

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRISLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
2 MARCH 2016 AT THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 P.M.**

**Present:** Councillor T Irons (Chair)  
Councillor E Coe  
Councillor K Brown  
Councillor N Curl  
Councillor P Dennis  
Councillor S Jones

7 parishioners.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Dykes who was on holiday and these were accepted. Apologies for absence had also been received from County Councillor M Kiddle Morris and District Councillor G Bambridge.

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.**

There were no DPs.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

Councillor Coe proposed and Councillor Brown seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 February 2016 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**4. Resolution to Adjourn Meeting.**

Resolution to adjourn meeting for 15 minutes public participation was passed at 1902.

**4.1 County and District Councillor Reports.**

The Clerk read out the report from the County Councillor.

**Budget:**

The County Councils budget for the year 2016/17 was set at the meeting of full Council held on 22nd February. The Conservative opposition was able to make suggestions to the leader of the Council on a more benign budget that would save some of the front line services that had been threatened with cuts. The budget that was presented to Council was a result of negotiations between all parties. It was agreed to increase the Council Tax by 1.99% however, the Government has recognised that Norfolk has one of the fastest growing population of residents between the ages of 70 and 85 which is placing a huge financial pressure on care for the elderly and has allowed a further Tax increase of 2%, the proceeds of which, £6.2m, will be ring fenced for adult social services. Therefore the total Tax increase for 2016/17 will be 3.99%.

By raising the general Council Tax by 1.99% we have been able to prevent any library closures, reverse the proposed closure of fire stations, increase (by £1.5m) the highways pothole budget, restore recycling centres to their previous opening hours and restore all the proposed cuts to the Norfolk Museums Service and the Norfolk Record Office.

An additional £7m over the next 2 years has been given to Norfolk County Council by the Government. This was announced only a week prior to the Council Tax setting meeting and has not been subject to discussions by the Service Committees which will have to allocate the extra funding.

**Devolution:**

The Government is keen to devolve some powers to local areas and invited bids some time ago from interested counties to outline what powers they would like devolved.

Norfolk and Suffolk together proposed a combined authority which it was hoped would have control of infrastructure investment especially road and rail improvements, accelerating housing delivery, skills training, business support and health and social care provision. (Not a full list but it gives a flavour of what is intended).

The direction of travel with this project changes daily, if not hourly. In the latest talk with Government they have indicated that a Norfolk/Suffolk combined authority would be too small and have insisted that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Unitary should join Norfolk and Suffolk to form an "Eastern Powerhouse". Talks are continuing.

The proposed combined authority would not replace any of the County Councils or indeed the District Councils but would be a separate entity. The governance arrangements of the combined authority are unclear at the moment however government is insisting that it should be lead by an elected "mayor" who would be the single point of contact with Government.

The Clerk read out the report from the District Councillor.

Regarding tomorrows meeting; I regret that there is a meeting in Breckland which I have to attend on Wednesday so I will be having difficulty in making your meeting. I am happy to take up any matters the parish council wishes, and if required will meet with members at another time. Please pass my apologies to the assembled gathering.

Apart from the run of the mill items the biggest thing on the minds of District Councillors at the moment is the probability of Devolution. Not much has filtered out to the population about this because the ground rules seem to change on a daily basis, but central government is determined it seems that devolution happens. I have attended a number of meetings across the county to update myself and still have very little concrete to report.

Last night I attended a briefing in Great Yarmouth and the latest proposal is that a devolved form of administration will include all of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and the unitary of Peterborough. This is likely to be headed by either an elected Mayor or a chairman appointed by all the district/county/unitary councils by a single vote from each. There will also be a dependence on the LEP to access funds. None of this is set in stone, but we are expecting that some form of devolved power will be in place soon. There will be funding changes, which at the moment seem to revolve around Business Rates, (at the moment they go to central government) but when asked I was told they do not know where or how they will be devolved. Apparently an announcement will be made in the chancellor's statement in about 2 weeks saying whether 'our' area will be in the first tranche. If so we will be the first multi level (rural) devolved area (Cornwall is a unitary)

I am sorry this is all vague, but it just is. It is also rushed. We cannot control that. I will keep you informed when I can, but this may help to understand some of the confused and plainly wrong statements in the media.

