

Belton with Browston Parish Council Meeting

CHAIR: DAVID MILLS VICE CHAIR: MICHAEL COX

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd June 2025

At New Road Sport & Leisure Centre

IN ATTENDANCE: D. Mills (Chair), M. Cox (Vice Chair), M. Greenacre, K. Barber, N. Light, J. Minnis, C. Gay, S. Neal, J. Riseborough, K. Comer, J. Harrower, K. Ruddock (Parish Clerk) and four members of the public including County Cllr Annison.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

PUBLIC SECTION

Two members of the public were present at the meeting to raise the issue of what the future plans will now be for Belton Rectory following Revd. Bunn having now retired. Taking into consideration the Rectory being such a valuable asset for the parish and it's community, can the Parish Council write to the Archdeacon voicing concerns raised by the local community that the Rectory is now stood empty, also taking into account the problems that may arise if it remains vacant for a long period of time.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Parish Councillors are Trustees of Belton Playing Field Charity.

Cllr Greenacre – Burgh Castle Parish Council and Belton Poorlands Charity.

3. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 06/05/25 had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. To accept the minutes as a true and accurate record proposed Cllr Cox, seconded Cllr Riseborough. All in Favour.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Cllr Annison Report

- The cycle path along New Road has now been swept.

- The new speed reduction (from 60mph to 50mph) on the A143 came into effect from the 26th May. New signage and white lines have started to be installed and there will be increased signage at Belton crossroads.

- I have met with NCC Highways Engineer on Stepshort Road to discuss ongoing concerns with the existing footpath width and the lack of a footway from Stepshort to New Road. The Highways Engineer is working on a possible safety scheme for the road to enable the widening of the footpath and joining it to New Road. Both myself and Borough Cllr Carpenter have informed the Engineer that both our Local Members Budget for this year can be allocated to help fund part of the scheme.

- After having received concerns from residents I have requested Horse Signs to be erected and Slow Road Markings be installed near to the entrance of Browston Hall. I have also requested Horse Signs be installed on Stepshort.

- Cllr Riseborough reported Fern Gardens is currently looking very unsightly, marking have been added to the road, but since the delay in redressing the road it has been left looking a mess.

- Cllr Greenacre added the small back road off Church Lane has not been redressed at the same time Church Lane was done, this small section of road does need doing.

County Cllr Annison confirmed he would look into both issues.

The Chairman gave thanks to County Cllr Annison for attending the meeting and highlighted the importance of having either Borough or County Cllr representation at Parish Council meetings.

Borough Cllr Carpenter - Updates

Connexin – Telegraph poles

Thanks to sustained complaints over the whole of Norfolk including mine and our residents who complained against these poles, there was a Motion heard at the Full County Council meeting. As a result the Council voted unanimously to stop this company from proceeding any further.

The net result is that the company, Connexin, have been told to stop further work whilst alternative means are explored. Alternative means being to use existing infrastructure, as they have elsewhere in the Country, to install their poles and meters.

Update on Seagulls from the GYBC Waste and Protection Officer

The Rangers will visit the Tavern P.H to discuss the overflowing bins with them, business's do have a duty to control and contain their waste so we can approach them about that.

The seagull feeding is a slightly different issue. We no longer send out leaflets or would get involved with gull feeding complaints where it is just about that issue in isolation. We actually have very limited powers around the problem Whilst we no longer address seagull feeding as such we would get involved if there was any associated problem as a result of the feeding e.g rats/mice.

6. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCIAL MATTERS

	PAYEE/DETAIL	V.A.T	AMOUNT
DD	Gallagher – Grass Mower insurance		£191.18
DD	BT – broadband /tele	£19.65	£117.89
DD	Lloyds Bank Charges		£4.75
DD	SSE - Gas	£11.02	£231.37
DD	SSE – Electric	£15.25	£320.24
DD	Biffa Bin collection	£15.69	£94.13
DD	Microsoft 365 - June	£1.72	£10.32
BACS	Employment		£5927.09
	Total	£63.33	£6,896.97

Income:£2935.75

	Council A/C
Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit	£40,000.00
Lloyds Instant Access Account	£50,000.00
Lloyds Current Account	£7,800.31
Total Bank Balance after payments	£97,800.31

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

7. NCC BUS SHELTER INITIATIVE

Norfolk County Council have announced the launch of a new £800,000 funding scheme to support the installation of up to 100 new and improved bus shelters in town and parish council areas across Norfolk during the 2025/26 financial year. Under this initiative, NCC will contribute up to 80% of total project costs, with the remaining balance to be funded by town/parish councils or through Local Member Funds.

This funding opportunity is aimed at helping local councils and members upgrade waiting facilities for bus passengers, high-quality shelters can significantly improve comfort, safety, and the overall travel experience. The Parish/Town Council must contribute 20% of the total cost. The Council must agree to adopt the shelter as a community asset and take responsibility for its ongoing maintenance.

