

BELTON WITH BROWSTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: David Mills Vice Chair: Nigel Light

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 30th April 2024

at New Road Sport & Leisure Centre

IN ATTENDANCE

Parish Councillors D. Mills, N. Light, M. Greenacre, K. Barber, S. Neal, J. Minnis, K. Ruddock (Parish Clerk) and four members of the public.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from M. Cox, G. Searby, S. Bridges, J. Clark -Belton Scouts and K. Botwright – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

2. MINUTES

The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 9th May 2023 had been prior circulated. To accept the minutes as a true and accurate record, proposed K. Barber, N. Light. All in Favour.

3. ANNUAL REPORT

Parish Council Chairman David Mills 2024 report.

- I was elected Chairman in Sept following the unfortunate resignation of the then chairman Ken Botwright in July. I have tried to lead the council in a professional manner, and welcome the new members of the council. It has been a tough few months with the financial issues the borough council has had to face due to the reduction in GYBCs removal of the concurrent function grant. In context we had to increase the parish precept to offset the GYBC reduction of £12,500. This Concurrent Function Grant paid for grass cutting and litter picking in the villages which has to now be paid for by the Parish Council.
The council also this year had to replace the boiler at the new road centre, at a cost of £18,300. During the last year the centre has continued to be used by many residents for family parties. It also continues to be used by a number of local groups including, up4fitness, pilates, musical movers, GY stroke group and the craft group, and is home to both Bohemians and Belton football clubs.
- It has been reported to the council several times that parking at moorlands school still remains a problem during drop-off and pick-up times on Moorland Way. It was reported last year to the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust however this continues to be a problem. I intend to arrange to meet the head to discuss a way forward, as some cars have been damaged as a result of poor driving. The police were informed, as some parents are parking illegally. A follow up will be arranged with the community police officer.
- A defibrillator was installed on Dashwood Close as requested by the local community as the area has a high density of elderly residents.
- I have as the chair requested to NCC that safety needs to be addressed at the Belton crossroads with the A143. We asked if a roundabout could be built, but this was declined as it wasn't considered an accident blackspot and the cost would exceed one million pounds. We have with the support of all of the local and county councillors asked for a speed reduction as a secondary request.

The county councillors have been able to progress a survey by NCC, and it is hoped that a speed reduction can be introduced to reduce the speed at the crossroads. Visibility is always an issue in spring, but one of the parish councillors has cut back the vegetation himself to increase visibility at the junction. We eagerly await the results of the survey from NCC

- The local Neighbourhood Plan has been led by Ken Botwright the previous chairman and has been completed in conjunction with Belton with Browston, Burgh Castle and Fritton with St Olaves Parish Councils this allowed them to work together to produce a neighbourhood plan with just one plan for the whole area. A Neighbourhood Plan gives Parish Councils greater weight in terms of development. 347 surveys were completed which was an excellent response, equating to 14% of households. The final draft has now been submitted to GYBC who will now undertake their own consultation. Following this the plan will be submitted to the inspectorate, then finally it will go to referendum to be accepted by the parishioners. The Steering Group received grant funding from Groundworks UK for this extensive work.

- As a council we are looking to obtain grant funding from the 'Hornsea Three Community Fund' from its Hornsea Three offshore wind farm development. We all know that energy prices have had over the last year have had significant increases in cost, and as a result the PC will apply for a grant to install solar panels on the south facing New Road pavilion.

We as a parish council are also keen to look to the future for the new road centre and have discussed exploring other options the area could be used for if we were to gain funding for a floodlit area with a 3g pitch. This could provide the facility for hockey, rugby etc.

- On behalf of Parishioners, and every member of the parish council, 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 and the previous local councillor Adrian Myers as the editor.

- Thanks to Borough Councillor Graham Carpenter for his continued hard work on behalf of parishioners. Thanks also to Councillor Ivan Murray-Smith, and not forgetting our County Councillor Carl Annison for his dedication like the others to support our wonderful area with are blessed to live in.

- I would also like to thank fellow councillors for their support throughout the year. Thanks to Nigel Light (VC) for his commitment to covering for me, and attending New Road to support site visits, and the well running of the new road centre. Thanks to Margaret Greenacre for her knowledge on planning and advice she has shared with us all.

- Thanks to Cllrs Light and Barber for organising the children's Christmas party which is free to all children in the parish and was well supported and attended.

- I would like to thank to our caretakers for their commitment.

- Finally, a huge thanks to Kate Ruddock, our Parish Clerk, who has steered me often through unknown waters as the chair. Kate has supported the Council, way above and beyond her remit.

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.

5. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Reports were given on behalf of the following organisations:

Neighbourhood Plan – Ken Botwright

JGI – Bill Richmond

Belton Poorland's Charity – Kate Ruddock

Belton Scout Group – Jane Clark

New Road Sport & Leisure Centre – Nigel Light

Belton Camera Club – Bill Richmond

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

6. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Chairman reported the 2024 Citizen of the Year Award had been awarded to Ken Botwright for all his hard work and dedication in producing the Neighbourhood Plan. Ken was unable to attend this meeting so has already been presented with the award, photos and a brief article will be in the next edition of the Village Voice.

7. OPEN FORUM

- Mr Richmond reported the area around all the shops on Bell Lane is now looking very untidy with a great amount of weeds growing around and inbetween the pavement and shop fronts. It was agreed a letter could be sent to business owners asking if they could assist with keeping the area tidy as this area in the village is privately owned.
- Mr Richmond asked will the left hand side notice board on the side of the shops at Bell Lane be replaced? The Clerk replied this will be an agenda item during the June Parish Council meeting, both notice boards really need replacing as the right hand side is also in a bad state of repair. A different style notice board needs to be sourced as the current ones have not proven to be very hardy, especially when opening/closing during windy weather.
- It was agreed by the Chairman that the Parish Council will pay for the varnish needed to treat the notice board outside the JGI.
- Mr Graystone asked would the Parish Council consider purchasing a new Christmas tree this year which would go up at the usual location next to the shops on Bell Lane? The Chairman confirmed this will also be added to the June Parish Council agenda.
- CCTV on Bell Lane Playing field was discussed, it was generally agreed any new equipment installed in the future should be linked to the Gorleston Police CCTV system.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 7.38pm