

STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday, 16 May 2011 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

Present Peter Mills (Chairman of the Parish Council), and 13 Parishioners
Julian Gibson (Clerk)

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** None
- 2 **Minutes.** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings held on Monday, 18 May 2009, and on Monday, 17 May 2010 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 3 **Matters arising.** None.
- 4 **Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council.** The Chairman reported on various activities of the past year. He regretted that the Council had been under strength for the whole year, but was delighted that the election had returned a “full house” of Councillors. He also welcomed the new Clerk, and said that as a result the Council had introduced, reviewed and revised a number of legally required processes. Notably, the Stow Bedon Village Hall Fund charity (of which the Council is Trustee) now has its assets, finances and meetings/decisions separated from those of the Parish Council, which is as it should be. The Council has adopted the Mere Road telephone kiosk (without any telephone equipment), and is looking for suggestions for its future use. He also mentioned the bottle bank and cherry tree in the Pingo Trail lay-by. The Clerk has been reporting potholes, bent road signs and fly-tips left, right and centre.
- 5 **Stow Bedon PCC.** Beryl Warren reported on the last year’s activities at St Botolph’s Church, Stow Bedon. She mentioned the grass cutting, (the Stow Bedon Village Hall Fund makes a grant towards the cost of this), and the successful flower festival and concert. To help with those tracing their family histories, the church displays a list of burials since 1722 and a numbered burial plan. It has also had the closed marriage registers dating from 1837 returned from the Registrar, and this is kept in the safe and available for interested parishioners to view. Finally Mrs Warren reported that the church was open daily.
- 6 **Breckles PCC.** Margaret Morfoot reported on the last year’s activities at St Margaret’s Church, Breckles. She commented on the churchyard and car park, which are kept in pristine condition (also aided by a grant from the Stow Bedon Village Hall Fund), the work undertaken on the east and west churchyard walls, and the new pathway to the porch. St Margaret’s had also held a very successful concert, and manned the church for the annual Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride. Mrs Morfoot pointed out that this church was also open daily.
- 7 **Stow Bedon Fuel Allotment.** Phil Childs, Chairman of the Trustees of the Charity presented his annual report, which will be made available in full on the Parish Council Website. He said that six people had received a payment of £250 each, and asked for information about any other potential beneficiaries. Although only “Stow Bedon” appears in the charity name, it makes payments to the poor and needy of the whole civil parish, in addition to other grants. Much conservation work has taken place during the year, and more is planned for next year. Mrs Morfoot proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Childs and the other Trustees, saying how much
- 8 **Stow Bedon Village Hall Fund.** The Chairman explained that the Council was the Trustee for this Charity, and the Clerk presented its Annual Report, which is available on the Parish Council website. In addition to the grants to the two churches already mentioned, grants were made to Caston Village Hall, the Wayland Partnership, and the Citizens’ Advice Bureau. Finally the Clerk said that the charity’s major investment was in a government stock which

would mature next year, and he felt it was unlikely that a new investment providing a similar return would be possible.

- 9 Any other business.** County Councillor Ian Monson gave a brief report on the last year at County Hall, mentioning in particular the budget issues. He said that the effect of the cuts was beginning to be felt, but he hoped that the Council was leaner and more efficient, and that not too many front-line services were being lost. In response to a question he said that the footpath team was being reduced to two officers, who would be responsible for enforcement only, rather than going out and doing work on the ground.

Confirmed:

.....

Peter Mills, Chairman

11 May 2012