

STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 18 November 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

**Present: Councillors: Dawn Jessett (Vice-Chairman), Phil Childs, Paul Howe, John Morfoot, Hannah Reed.
Julian Gibson (Clerk)**

In the absence of the Council Chairman, the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the reasons for absence offered by Cllr. Pilkington and Cllr. White.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None.
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.**
 - 4.1 District Councillor Phil Cowen said that his council was working on producing a balance budget for the coming year, but the forthcoming election meant that they were having to work on an early prediction of the level of central government funding. The Local Plan has been approved by the Planning Inspector, and would be adopted by the full council at a meeting on 28 November. This means that those applications still awaiting determination would come under the new policies, and that it was assumed that Breckland now had a five-year land supply. The Inspector had, though, required that a review of some key aspects of the Plan be commenced within three months of adoption, and his council would be considering whether it would be better to start the five year cycle over again, which would allow the introduction of new policies. These could include measures to address matters like water and electricity usage, or climate change.
 - 4.2 Speaking as Chairman of the Trustees of the Stow Bedon Fuel Allotment charity, Cllr. Childs advised the meeting that the Norfolk Wildlife Trust had expressed an interest in acquiring the land owned by the charity, namely 28.5 acres at Stow Bedon Common. At this point no offer had been made, but he was making enquiries with the Charity Commission and other parties to gather advice and opinions. He felt that investing sale proceeds might increase the funding available to meet the charity's objectives, while having the land owned by NWT would ensure that it remained a feature of the village, and was maintained as a nature reserve. Councillors expressed their interest, and hoped for successful negotiations.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 21 October 2019 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [6.1] **Gullies opposite Breckles Church.** Cllr. White had reported that persistence does appear to be effective, as the gullies and silt-catcher have now been emptied and the damaged gully-cover re-built. It is not possible to see what has been done about the connecting pipe-work, but that will be revealed when it rains.
 - 6.2 [12] **Stow Bedon War Memorial.** Historic England had confirmed that it has listed the War Memorial at Grade II.
- 7 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:
 - 7.1 Norfolk Constabulary: *All Saints & Wayland newsletter* - October 2019.
 - 7.2 Norfolk Constabulary: *Breckland District Community Speedwatch Monthly Returns* - September 2019.
 - 7.3 Norfolk Citizens Advice: *Appeal letter*.

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- 7.4 Breckland Council: *Parish Precept Requirement 2020-21.*
- 7.5 Breckland Council: *Guidance for setting parish/town precepts 2020/21.*
- 7.6 Highways England: *All works - Red Lodge to Mildenhall.*
- 7.7 Breckland Council: *Receipt of Inspectors (sic) Report.*
- 7.8 Norfolk County Council Fire and Rescue Service: *Your views on our draft integrated Risk Management Plan.*
- 7.9 *Clerks & Councils Direct - November 2019.*
- 7.10 Breckland Council: *Enforcement Notice re Land at Wretham Road, Great Hockham.*
- 7.11 Breckland Council: *WWII Commemorative Grant Scheme - now open.*
- 7.12 Barclays Bank Plc: *Instant access savings rates are reducing.*
- 7.13 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Business accounts - at a glance - Balances on 31 October 2019.*
- 7.14 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account Statement.- 1-31 October 2019.*
- 7.15 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Instant Access Account Statement.- 1-31 October 2019.*
- 7.16 SAM2 Co-ordinator: *Monthly report.*

8 Planning.

- 8.1 **3PL/2019/1009/HOU: Home Farm, Stow Road, Stow Bedon.** Insert dormer windows to front elevation. Insert rooflights. Demolish porch & erect new. Demolish rear single storey extension & erect 2 1/2 storey rear extension. Alterations to south elevation following removal of porches (amended scheme from approved planning permission 3PL/2017/0772/HOU). Planning Permission dated 25 October 2019 was **received**.
- 8.2 **3AG/2019/0020/AG: Honeypot Estate, Spring Lane / Mere Road Junction, Stow Bedon.** Hay/Straw Storage Barn (Agricultural notification).It was **noted** that the Clerk has objected (after consultation with members) on the grounds that the Council does not believe that this should be considered as permitted development. The application mentions "sheep and pigs" but councillors have not seen any animals on the site except for two donkeys. The existing barn must be sufficient to store adequate hay and straw to support them. The Council believes there is no evidence to show that an additional building is required for agricultural purposes.
- 8.3 **3PL/2019/1363/F: Land North of Mere House, Mere Road, Stow Bedon.** Erection of 2 No. Dwellings with Associated Works, Including; Provision of Internal Access Road and Landscaping. It was **resolved** that the Council objected strongly on the grounds that the site is outside any settlement boundary and therefore development in the open countryside, in an unsustainable village. It is also back-building, and although actually closer to Stow Bedon Road, access via Mere Road has been proposed, presumably in the belief that this is more likely to be agreed. However, the additional number of vehicles using this access right at the start of Mere Road is unsafe. The field is also constantly wet, so drainage will be a major issue.
- 8.4 **3PL/2019/1212/F: Stapleford Grange, Rockland Road, Stow Bedon.** Proposed demolition of existing unused dilapidated pig rearing unit. Provision of new self build zero carbon dwelling within footprint of demolished building. Refusal of Planning Permission dated 11 November 2019 was **received**.