#### **4.2 Public.**

The applicant for the Bell Public House raised the matter of providing an additional 20 parking places as requested by Norfolk County Council. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had met the applicants on site and had discussed the provision of these spaces on The Green between the pub and B1145. The indicative plan was distributed and it was agreed that matting could be laid to allow grass to grow through so that the integrity of the Green is not lost. These parking places should be no more than 15 metres from the highway. It was also stated that parking has always been allowed on the tracks to the pub and this should be confirmed to Breckland council. It was also suggested that an area at the rear could be allocated for overspill parking.

A parishioner informed the meeting that there had been flooding again on School Road and the Clerk stated that he was in contact with the Highways engineer regarding the ditches from Harpers Green to the southern end of School Road. Councillor Jones stated that he had found a purse on Gateley road but no one knew the owner of this. (later in the meeting the person who had lost the purse attended the meeting and the purse was returned.)

The meeting was re-convened at 1916.

**5. Matters to report.**

**5.1 Website.**

The Clerk reported that the problem with the time of the meeting had been resolved.

**5.2 Defibrillator.**

The Chairman had met the Head Teacher. A parishioner informed the meeting that a defibrillator had been promised to her husband which will be donated to the School. Therefore nothing further will be undertaken at this point in time.

**5.3 Community Car Scheme.**

The Chairman had received an e-mail from the previous co-ordinator for the scheme. She stated that there is only two regular users of the scheme which are still ferried around by the previous drivers. An article will be placed in the newsletter requesting if there is interest in a scheme or not. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

**5.4 Clean for the Queen.**

A parishioner had raised this matter and she will be clearing the lay-by between Brisley and Mileham the following weekend and any assistance will be appreciated. The Chairman will be highlighting the event in the newsletter. The Village Hall will possibly be holding an event on 12 June in the afternoon. More details will be given at the next meeting.

**5.5 Driving of cars on field off Fakenham Road.**

This was raised but as it is on private land there is nothing the Parish Council can do unless it is a noise nuisance when Breckland Council should be contacted.

**6. Highways.**

**6.1 Matters raised at the last meeting.**

The road sweeper had been in the village and cleared the gulleys and drains. The Clerk is in contact with the Highways Engineer to try and resolve the flooding problems. It is probably necessary to clear the pond at the top of School Road so that it holds more water. This will need to be done when it is drier.

**6.2 New problems.**

The build up of silt on B1146 will be reported as it is now a safety issue. The potholes on School Road near to the Clink and at the junction with B1146 will also be reported.

**6.3 Footpaths.**

No problems were reported.

**6.4 Survey on School Road.**

The Clerk has been in contact with the Safety Camera Partnership Team but has not had the results from the siting of the camera yet. A further request will be made to get a PCSO to a meeting.

**7. Planning.**

**7.1 Applications.**

**7.1.1 3PL/2016/0048/F-The Bell Inn Elmham Road-Part demolition of Inn & rebuild including enlargement of kitchen area & 1st floor office, restaurant extension.**

An amendment to the original plan had been received. Councillor Curl proposed and Councillor Jones seconded the resolution that these be supported. The matter of the parking spaces was also discussed and the meeting with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman noted. The Clerk will contact Breckland Council regarding the provision of additional spaces.

**7.2 Decisions.**

The following decisions were noted.

**7.2.1 3PL/2015/1376/F-Elm Tree Farm School Road-insert first floor window in south gable & 2 storey extension (part retrospective). Permission.**

**7.2.2 3PL/2015/1447/F-Hall Farm Church Street-erect entrance way to Paddock Permission.**

**7.3 Breckland Local Plan Meeting.**

The date of the meeting was agreed as 22 March at Brisley Hall at 1900.

**8. Brisley Common.****8.1 Problems.**

The sheep are still a problem and a Grazing Rights Holders meeting must be held to resolve this.

**8.2 Higher Level Stewardship.**

It might be possible to fence the western end this year and Councillor Jones will measure the length of fencing needed.

**8.3 Draft Management plan.**

Councillor Coe proposed and Councillor Jones seconded the resolution that this be accepted. All were in favour.

The Clerk will contact NWT regarding this.

