

Belchford & Fulletby Parish Council

Draft Minutes from Belchford and Fulletby Annual meeting

10am Saturday 1st June 2024

Held at Belchford and Fulletby Village Hall

Present at the meeting: Peter Thompson, Chairman of the Parish Council and 10 members of the public (Jill Newby recorded minutes).

Meeting commenced at 10.15 after refreshments. No apologies were received.

1. Minutes of the last meeting (2023) were proposed as an accurate record by Jill Newby and seconded by Kris Skalka. A comment was made that last year's Chairman's report has not yet been received.
2. The Annual Report was read out by the Chairman and is attached to these minutes. It was noted that the bridle path cleared by the residents mentioned in the report still has not had official designation on the definitive map. In the future it could also be possible to get grant funding for its maintenance from The British Horse Society Bridleway Division. Discussion about rights of way and footpaths continued with various thoughts on how they should be accessed and maintained.
3. Lane Letting – Following discussion it was RESOLVED to postpone this to an alternative date and venue as last year, and make it a community event. A date of Sunday 23rd June at 4pm was decided, with it taking place in the Blue Bell Inn. It was proposed that funds raised from this event should be used to fund a tangible project in Fulletby.

4. Annual reports from Local Groups:

- **Village Hall:** Chairman of the VH Dick Black reported that the hall accounts were healthy the floor, insulation, electrics and plumbing sound. The carpark now was not being used so frequently as a walker's parking space without prior permission. The Defibrillator will be remaining at the Blue Bell and not relocated to the VH. Bookings are healthy, and wi fi possibilities ongoing.
- **Mother & Toddlers:** Group leader Sue Murfin reported the group was thriving with an average of 8 toddlers attending weekly. There is however a slight concern about funding of nursery places to the under 2's affecting numbers in September. Sue's hard work was praised by the meeting for keeping the group going for so many years.
- **Belchford Church:** VCC member John Smith informed the meeting that the church was thriving under the care of Neil Marwood and George Jacklin with an active council supporting them, including a new secretary Martin Rayson, and Barry cutting the grass regularly. The church had an average of £35 a week coming in from refreshment donations. A brass band concert had been well received with talk of it becoming an annual event. A lottery to raise money has successfully begun with about 50 participants. The church roof is to be fixed as there are now enough funds to finance the repair.

- **Fitness Groups:** Katy Hockham and Jill Newby reported that 2 weekly Yoga sessions, a Circuit's night and a Weights Fitness group were operating in the village hall which were all great assets to the parish.
- **Village Green:** Katy Hockham explained that the committee had new members including a new treasurer. This year the main event will be a Rounder Bonanza on the 15th of September, possibly with a tug of war competition between the two villages in the parish for the Vere Cup. The new football nets are used frequently and the Village green is supported by children, adults and dog walkers. The committee secured £900 grant from the Co op which possibly will be used to fund a stone table tennis table. The play equipment grant funding is proving tricky to organise as most of the committee are busy in full time jobs, the thought is to perhaps secure equipment in 'small chunks' ...possibly a swing then slides etc.
- **Community Woodland:** John Smith expressed concern for an increase in deer on the site and an on-going ragwort issue, which needs keeping on top of because of neighbouring farmland. He explained about 20% of the trees had not survived, some because they had been planted late in the season and had been of poor quality. A suggestion of letting re-wilding take over the management of the woodland was considered not feasible as the trees were already planted and needed protecting. A small area on the west of the site (When looking down from the top of the site) is totally untouched which represents a re-wilding spot and has few trees growing under the brambles. He told the meeting that was used by dog walkers and it was nice to see it in use. A Wild Silent Dance Event was well attended and the great views appreciated by the participants. It was suggested that possibly a link path from the woodland to the Viking way would benefit the usability of the site.

5. Questions from electors:

- Concern was expressed about what to do about the potholes.
- It was noted that the drain by Church View on Main Road Belchford had finally been cleared.
- Dam's lane possibly does not have a 'no through road' sign which is leading to vehicle's attempting to access it and having trouble turning round.
- A suggestion to remove the broken kissing gate on The Viking Way in Dams lane was considered not a good idea by an adjacent land owner.
- An elector voiced his proposal to submit a planning application for houses on the site of the old haulier's yard. This was met with suggestions to consult with ELDC planners for pre application advice, to look at the nearly finalised Parish NDP(although the policies do suggest that all new development ideally would be roadside) and to keep the PC informed so it is on the councillors radar if an application comes in.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 11.40am

The Parish Councillors and members of the public were thanked by the Chairman for their attendance.