

Besthorpe Parish Council : minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 January 2016

Present : Mr Watling in the chair; Mrs Richardson, Mrs Watling, Mr Derbyshire; the Clerk; no members of the public. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Hagan (at work) and Mrs Solloway-Brown (unwell). The Clerk reported that Mr Dore had moved to Wymondham and unfortunately his new home was just outside the legal three-mile limit for him to remain a parish councillor. Mrs Richardson (as a trustee), Mr Watling and Mrs Watling (as tenants) made a declaration of interest in respect of the agenda item 'Besthorpe charities'.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2015 were approved and signed.

The following payments had been made : Clerk's salary 2 @ £206.67; HMRC £155.00 (third quarter income tax). It was agreed to make a grant of £50.00 to Age Concern Norfolk and a cheque was signed for this. New external audit legislation would take effect in 2017/18 and it was agreed to use the bulk arrangements being made nationally for smaller councils.

Two planning applications had been approved by Breckland DC :

Freedom Group, agricultural land in south Besthorpe, replacement electricity poles.

Hodges, 149 Besthorpe Road, single storey front extension.

The application for a motor bike saleroom, workshop and café at the former Little Chef on the northbound A11 (discussed at the previous meeting) had been withdrawn.

Mrs Solloway-Brown had not yet identified the alleged puppy farm unit at The Limes. Norfolk CC had advised the Clerk by email of the Newall application for retrospective planning permission for its recent waste and soil operations at Heron Farm but he had not yet had the paper copy.

Breckland DC had just announced a consultation on its Local Plan 'preferred directions'. The Clerk gave details of forthcoming meetings and exhibitions about it and would let those members who were online have the link to the consultation web page. The Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan process was entering its final stages before the next consultation but checks were being made to ensure that it was legally watertight; and difficulties were arising as Breckland DC, which had to approve it, had no previous experience of neighbourhood plans against which to judge it. The proposed Greater Attleborough Development Partnership was about to get off the ground.

Mrs Richardson reported that a damaged car with jagged edges was partly obstructing the pavement outside Hollydene on Norwich Road. Mr Watling reported that the Compass Corner had flooded again and a highways worker had blamed a blocked pipe. The Clerk would make enquiries about both.

Mrs Richardson reported that the footpath gap in the Attleborough Road hedge had been cut.

Mr Watling had still not found time to re-erect the vandalised dog bin on Norwich Road and Mrs Richardson had recently reported that it had gone missing. She agreed to check if any nearby residents had taken it in for safe keeping.

The Clerk confirmed that he was too part time to commit to producing minutes within two weeks; the legal requirement was one month. It was agreed to adopt his suggestion of a new system for planning applications whereby all online councillors would vet them on Breckland DC's website and email any views to him within seven days. The paper version would go to the councillor living nearest to the relevant site (to inform neighbours) and to any member not online.

Consideration of the village charities was deferred until the next meeting.

It was agreed to meet again on 14 March 2016. The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.