

STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 16 October 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in St Botolph's Church, Gravelpit Hill, Stow Bedon, NR17 1BX.

Present: Councillors: Lee Pilkington (Chairman), Phil Childs, Dawn Jessett.
Julian Gibson (Clerk)

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the reasons for absence offered by Councillors Howe and White. The Clerk was asked to circulate a document issued by the Norfolk Association of Local Councils about *Apologies and non-attendance at meetings* to all members, as this emphasises the importance of letting the Council know the reason for non-attendance.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.**
 - 4.1 The applicant for item 8.1 explained the specific personal reasons why he had applied for planning permission for a new bungalow at Old Farm. Other parishioners expressed concerns that the existing drain which passes through properties on that side of Mere Road, then under the road and on eastwards was at capacity, and was not capable of supporting any further dwellings. They said that, as it was, there was often pollution with sewerage appearing with the grey water, presumably because individual sewerage treatment plants were poorly maintained or septic tanks were being allowed to overflow, and they feared that further development would only make this worse.
 - 4.2 Parishioners expressed concerns about speeding vehicles on Mere Road and in Lower Stow Bedon, and the Chairman asked the Clerk to explain about the application for a SAM2 which has been submitted. Councillor Jessett was also able to suggest that a further three residents took, applied and displayed bin stickers. One member of public said that a motorcyclist passed through Lower Stow Bedon regularly, and the Clerk asked if they could keep a log of date, time and if possible, registration number, and he would pass it on to the police asking them to target the individual.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 18 September 2017 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [6.2] **Blocked gullies on A1075.** Darren Thompson, Highways Technician, has responded saying that Cyclic cleansing for gullies is due in October, and he has marked up the hidden gullies so the contractor can find them more easily. Grips are due to be cut in November, and he has also marked these to ensure they are not missed. It is, though, the responsibility of the land owner to keep the ditch the grips drain into clear.
 - 6.2 [6.1] **Broadband.** Ms Truss, MP, has responded saying, "I fully appreciate your concerns about broadband and have taken this matter up with BT. Please be assured that I will contact you again as soon as I receive a response." District Councillor Phil Cowen had also forwarded an email from Karen O'Kane, Better Broadband for Norfolk Project Manager. In this she advises that a new cabinet has been installed on Mere Road, and is awaiting fibre connection, which she says should be done by the end of the year. Residents should check for availability of fibre broadband by going to <https://www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/adsl.htm>, and entering their phone number if their ISP is BT, otherwise use the Address checker. Once a fibre solution is

available a VDSL option will be shown. (ADSL indicates the slower, copper based broadband.)

7 Correspondence. The following correspondence was **received**:

7.1 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Business Accounts - at a glance.*

7.2 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account statement - 1-29 September 2017.*

7.3 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver account statement - 1 July - 29 September 2017.*

8 Planning.

8.1 **3PL/2017/1244/F: Old Farm, Mere Road, Stow Bedon.** Application for New dwelling. It was **resolved** that, although the Council had the greatest sympathy for the situation the applicant was in, it objected to the proposal on the grounds that, (a) the proposed dwelling was outside the existing settlement boundary; this was something which the Council had been fighting to enforce for several years, and to which Breckland Council Planning had agreed, and there was a need to be consistent in the interests of fairness; (b) the proposal amounts to back building, which brings with it all the concerns of setting a precedence; and (c) if Breckland Council were to be minded to grant permission despite these objections, the Council felt it was essential that the drainage concerns be taken seriously, that the drainage system be upgraded to cope with the additional run off caused by the new dwelling, and that the outflow from the sewerage treatment plant should not be permitted to flow towards Mere Road.

9 Children's Play and outdoor sports. An email from Breckland Council advising that it is holding £8,580 collected from developers under policy DC11 of the Adopted Core Strategy, which is available to parishes within the Hockham Cluster Group (Hockham, Stow Bedon, Shropham and Wretham) to support projects which will provide or enhance children's play areas or outdoor sports provisions, was **received**. The Council regretted that, as it did not have ownership of any suitable land, it was not in a position to take advantage of this funding, which, if unused, would be returned to the developers involved. The Clerk will, though, advise Councillor Hayward in case he can think of a possible use.

10 Village Appraisal. An abridged report, intended for circulation in *Waylander* was received. Councillor Jessett said she would present the full version at the next Meeting.

11 Defibrillator. Councillor Jessett said that there had been a very positive response in the Village Appraisal to the suggestion that a defibrillator be installed in the parish. The Clerk said that it would be possible to get an unmetered electricity supply to the telephone kiosk, but this would involve an ongoing cost. He was asked to obtain some information regarding overall costs and possible grants for the next meeting.

12 Venue for Council Meetings. The Council was concerned that the church was not proving to be an ideal location for evening meetings, the issues being the very resonant acoustic, and in the darker months the unsuitable parking, and notably the lack of lighting to get the public from the road to the door of the church. The Clerk said that moving winter meetings back to Caston Hall was not currently an option, as the hall was closed for refurbishment, so it was **agreed** that for the time being the Council must continue to use the church. The Council asked the Clerk to ask if the PCC would consider installing lighting, as this was essential if it were to attract other bookings for evening events.

13 Clerk's Salary. The Chairman reported that he had carried out an Annual Appraisal of the Clerk's performance, assessing it as being fully satisfactory, and recommended that, in accordance with his contract, w.e.f. 20 September 2017 he is awarded an additional Spinal Column Point to take him to SCP 22, which would increase his pay rate by 27.2p/hour or

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

£65.28 p.a., making the total salary £2,577.36 p.a. This increase within the planned budget was **agreed**.

14 Finance.

14.1 **Training.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100734 for £6.25 to SLCC Norfolk be signed, being this Council's share of the cost of the Clerk attending the Autumn Conference on 2 November 2017. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)

14.2 **Credits.** Receipt of the following credit was **noted**:

14.2.1 Precept £2,300.00 & Revenue Support Grant £13.00 paid by Breckland Council.

14.3 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 30 September 2017 was **received**. The Clerk reported that as a result of a clerical error, the Barclays Community Account had slipped into overdraft, but he had now corrected this with a transfer from the Instant Savings Account.

15 Matters for consideration at next meeting.

15.1 Drainage in Mere Road.

15.2 Village Appraisal results.

15.3 Defibrillator.

16 Next meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as Monday, 16 October 2017, at 7.30 p.m. in St Botolph's Church, Gravelpit Hill, Stow Bedon.

Confirmed:

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Lee Pilkington, Chairman

16 October 2017

Scheduled future Meeting dates:

Monday, 16 October 2017 Monday, 22 January 2018*

Monday, 20 November 2017 Monday, 19 February 2018

Monday, 18 December 2017 Monday, 19 March 2018

*If needed