

Belton with Browston Parish Council Meeting
CHAIR: DAVID MILLS VICE CHAIR: NIGEL LIGHT
Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 1st October 2024
At New Road Sport & Leisure Centre

IN ATTENDANCE: D. Mills (Chair), K. Barber, S. Bridges, M. Cox, M. Greenacre, C. Gay, S. Neal, G. Searby, Kate Ruddock (Parish Clerk) and three members of the public.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

PUBLIC SECTION

A member of the public was present at the meeting to report the condition of the cycle path still requires improving. Along with chippings there are also several brambles growing across the path. It was agreed NCC will be contacted again to request the path is swept and the brambles cleared.

With no further business the public section was closed and main meeting commenced at 7.05pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Light, Minnis, Riseborough and Borough Cllr Carpenter. To accept the apologies proposed Cllr Mills, 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.

3. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 03/09/24 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 Cox. All in Favour.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Borough Cllr Carpenter Report

An officer from NCC has been and visited the person living in the van on Sandy Lane to offer help and advice. Following the visit a report has been received which suggested that maybe a period of toleration could be had. However it has been agreed the person will need to be moved on as this would normally be the case for anyone else setting up caravans on Council land without permission. I am currently waiting for a response from the officer.

GYBC - Parish Liaison Meeting

The Clerk reported the next Parish Liaison Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 30th October, 6pm at the Town Hall. Any questions to be added by the Council have to be submitted by the 21st October.

The Chairman confirmed he would be able to attend the meeting, and it was agreed to submit a question to be discussed within the meeting asking what is happening to the litter bin emptying in the village. For several months now most of the bins in the village have not been emptied on a regular weekly basis causing litter to overspill into the area around the bin.

6. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCIAL MATTERS

	PAYEE/DETAIL	V.A.T	AMOUNT
DD	Amazon - stationary	£6.35	£38.08
DD	BT	£16.96	£101.76
DD	EDF – electric	£25.47	£534.91
DD	EDF - electric		£0.02
DD	Biffa - bins	£9.12	£54.72
DD	Anglian Water – New Road		£147.64
DD	Anglian Water – Allotments		£194.68
DD	SSE - gas	£11.18	£234.82
BACS	Employment		£5088.99
BACS	K. Gipson refund New Rd items 163.57, grass cutting petrol 45.12	£34.79	£208.69
DD	PWLB - mortgage		£3100.03
BACS	Flameskill – fire alarm, emergency lighting inspections	£56.10	£336.60
BACS	Archidite – New Road professional site & block plans for car boot planning app	£30.00	£180.00
BACS	Heart 2 Heart Norfolk – New Road replacement defib pads		£54.00
BACS	D. Skipper – refund for grass cutting items ear defenders, plugs and gloves	£7.96	£47.76
		£197.93	£10,322.70

Income:

- *New Road = £1629*
- *GYBC Precept = £38,663.00*
- *HMRC VAT = £1080.59*

	Council A/C
Bank Balance BF	£73,002.03
Bank Balance after meeting payments	£104,005.93

To propose payment for the payment sheets above Cllr Mills, seconded Cllr Gay. All in Favour.

7.VILLAGE MAINTENANCE & NCC HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Dog Fouling

The Chairman reported he had received a number of complaints concerning the amount of dog foul which is being left on Bell Lane field particularly at the entrance to Broom Gardens.

The Clerk added she had also received a complaint from a resident about a amount of dog foul which is being left along Sandy Lane. Prior to the meeting this had been reported to the Environmental Ranger at GYBC. The officer has advised the following:

Please do ask your parishioners to contact us directly if they have any information, suspect anyone or have witnessed an incident? We have fouling stickers but obviously the hardcore offenders will tend to ignore them.

- There is information I can send you which you can publish in your parish magazine
- If a request for an extra street litter bin is received the situation is that there is no/or very limited budget for extra bins. An existing bin that is no longer needed can be re-sited where there is a greater need.
- We do not have any dedicated dog wardens, but we do investigate any fouling incidents and have a proactive approach to education and enforcement. We have a very good record for fouling enforcement compared to other authorities in Norfolk and nationally. We realise that there is a minority of dog owners who continue to ignore the rules.
- It would be great to get some intelligence as to where the owners live? Obviously if we can get more information and or a witness statement, we can either educate or prosecute them. We would welcome any information from residents who might know who these owners are, as obviously they are more likely to see or hear things if they're regular walkers in that area? We will continue to monitor this issue.

It was agreed to obtain the article from the officer that can be placed within a future edition of the Village Voice, and to ask if more signage can be provided that can then be installed in the worst effected areas.

