

STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 15 March 2021 at 7.30 p.m. This was a Zoom on-line meeting.

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

Absent: Councillor John Morfoot.

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the reason for absence offered by Cllr. Morfoot.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None.
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.**
 - 4.1 A member of the public spoke about the damage to Mere Road, etc., arising from the matter to be discussed under Agenda Item 13. District Councillor Phil Cowen said he had been in conversation with Simon Wood, Breckland Director of Planning, who was looking into the matter.
 - 4.2 Cllr. Cowen said that he too had supported the additional speed limit change which NCC was not intending to progress (Agenda Item 6.2).
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 15 February 2021 were **confirmed**, and **signed** by the Chairman.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [4.4] **Water being pumped from property onto Mere Road.** Following the Clerk's report, NCC Highways was unable to locate the problem, so it will be difficult to get them to act without photographic evidence.
 - 6.2 [9] **A1075 Thetford to Dereham - Proposed Amendments to Speed Limit.** Regarding reducing the limit between Stonebridge and Breckles, the Highways Engineer has said that the latest route safety study indicated that the proposed measures (centreline hatching, raised rib edge-lines and verge hardening) should mitigate against the causes of 20 of the 26 "killed or seriously injured casualties" on this sector of the road in the past six years. They are, therefore, not able to recommend this speed limit reduction.
- 7 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:
 - 7.1 Norfolk Citizens Advice - Norwich: *Appeal letter.*
 - 7.2 Breckland Council: *Casual Vacancy.*
 - 7.3 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Business accounts - at a glance - Your balances on 26 February 2021.*
 - 7.4 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account - 30 January - 26 February 2021.*
 - 7.5 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account - 30 January - 26 February 2021.*
 - 7.6 SAM2 Co-ordinator: *Monthly report - February 2021.*
- 8 **Planning.**
 - 8.1 **3PL/2021/0049/PIP: Land adjacent Millers House, Old Station Yard, Watton Road, Stow Bedon.** Permission in Principle for a Proposed Single Dwelling (Town and Country Planning (Permission in Principle) (Amendment) Order 2017). It was **resolved** that the Council objected on the grounds of reliance on use of motor vehicles, dangerous access, flooding, and adverse environmental impact. The Council also questioned the accuracy on the site plan. **Post-meeting note:** Before the Council's response had been sent to Breckland, the Clerk was advised that the application had been withdrawn, following the

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applicant seeing the response and recommendation for refusal from NCC Highways. As a result, the Council's response was not sent.

- 8.2 **3AG/2021/0004/AG: Watering Farm, Stow Bedon.** New Storage Building. It was **resolved** that the Council had no objection, but the Clerk advised that Breckland Council had already advised him that day that the decision notice that prior approval was not required had been issued, despite telling the Council that the deadline for a response was 17 March.
- 9 **Casual Vacancy.** The Chairman advised that, in response to the notices advertising the vacancy, Mr Jonathan Cobbold had indicated that he would be interested in being co-opted to the Council. The Chairman said that they had spoken, and he was happy to propose this, but that, as Mr Cobbold would not be available to start attending meetings until June, he proposed that the co-option be put off until then. This was **agreed**.
- 10 **Maintaining the option of virtual meetings.** The Clerk pointed out that the COVID legislation permitting Parish Councils to meet virtually is due to expire at midnight on 6 May 2021. The National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks are known to be lobbying the Government asking for this to be extended, but are understood to be meeting resistance. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to Elizabeth Truss MP asking her to support the Association's proposals that it should be left for Parish Councils to decide what is best for their communities.
- 11 **Pingo-Trail Car Park.** The Chairman said he was hoping that a site meeting would take place in the next week to discuss this issue with the NCC Conservation and Highways officers, the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, and County Councillor Fabian Eagle. This was especially important in view of the statements made by Highways when considering application 3PL/2021/0049/PIP, in which it appeared that they are perfectly relaxed about allowing unrestricted and unmonitored access to both the layby and car park, but that the modest increase in traffic generated by one small dwelling was considered so dangerous that they had recommend refusal. He said that he would advise members of the date and time when this meeting was arranged, and would continue to press Ben Grapes at NCC to set it up.
- 12 **Electronic Banking.** The Chairman said that he had asked for this item be added to the agenda, but having discussed it with the Clerk, now wished to withdraw the suggestion. This was **agreed**.
- 13 **Issues arising from new pig unit at Cherry Tree Farm.** Many residents had been reporting the damage to being done to Mere Road and Cherry Tree Lane by heavy farm traffic which is not using the route which was specified and conditioned in the Planning Application. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to Wayland Farms, reminding them of their promises that farm traffic would not use Mere Road, and copy this to Simon Wood at Breckland asking for Enforcement Support, and to County Cllr. Eagle and NCC Highways asking for the damage to be repaired.
- 14 **Asset Register.** The Asset Register was **reviewed** and the valuations for insurance purposes **agreed**.
- 15 **Risk Assessment.** The Council's Risk Assessment was **reviewed** and amendments **agreed**.
- 16 **System of Internal Control.** The Council **reviewed** and **approved** its system of internal control.
- 17 **Finance**
- 17.1 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 28 February 2021 was **received**.
- 18 **Matters for consideration at next meeting.** Pingo Trail Car Park update.

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19 Next meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday, 12 April 2021**, at **7.30 p.m.** via **Zoom video link**.

Confirmed:

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Jonathan White, Chairman

12 April 2021

Scheduled future Meeting dates:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday, 12 April 2021 | Monday, 16 August 2021* | Monday, 13 December 2021 |
| Monday, 17 May 2021 | Monday, 13 September 2021 | Monday, 17 January 2022* |
| Monday, 14 June 2021 | Monday, 18 October 2021 | Monday, 14 February 2022 |
| Monday, 12 July 2021 | Monday, 15 November 2021 | Monday, 14 March 2022 |

*If needed

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