**8.4 Thistles on the North Green.**

Patrick Cooper now contracts out his spraying so Councillor Jones will contact Andy Boesen at Gateley for a price.

**8.5 Grazing Rights Holders Meeting.**

This was agreed as 16 March at the Village Hall at 1900.

**9. Finance.****9.1 Budget.**

Councillor Curl proposed and Councillor Jones seconded the resolution that the budget be approved. All were in favour.

**9.2 Balances and Cheques for Authorisation.**

The balances and cheques for authorisation had been circulated and Councillor Coe proposed and Councillor Brown seconded the resolution that these be approved. All were in favour.

**Bank Balance :-**

Balance at 31 12 15	8962.52
Plus receipts-Interest-	<u>2.54</u>
	8965.06
Less D/Debit Anglian Water	<u>52.05</u>
Balance at 31 01 15	8913.01
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 03 02 16	<u>503.36</u>
Balance at 03 02 16	8409.65
Less VAT on Amenity Project & HLS	<u>1200.92</u>
Balance at 03 02 16	7208.73
Plus HLS Nett	<u>3246.66</u>
	10455.39
Plus Amenity Project Nett-18669.10	
Play Area Nett- 291.55	<u>18960.65</u>
Balance at 03 02 16	29416.04

Amount available for Section 137 :234 x £7.36 = £1722.24

Spend to Date : £40.00

Cheques for authorisation:

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494	B J Leigh	Salary Feb-£286.53 less PAYE 57.40	229.13
495	HMRC	PAYE February	57.40
496	Brisley Village Hall	Recycling Payment	106.17
497	David Bracey	Safety Inspection	90.00
498	B J Leigh	Mileage- Sept 2015-January 2016-46 miles @ .45 per mile- 20.70 Postage-October 2015- 04 February 2016-8.48 Use of Home as office-100.00 Telephone-48.00.	177.18
499	Beetley Parish Council	Photocopying-102.57 Stationery-3.37	105.94
500	Olley Family Farming	Mole Catching in the churchyard.	90.00
501	Dewing Farm Services	Hedge Cutting Allotment Field less £50 overpaid	274.00

### 9.3 Rental for Town lands.

This was deferred until next month to search for a plan.

### 9.4 Fixed Term Deposit Account.

Councillor Curl proposed and Councillor Jones seconded the resolution that a 30 month fixed term deposit account be opened with the Bank of Ireland at an interest rate of 1.3%. All were in favour.

### 9.5 Maintenance at Patch Corner.

The Clerk had been unable to arrange a meeting with G G Fencing.

### 9.6 External Audits for Smaller Authorities.

Councillor Curl proposed and Councillor Coe seconded the resolution that the Parish Council opt in to the new arrangements. All were in favour.

## 10. Amenity project.

### 10.1 Update on the Project.

The Clerk informed the meeting that a further £1866 would be paid by Breckland Council for the play area improvements. The football pitch needs to have the stones removed with a light harrow and then rolled. It would be necessary to hire a vibrating roller for a day. However the owner of the bell stated that he would be hiring a roller and the Parish Council could have the loan of it. This was gratefully accepted.

It was agreed to have three cuts of the footpaths and perimeter with a proviso that if it is necessary a further cut would be undertaken.

### 10.2 Allotments.

No report had been received but the payments had been received bar two exceptions. Councillor Dykes will be contacted to chase the late payers. It was agreed to make representation to the Committee regarding Plot 16 which had not been maintained. Councillor Coe proposed and Councillor Curl seconded the resolution that the draft tenancy agreement be agreed with the proviso that £100 be included as the figure for the water charges that would be borne by the Parish Council. All were in favour. It was agreed to accept Councillor Dykes offer to collect the rents when due.

## 11. Regular Checks.

These were all satisfactory.

## 12. Correspondence.

The following correspondence would be circulated.

<b>12.1</b>	<b>Norfolk ALC</b>
<b>12.2</b>	<b>Tower Mint</b>
<b>12.3</b>	<b>Clerks and Councils Direct March 2016</b>

**13. Matters for the Next Meeting.**

**13.1 Gateley Road.**

**14. Date of next Meeting**

This was confirmed as Wednesday 6 April 2016 to follow the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.00p.m. at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2049 hours.