

## PARISH of STOW BEDON & BRECKLES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Friday, 16 May 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

**Present** Peter Mills (Chairman of the Parish Council), and 6 Parishioners  
Julian Gibson (Clerk)

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** Paul Howe and Lee Pilkington. The Chairman reported that both Norfolk County Councillor Ian Monson and Breckland District Councillor Phil Cowen had sent their apologies for not being present.
- 2 **Minutes.** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings held on Monday, 18 May 2009, and on Monday, 16 May 2011 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, pointing out that the elections had, for the first time for several years, produced a full house of Councillors, and he thanked them for their support. The telephone box in Mere Road was adopted, and subsequently repainted by BT, and a grit bin had been installed in The Close. Much effort had been put into the issue of speeding on the A1075, but to limited effect, however the Council has persuaded Norfolk County Council to agree to a 30 mph limit through Lower Stow Bedon, and now awaits the arrival of appropriate signage. The Council considered and decided against supporting a request that Crows Lane be put forward to be considered as a Public Right of Way. Full sets of the Wayland Heritage Histories had been placed in each church thanks to the permission of the PCCs. He reminded everybody about the planned Diamond Jubilee Street Party on 4 June. On the statistics front, he mentioned that the Council had met 9 times, commented on 12 planning applications and received in excess of 180 items of correspondence. Finally, he congratulated Ian Monson on being elected Chairman of Norfolk County Council, saying that he hoped this would not have too great an impact on Mr Monson's valuable regular attendance at our Council meetings.
- 5 **Stow Bedon PCC.** Beryl Warren (Church Warden) again reported on the last year's activities at St Botolph's Church, Stow Bedon. She said that the grass cutting was done by RG Maintenance, and thanked the Council which as Trustee of the Stow Bedon Village Hall Fund makes a grant towards the cost of this. The church hosted eight benefice services during the year, and also held a Christmas Eve carol service. Fundraising came from a Coffee Morning in Queen's Hall, Watton, and a share of the proceeds of the joint Fete.
- 6 **Breckles PCC.** Margaret Morfoot (Church Warden) reported on the last year's activities at St Margaret's Church, Breckles. She drew attention to the excellent condition of the churchyard, thanks to the dedicated work of a parishioner, and also thanked the Council for the support provided by the Stow Bedon Village Hall Fund. She said that as the church only had seven services during the year, it had to raise funds from sources other than collections, and mentioned in particular the Flower Festival and a choral concert. She also promoted an evening with Keith Skipper the next day. Finally, she stressed that the church was open 24 hours a day (as indeed, is Stow Bedon church) so that it was always available to all.
- 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 the five year lease for shooting rights had ended on 31 March 2012, and that the previous tenant had decided not to bid again. After advertising 25 enquiries were received, leading to six bids. The tenancy was granted to a local resident and an increased annual rental. Six people had received a payment of £300 each, and stressed that he and his fellow trustees

would be delighted to hear of other potential beneficiaries. A vote of thanks to Mr Childs and the other Trustees for the work they had done to improve the land was agreed.

**8 Stow Bedon Village Hall Fund.** The Chairman presented the Charity's Annual Report, which is available on the Parish Council website. He said that the Treasury Stock, the interest from which had been the income in the past, had now matured. The funds have been placed in an interest-bearing account while the Council decides how best to reinvest it, but he stressed that it was very unlikely that a similar rate of return could be obtained given the present financial situation.

**9 Any other business.** None.

**Confirmed:**

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**Peter Mills, Chairman**

20 May 2013