After some discussion it was agreed the Parish Council would not proceed with applying for a new shelter through the scheme due to there being no budget available to fund the 20% required which would total £2000 per shelter.

8. BELTON RECTORY

Prior to the meeting the clerk had circulated to all members the following information concerning Belton Rectory which was produced by Mr Botwright, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The Rectory is a NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSET due to its architectural significance; the whole site is covered by a Tree Preservation Order and part of the site is within a Flood Zone.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy 13. All heritage assets will be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the following NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

Original Rectory recorded on the 1838 Tithe map.

Unique to the village and Neighbourhood Plan Area. Parts of the previous Rectory, pre-1838, remain, including stables and associated buildings, a walled kitchen garden, privy (toilet) and the head gardener's office.

The original Rectory burnt down and was rebuilt in the 1930s with features indicative of the Art Deco Style. It is set in 2.6 acres surrounded by numerous trees with a Victorian pool/pond.

Group Value, Church of All Saints.

Archaeological Interest, Adjacent to a Norfolk Historic Environment Record archaeological area.

Historic Interest, Vicarage for the medieval parish church. The rectory is architecturally distinctive and due to its connection with the Parish Church is a place where village events are occasionally undertaken in the tree lined grounds.

Landmark Status, an imposing house in the centre of what was the centre of the medieval village of Belton. The Rectory itself is part of Belton's history, has been the home of many village fetes and celebrations over the years. The Rectory grounds and Victorian bathing pool are a wildlife sanctuary, and the out buildings are used by a number of youth groups.

Following discussion it was agreed to write to the Archdeacon to request the Rectory, in particular the front gate, is secured as soon as possible while the building remains vacant. It was also agreed to enquire what the future plans are for the Rectory taking into consideration it is an important amenity for the local community.

During further discussion it was suggested the youth groups that currently meet at the Rectory/on the grounds could instead meet at New Road Centre

9. PLANNING

Applications Approved:

06/25/0314/HH 4 Paddock Close, Belton Single storey rear extension

Rose Farm, Stepshort – signage

The Clerk reported she had received an update from the GYBC Planning Enforcement Officer confirming the Highways Engineer has been contacted about the new signage. The Engineer has agreed they will be writing to the property owner to ask for the signage to be removed.

10. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE & HIGHWAY MATTERS

Church Lane

The Clerk reported she had circulated to all members two emails from a resident which had been sent to GYBC concerning works that had been undertaken along Church Lane. Issues raised included the lack of notice given to residents to notify them that the road was due to be redressed, concerns about the spray weed killing which had taken place along the hedgerow side of the road, and road sweeping of the road which resulted in the loose chippings being sprayed onto the pavement.

11. NEW ROAD SPORT & LEISURE CENTRE

Bohemains FC request to install of 3-4 flat pack storage containers

Each container being 2.0m x 2.1m, flat pack assembly, non permanent structure. Existing tea hut will be taken down and removed, the club require written permission from Parish Council to install the containers.

Cllr Light stated he felt having a number of smaller containers would look unsightly and therefore proposed the club purchase one large container and not the smaller units, seconded Cllr Greenacre. Cllr Barber proposed to agree to permit the club to install the smaller containers, seconded Cllr Harrower. The vote was then taken, to allow the club to install one large storage container, 4 members were in agreement. To allow the club to install a maximum of three small storage containers, six members were in agreement. One member abstained from the vote

Toilet Block

Following further power cuts in the toilet block JAW Electrical Contractors attended New Road during weekend and disabled the hand dryers however the system tripped again. It was therefore agreed by all members to accept the quote of £250 from the contractor to undertake an EIC Report in the block to investigate and identify what is causing the fault. It was also agreed to accept their quotation of £93.75 to PAT test all items in New Road Centre.

Height Barrier

It was agreed for the Clerk to obtain a quotation to install a height barrier at the front entrance to New Road. This item will therefore be an agenda item at the next meeting.

12. TIME & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 1st July. 7.00pm at New Road Sport & Leisure Centre

13. 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 employee contracts, New Road operational decisions, responsibility of asset protection and freedom of information act request.

14. EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS

It was agreed to place a new caretaker on a zero hour contract. The caretaker will assist with strimming and grass cutting duties only, during the grass cutting season from April to October.

15. NEW ROAD OPERATIONAL DECISIONS

This item was discussed during agenda item 16.

16. RESPONSIBILITY OF ASSET PROTECTION

Cllr Light had circulated a document outlining a number of items which were discussed by all members and related to both agenda items 15 and 16.

Operational matters relating to both New Road centre and village grass cutting were discussed.

The initial question was not answered however it was generally agreed by a number of Councillors that asset protection is collectively the responsibility of all Councillors and Council employees.

17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

It was agreed for the Clerk to take advice from the Nalc County Officer before responding to the request.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 8.47pm