Village maintenance Items:

- The hedgerow needs cutting back on Browston Lane, on the left land side heading towards Browston Green.
- The road sign at the end of Cherry Lane is not visible due to overgrown vegetation.
- The two school warning road signs on Bracon Road are not visible. One is now obscured by a tree and the second sign is now facing the footpath.
- Hedge cuttings have been left in the passage which runs from Rosedale Gardens and Station Road South.
- A letter had been sent in the summer to the property owner of 12 Heather Gardens asking for the hedge coming from their property to be cut back. The hedge has still not been cut back and is now overhanging the whole section of the footpath. It was agreed to now pass this matter onto NCC to ask they contact the property owner.
- The passageway which runs from Station Road North to Heather Gardens needs clearing.
- Back Lane in Belton again needs clearing, running from the Old School House to the top of Sandy Lane.

8. ALLOTMENTS WORKING PARTY & AGM MEETING DATES

The following meeting dates were confirmed:

Allotments Working Party Meeting – Monday 21st October 2024 at 6.00pm

Allotments AGM – Tuesday 19th November at 7.15pm

9. FINANCE WORKING PARTY MEETING DATE

The following meeting date was confirmed:

Finance Working Party Meeting – Tuesday 5th November at 6.00pm

10. PARISH PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

The Clerk reported a reply had been received from NCC concerning the possible installation of a trod on the grass verge on Rectory Corner.

The officer confirmed the option to relocate the litter bin is approved, it would be the responsibility of GYBC to undertake this work. The second option to install a trod that goes round the front of the bench to the bin can be funded through the P.P.S.

It was therefore agreed by all members to ask GYBC about repositioning the bin nearer to the right hand side of Rectory Corner as the first option.

11. PLANNING

Application submitted to GYBC prior to the meeting:

06/24/0510/NMA Garden Villa, Browston Lane, Browston

Non-material amendment to planning permission 06/23/0914/HH (Removal of hedges, railings and reprofiling verge, and construction of new brick boundary wall and access gates) - to retrospectively amend the approved drawings and raise the height of the new brick wall to a maximum of 2.0m at the piers, with lower infill panel heights.

It was agreed to object to the planning application above, points included within the objection being:

How far back is this wall from the highway (Browston Lane, isn't a highway it's a narrow country lane), particularly as the report states: "the new wall which is to be set back from the highway will offer more benefits in terms of highway safety as the visibility splay will be significantly improved when vehicles are entering and emerging from the site and this outweighs the level of visual harm caused by the proposal." the plans stipulate 2.5m. Is this confirmed? The height measurements are being taken from within the property and is therefore difficult to properly assess, because the height on the outside exceeds the designated 2m. Why is this?

The **Delegated Report** quotes (CS16, CS9 PolicyE4) and notes the wall was intended to replace "a 1m wall that also looks not fitting for the area." but it looks very out of place, it dwarfs the neighbouring wall, and slopes at a distracting angle when driving past.

Policy E4 supports development where it: a. retains trees, hedgerows, including ancient trees and hedgerows, and landscape features which contribute significant value to the character, amenity or ecology to the locality; and b. takes opportunities to enhance those features and qualities, commensurate with the scale and nature of the development. This wall is not commensurate with the scale or nature of the development or amenity.

Policy CS16 supports development that improves road safety without an unacceptable impact on the local environment, the wall slopes and is a visual distraction.

Policy CS9 requires the scale, form and massing make efficient use of the land and reinforce the local identity, the height of the wall at the taller end is out of scale to the neighbouring and other neighbourhood walls so this doesn't reinforce the local identity.

The Delegated Report states: "AMENITY:- The proposed development is unlikely to cause any adverse impacts on the amenity of both the occupants or neighbouring dwellings." But the wall dwarfs the neighbouring wall and isn't in keeping with other properties, so it negatively impacts the amenity, particularly as the plans state that - New wall to be a maximum overall height of 2meters to the piers. (3157.23.2B Proposed Site Layout.pdf) "Policy CS16 supports development that improves road safety without an unacceptable impact on the local environment, and therefore the proposal is acceptable in principle subject to compliance with the discussed policies." One end of the wall appears to be twice the height of the other so it's visually distracting when driving past the property and therefore impedes rather than improves road safety. The bank wasn't lowered, the wall appears to have been raised back-to-front with the highest point to the left facing the property not the right. The Parish Council is not sure it's 2.5m from the highway, it is a visual distraction and it looks out of place.

06/24/0594/TRE 36 St Johns Road, Belton English Oak T1-T4 lower canopy, list crown

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

06/24/0588/VCF Belton Scout Group Hall, Marsh Lane Variation of cond 2. on pp 06/23/0398/F Erection to front and side extension to existing scout hut

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

13. TIME & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5th November 2024, 7.00pm at New Road Sport & Leisure Centre

With no further business the meeting was closed at 7.53pm