

**The Annual Parish Meeting was adjourned indefinitely as no public were present.**

**Besthorpe Parish Council : minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 May 2015**

Present : Mrs Richardson in the chair (at the outset); Mr Watling, Mrs Watling, Mrs Hagan; the Clerk; no members of the public. Apologies for absence were received from Mr Derbyshire (having an operation) and Mrs Solloway-Brown (unwell). Mr Dore was in America. The seven existing councillors had remained in office after the recent election as no one else had stood.

There were no declarations of interest. Mr Watling was elected unanimously as Chairman (proposed by Mrs Hagan and seconded by Mrs Richardson). Mrs Hagan was elected unanimously as Vice-Chairman (proposed by Mrs Watling and seconded by Mrs Richardson). The councillors completed their declarations of acceptance and the Clerk distributed disclosable interests forms. Mr Watling thanked Mrs Richardson for her many years' work as Chairman.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2015 were read, approved and signed.

The following payments had been made : Clerk's salary £204.20 and £206.67; Clerk's expenses £146.47; HMRC £153.20 (income tax); Norfolk ALC £141.16 (subscription); Diane Malley £48.00 (payroll); We Care Appeal £25.00 (in memory of John Alston, a former Parish Councillor and Chairman, who had died recently; Mr Watling had represented the Council at his memorial service at Norwich Cathedral). The 2014/15 accounts and annual governance statement were approved and signed. The recent pay award had increased the Clerk's salary to £3100 p.a.

New transparency legislation meant that parish councils would have to publish more information on their websites. Many had no website and Besthorpe's had never been developed very far. The Clerk asked to attend a website refresher course at a cost of £40.00 and this was agreed. Also to meet new legislation, he had registered the Council with the Pensions Regulator.

The Council had been awarded a grant of £191.10 by Breckland DC to buy litter-picking equipment. When the money had been received, the Clerk would order it. Councillors would then need to organise a village litter-picking event as a condition of the grant. Mr Derbyshire and Mrs Solloway-Brown had recently done their own on Bunwell Road in the Heron Farm area. Mrs Watling reported litter on both sides of the A11 near the diner. Mrs Richardson said Silver Street also had a problem. Open refuse lorries on windy days were thought partly to blame. Mr Watling reported a dead deer beside the northbound A11 slip road from Norwich Road.

The following planning applications had been determined by Breckland DC :

- Hodges, 149 Besthorpe Road, garage by road frontage, permission refused.
- Spiby, 26 Mill Lane, two-storey extension, permission granted.
- Barlow, Potters Barn, Bunwell Road, creation of larger private area, permission granted.
- Elson, Plot 2 next Village Farm, Silver Street, 5-bedroom house & garage, permission granted.

Local residents had raised concerns about developments at the compound at the end of the parish boundary track near Hartland and the Clerk had referred these to Breckland DC.

Scoping applications had been received by Breckland DC for 4,000 houses on land south of Norwich Road, Attleborough; and for a solar park on land north east of Rookery Farm. There had been no developments following the Breckland DC local plan consultation but South Norfolk DC was holding one on three of its own documents, including the Wymondham Area Action Plan.

As the Chairman had become increasingly interested in the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan process, it was agreed that he would represent the Council on its Steering Group from now on, with the Clerk standing in for him as necessary. He had stood in for the Clerk at its two most meetings and reported on the latest progress. He also reported on the Greater Attleborough Development Partnership, which was still in the process of setting itself up.

It was agreed to meet again on 13 July 2015. The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.