- 9 Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) for A1075.** The Clerk reported that both Hockham Parish Council and Stow Bedon Parish Council had indicated their willingness to join with this Council in a plan to obtain a VAS to be deployed at a number of locations on the A1075 within the three parishes in an attempt to encourage divers to reduce speed, heighten awareness, and thus hopefully increase road safety. Wretham Parish Council would act as lead, seeking a grant under the Parish Partnership Scheme, and then purchasing and owning the device, also paying the insurance and covering the cost of the Clerk moving it on a monthly basis. The other parishes would contribute towards the purchase cost, and also agree to pay their share of the

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annual ongoing costs, along with any possible future maintenance costs, signing a Memorandum of Understanding to that effect. The proposal was to obtain a portable warning triangle depicting a deer (meaning “wild animals likely to be in road”), battery powered with a spare battery, intelligent charger, together with 12 posts and brackets, at a quoted cost of £4,915 (excluding VAT). The Parish Partnership scheme would, if the application was successful, pay half the cost, and County Councillor Fabian Eagle had indicated he would contribute £1,000 from his funds, meaning the purchase would cost each parish less than £500. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should proceed on this basis, and he and the Council Chairman were **authorised** to complete and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the other two parishes as and when necessary. The Clerk said that Cllr. Eagle had advised him that the deadline for Parish Partnership applications had been extended to the end of December.

- 10 Defibrillator.** It was **agreed** that the Council Chairman and the Clerk should be authorised to complete and sign an application for a grant from *Awards for All* to cover the cost of purchase and installation of a Community Public Access Defibrillator in the telephone kiosk in Mere Road.
- 11 Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation 2020/21 - Proposal to maintain existing Recycling Credit rate for 2020/21.** An email inviting a response to this consultation was **received**. The Clerk explained that in order to save it paying out an additional £5,000 between some 400 non-profit organisations and parish councils across Norfolk, NCC was proposing not to provide the usual inflationary increase in Recycling Credit payments made for bottle banks in 2020/21. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should respond expressing disapproval of the proposal, on the basis that Parish Councils could have to increase their precepts to cover the shortfall (meaning that the cost to the tax-payer was simply shifted from county council to parish council), other non-profit making organisations would be adversely hit, the bottle banks helped meet targets for recycling, and the effort carrying out this consultation would probably exceed the predicted saving.
- 12 Finance.**
- 12.1 **Other.** It was **resolved** that cheque numbered 100796 for £450.00 (£375.00 + £75.00 VAT) to T. West Esq. be signed, in settlement of his invoice dated 26 October 2019, for ivy severance and dead tree removal on Mere Road and Gravelpit Hill. (*Public Health Act 1875 s. 164 & Local Government Act 1972, Sch. 14 para. 27*)
- 12.2 It was **resolved** that cheque numbered 100797 for £11.58 to the Clerk be signed, in replacement of cheque no. 100794 issued on 16 September 2019, which appears to have been mislaid in the system as it has not been presented for payment, nor credited to the Clerk’s account.
- 12.3 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 31 October 2019 was **received**.
- 13 Matters for consideration at next meeting.**
- 13.1 Budget 2020/21.
- 13.2 Precept 2020/21.
- 14 Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday, 16 December 2019, at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.**

Confirmed:

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Jonathan White, Chairman

16 December 2019

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Scheduled future Meeting dates:

Monday, 16 December 2019

Monday, 13 January 2020*

Monday, 17 February 2020

Monday, 16 March 2020

*If needed

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