

Brisley Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 3rd April 2019 in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Edward Coe (Chair)
Cllr Katherine Brown (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Bobby Green
Cllr Tony Irons
Cllr Peter Dennis
Cllr Henry Collinge

District Cllr Gordon Bambridge
County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

There were no members of the public present.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were received from Cllr Nicola Curl.

2. To receive declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th March 2019.

Cllr Green proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

District Cllr Bambridge gave the following report:

Grant money remains available to parish councils and other groups, there is £1.4M available in this financial year for match funding applications.

Breckland has introduced an Innovation Fund available to assist new business start-ups. Money is available to all market towns in the District for revitalisation projects. Breckland has taken control of one retail premise in Dereham which will be allocated to a new business start-up in order to try to revitalise the high street. If successful, the Council intend to take on further premises in Dereham; they will be able to offer lower rates to the start-up companies.

Car parking charges in Dereham are likely to be reviewed again although the D/Cllr was hopeful that no charges will be introduced.

The Council are encouraging landlords to convert the empty rooms above shops into accommodation although this is not proving popular.

Disappointment was expressed by the Parish Council in regard to the recent planning application at Gateley Road which had been refused on sustainability grounds, which appeared at odds with other recent applications that had been approved. The D/Cllr informed Council that developers have the upper hand at appeals whilst Breckland have no five year land supply.

The Vice-Chairman informed the meeting that she had not stood again for re-election due, in part, to the unfair planning system and the little regard the planning department took of parish council comments.

The Chairman thanked D/Cllr Bambridge for his report and the D/Cllr then left the meeting.

County Cllr Kiddle-Morris gave the following report:

In respect of the revised bus service, the timetable was now available on-line. It had been unfortunate that the Gateley Road section of the service had been removed but it had emerged that section of the route was unofficial and should not have existed, the road was not suitable for coaches.

Disappointment was expressed by Council at the reduction in service which left many elderly users with no bus service at all. The new service is not an improvement and the bus likely to be too small at peak times.

The AGM of Norfolk County Council will be held in May when they will revert to the cabinet system. This will mean decisions can be taken quickly, often by Executive members with their own budgets. Any significant decisions will be made by the full Council.

The Chairman thanked C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris for his report.

5. Open Forum: a 15 minute opportunity to hear from members of the public.

There were no members of the public present.

6. Highways

a) To receive an update on matters reported to Norfolk and Breckland Councils.

No further updates were available in respect of the Bridleway nor the footpath stile adjacent to the Church.

b) To consider any new issues within the village.

It was noted the Highway Rangers were to be asked to litter pick along the B1146. There were no other issues raised.

7. Planning

a) Applications for consideration.

There were no new applications to consider.

b) Decisions to note.

The following decisions were noted:

Application	Parish Council Comments	Breckland Status
3PL/2019/0059/F 4 Bedroom property adjacent to Green Farm, Gateley Road.	No objections.	Refused
3PL/2019/0064/F Single Storey timber framed building to serve staff. Field adjacent to Great Wood House, Brisley Road.	No objections.	Withdrawn

3PL/2019/0008/UC Change of Use – Agricultural Building to Dwelling. Maltings Farm, Gateley Road.	Brisley Parish Council object to the loss of another small farm, this development removes the use of a stand-alone small farm and will set an unwelcome precedent if approved.	Undecided
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8. Matters arising

- a) To consider any future use for the school defibrillator cabinet.
This item was remitted to the next meeting awaiting a decision on the defibrillator.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris left the meeting at this point.

9. Brisley Common

a) To receive an update regarding the electric fence gateways for walkers.

Cllr Dennis reported that portable gate had been collected and would be installed and tested. Council thanked Cllr Dennis for his efforts.

b) To receive the draft minutes and consider any issues raised at the Grazing Rights Holders meeting.

The minutes were circulated and noted by Council and the following matters had been raised at the meeting.

A meeting had been arranged with the Upper Wensum Farm Cluster Group and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust to discuss any action required at Harpers Green in respect of a project to increase flagship bird specimens.

Grant sources had been identified for pond renovation and it was agreed initially to register the Green with the Rural Payments Agency, prior to submitting an application for funding. In addition, it was agreed to submit a claim to the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme.

A quote will be obtained to clear the scrub around the Manor Farm pond which will increase visibility for those exiting the Bell car park.

It was agreed to consider publishing a footpath leaflet and Cllr Irons will circulate footpath maps previously published.

c) To receive an update regarding the Pond Renovation Project.

In respect of a pond renovation which is being carried out by a local resident with no cost to the Council, following approval of the project by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, it was agreed the sludge removed from the pond could be used to fill nearby hollows on the Green.

d) To consider approval of a visit by the Norfolk Flora Group to record plants.

Council approved the visit by the Group to record plants on the Green and at Harpers; it was agreed the results would be interesting.

10. Amenity Project

a) To consider any changes to the Allotment Area.

It was agreed to write to a tenant who had not continued this year to request clearance of the plot, although interest had been expressed by another party.

It was also agreed to investigate the viability of planting Christmas trees on the vacant plots to provide an additional income, Cllr Dennis will lead on this matter.

b) To consider any tree/shrub maintenance requirements.

It was agreed that some of the shrub guards should be removed where necessary as they were restricting growth. No action was required in respect of the tree guards.

c) To receive an update regarding additional equipment in the Play Area.

Cllr Irons reported that this matter was ongoing and once some fund raising had been achieved he would report back to the Council. The Council confirmed they were happy for Cllr Irons to proceed.

11. To receive reports on the regular checks.

- North Green – no problems reported.
- South Green – no problems reported.
- Footpaths & Stiles – no problems reported.
- Churchyard – no problems reported.
- Play Area – no problems reported although the fireman's pole continues to await painting.
- Patch Corner – no problems reported although the bench is to be inspected and removed if necessary. Council have agreed to purchase a replacement from the Townlands fund, with additional monies coming from reserves if need be.
- Allotments – no problems reported.

12. Finance & Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2019.

Council noted that finances for the year had been mostly on budget, with little overspend. Cllr Irons proposed approval of the report, this was seconded by Cllr Brown and agreed by Council.

b) To consider closure of the Bank of Ireland account.

Council agreed to close the Bank of Ireland account.

c) To appoint another signatory for the Barclays account.

Council appointed Cllr Irons as signatory to the Barclays account.

d) To consider approval of the Clerk's incremental salary increase.

Cllr Green proposed approval of the increase, this was seconded by Cllr Dennis and agreed by Council.

e) To approve the following payments.

Cllr Brown proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by Council.

• Clerk (April Salary & Expenses/Office Allowance)	£421.28
• HMRC (PAYE & NI)	£58.42
• Norfolk Parish Training & Support (Membership)	£90.00
• Environment Agency (Drainage Charges)	£41.12
• Norfolk County Council (Amenity Rent)	£750.00

13. Correspondence for circulation.

- Centenary Fields Peace Day – it was agreed to consider this following the Village Hall AGM where it would be discussed.
- Merchant Navy 'Fly the Red Ensign Day' – due to the lack of a flag pole this will be passed to a local resident who may be interested.
- George Freeman 'Offshore Ring Main' – this was noted.

14. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

There were no new items received.

15. To confirm the Annual Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 9th May 2019, following the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The date of the next meeting was noted.

Cllr Dennis then proposed a vote of thanks to both the Chairman, Cllr Coe and Vice-Chairman, Cllr Brown, who had both indicated they had not stood for re-election, this was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by everyone present. Both had contributed in many different ways to council business and would be very much missed.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:

Date:

DRAFT