

# STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 18 August 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

**Present: Councillors: Lee Pilkington (Vice-Chairman), Paul Howe, Dawn Jessett, John Morfoot, Julian Gibson (Clerk)**

*In the absence of the Chairman the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.*

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the reason for absence offered by Councillor Childs.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None.
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.**
  - 4.1 Two residents in Mere Road gave their detailed objections to the proposed development of Harvester (see item 8.1), on the grounds that it would overlook the adjacent property to an unacceptable extent. This view was supported by District Councillor Phil Cowen, who said he felt that the application should not have been validated by the planning officers.
  - 4.2 **St Botolph's Church, Stow Bedon.** Mrs Machorton gave an update on plans for the church for which a grant had been approved from English heritage. This would include repair to roofs, walls and parapets, renewal of the rainwater disposal system, repair to vestry, bellcote, interior plaster and floors. There would be a long development phase with work planned to commence in June 2015. Sadly funding for the hoped for toilet and kitchen facilities had not been approved, but at least there would be a watertight building. She appealed for people to visit the church, as the greater the footfall, the greater chance there was of future funding being made available.
  - 4.3 **Breckland Council matters.** Councillor Cowen mentioned the decision of the Boundary Commission (see item 7.1) and said that he has been selected as one of the Conservative candidates for the two seats in the new All Saints and Wayland Ward.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 14 July 2014 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 6 **Matters arising.** None.
- 7 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:
  - 7.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England: *Electoral Review of Breckland: Final Recommendations*. The Commission has taken note of the submissions made by both Stow Bedon & Breckles and Wretham Parish Councils, and also one by a Wretham Resident, reversed its decision to include Wretham in Forest Ward, and included it in All Saints & Wayland Ward.
  - 7.2 Barclays Bank Plc: *Community Account Statement* - 1-31 July 2014.
  - 7.3 Barclays Bank Plc: *Active Saver Account Statement* - 1-31 July 2014.
  - 7.4 Norfolk County Council: *Stow Bedon - Highway and community Ranger Visit*.
  - 7.5 Lt Col Tony Powell (STANTA): *Parish Council Liaison Meeting* - Thursday 23 October. The Clerk asked for a volunteer to attend to contact him, as he was unable to be there.
  - 7.6 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Proposed amendments to the Norfolk ALC Constitution*.

## 8 Planning.

- 8.1 **3PL/2014/0634/F: Harvester, Mere Road, Stow Bedon.** Application for Double 2 storey extensions, one on either side of existing property. It was **resolved** that the Council objected on the grounds that the revised proposals were contrary to Policy DC1 of the Breckland Adopted Core Strategy and Development Control Policies, in that it caused an unacceptable effect on the amenities of the area and the residential amenity of neighbouring occupants by creating overlooking, privacy loss, dominance and overshadowing to Garden House, and adversely impacted the characteristics of the area and the quality of the existing townscape. Concerns were also expressed about the unacceptable quality of the application (which should not have been validated at Breckland) and the inadequacy of evidence relating to dealing with the increased foul water.
- 8.2 **3PL/2014/0779/F: The Paddocks, Lower Stow Bedon, Rocklands, NR17 1EL.** Application for Continued siting of mobile home. It was **resolved** that the Council had no objection.

## 9 Casual Vacancies. No progress.

10 **Pingo Trail Lay-by Notice board.** Councillor Morton said he had got no further with finding somebody to do the required renovation work, but promised to do so.

11 **Delegating powers to the Clerk.** It was **agreed** to delegate power to respond to Planning Applications to the Clerk after consultation with at least two Councillors (one of whom should be the Chairman if possible) on occasions when it is not possible to hold a Council Meeting before the response deadline and when it is also not possible to obtain agreement to sufficiently extend that deadline.

12 **Hedges on Mere Road.** It was **noted** that the Clerk has asked for a notice to appear in *Group News* reminding residents in Mere Road of their obligation to ensure that hedges do not obscure vision on the highway. This should appear in the September edition.

13 **Drains at Church Cottage, Breckles.** It was **noted** that the Clerk has again asked Norfolk County Council Highways what they are planning to do about the drain outside Church Cottage, Breckles, which requires water to run uphill to be fully effective, but has received no response as yet. The Chairman said, "This Council deserves a response!" The Clerk will chase yet again.

14 **Meeting summonses.** The Clerk reported that the Government was planning to change the law so as to make it legal for summonses to meetings to be sent electronically, but pointed out some of the issues which this would entail. It was **agreed** not to adopt this method.

## 15 Finance.

15.1 **Clerk's salary.** It was **resolved** that cheques numbered 100648 & 100649 totalling £567.03 (salary for 1 July 2014 to 30 September 2014: £486.49; Mileage Allowance Payment for 9 June 2014 to 10 August 2014: £80.54 of which £2.44 is the VAT element) to the Clerk and HM Revenue & Customs be signed. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 112(2)*)

15.2 **Clerk's reimbursement.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100650 for £0.89 (Postage & Telephones £0.74, VAT £0.15) to the Clerk be signed as reimbursement for items paid on behalf of the Council for 10 June 2014 to 10 August 2014. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111*)

15.3 **Telephone Kiosk.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100651 for £85.00 to Garry Elley be signed, for carrying out the necessary repairs to the telephone kiosk in Mere Road. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111*). The Clerk reported that he had written to

Mr Michael Perry and Miss Marie Hallet, at whose house the youngster who had vandalised the kiosk was staying, suggesting that they reimburse the Council and thus the other parishioners for the cost of this, but as yet has received no reply.

15.4 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 31 July 2014 was received.

16 **Matters for consideration at next meeting.**

17 **Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council, was **confirmed** as **Monday, 20 October 2014**, at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

**Confirmed:**

.....

**Phil Childs, Chairman**

20 October 2014

**Scheduled future Meeting dates:**

Monday, 10 November 2014	Monday, 16 February 2015
Monday, 15 December 2014	Monday, 16 March 2015
Monday, 19 January 2015*	*If needed