (two sites). In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3.
- Parks & gardens Identified quantity deficit. Existing accessible natural green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3. Reinforced by Neighbourhood Plan.
- Goal posts have been installed at Bell Lane and feedback will be requested regarding the play equipment at Bell Lane i.e. what is lacking or what parishioners would like to be installed.
- GYBC Audit: Identified quantity deficit in allotment provision, demand exceeds supply.
- Belton Pit on the A143 which we registered with Land Registry has been sold and the money ring fenced to purchase land within the parish for allotments.

- On behalf of Parishioners, I would like to thank all the people who organise and run the different groups, clubs and societies, the trustees of the various Parish Trusts, and the award winning Village Voice, who disseminate information and, as such, support the aforementioned activities. These would not exist without the hard work and dedication of a minority of parishioners.
- Thanks to Borough councillor Adrian Myers for his continued hard work on behalf of parishioners, his involvement with the Neighbourhood Plan and the Lothingland Community Land Trust, the latter two items being linked with affordable housing having been shown as a significant need.
- I would also like to thank fellow councillors for their support throughout the year.
- Thanks to Cllrs Light and Williams for organising and attending the Warm Hub, this supportive venture funded by a grant from NCC.
- Thanks also to Cllr Light and our caretaker Kevin Gipson for installing the car park extension and fencing and the toilet block.
- I would like to thank Cllr Cameron for the loan of a marquee and both Cllrs Cameron and Williams for their work on the day of the event held at New Road in June, both were also instrumental in helping with other various tasks throughout the year.
- Grateful thanks to our caretakers for their commitment.
- Finally, a huge and heartfelt thanks to Kate Ruddock, our Parish Clerk, who works tirelessly supporting the Parish Council. Kate goes above and beyond her remit, is conscientious, and undertakes whatever arises, always cheerfully and with a smile.

4. VILLAGE VOICE

The report for Village Voice was presented by Mr Richmond, please note the report is appended to and does form part of these minutes.

Mr Richmond added it would be great to receive an article once a month or once every other month from one of the Parish Councillors, a short write up detailing a little about themselves and their background. The Chairman added he has previously provided information articles for the magazine on topics such as hedge cutting and has many more he intends to do, however time is very limited at the moment due to such a lot of work being needed working on and producing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr Richmond reported after a number of years the Editor of the Village Voice will soon be standing down, and he will also be looking to cut back on some of the work. Articles have been placed within the magazine asking for volunteers to help fill these positions, however if no replacements are found the magazine will no longer be able to continue.

5. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Reports were given on behalf of the following organisations:

Community Choir	Mick Graystone
New Road Sport & Leisure Centre	Cllr Light
Poorlands Trust	Cllr Botwright
Belton Church	Revd. Bunn
History Society	Bill Richmond
Belton Scout Group	Jane Clark
Wednesday Coffee Mornings	Bill Richmond
JGI	Bill Richmond

Please note these reports are appended to and do form part of the minutes.

9. OPEN FORUM

- The name of the village pharmacy on the Parish Council website needs changing from Jhoots to the Wellbeing Pharmacy.

When asked, the Chairman confirmed that information from the 28 page 2012 Belton & Browston Village Plan has been included within the Neighbourhood Plan.

- Mr Richmond reported the old Belton village sign on the Beccles Road is not very visible due to overgrown vegetation, also would it be possible for Bell Lane (from the footbridge to Tesco's) to be included in the same type of maintenance works that has recently been completed on Back Lane?
- Mr Graystone asked will there be any monies available to purchase flowers to be added to the flowerbed next to the village sign. The Chairman confirmed there will be money available from the village maintenance budget. Mr Graystone added the shrubbery on Deben Drive has now become quite large, the size of this could do with being reduced by 50%.
- It was reported the grass verge at the Belton crossroads has become very overgrown, it is now difficult to see clearly when entering or crossing the A143 from Browston and Belton. The Chairman stated he reported this to NCC two weeks ago asking for it be cut back, but their reply was it had been inspected and didn't meet their criteria to undertake the works, but would be included in the imminent verge cutting regime.
- It was generally agreed something needs to be done to tackle the safety issue at the entrance to Cherry Lane Garden Centre on the A143 as it is a terrible accident black spot. Borough Cllr Carpenter stated he is also a Norfolk County Cllr for another area in the Borough, so would be happy to help in tackling issues such as this.
- Mr Richmond gave a big thank you to Revd. Rosie Bunn and husband Tim for all their work in offering community facilities at the Church, from providing religious services through to it being used as a community hall to mark events such as the Kings Coronation.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 8.50pm