

STOW BEDON AND BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Coun Hannah Reed
Deer Cottage
21 Mere Road
Stow Bedon
Attleborough
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Clerk: Mrs J Williams
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Minutes of Stow Bedon and Breckles Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd January 2024 at Caston Village Hall.

Present: Councillors, H Reed (Chair) , L Pilkington, J White, P Childs, D Jessett, C Allen and Jean Williams, Locum Parish Clerk. One member of the public present.

1. To open the meeting and welcome those present.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Morfoot.

The apology was accepted by those present.

3. Declarations of Interest:

No declarations of interest were made.

4. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2023

The minutes were agreed by all present and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda.

Councillor White stated that while the works carried out on the Pingo Car Park are a big improvement, it has not been completed as agreed. Granite chippings were to be laid to compact the ground; this has not happened. The pot holes in the layby also require some maintenance.

ACTION: Councillor White will write to NCC and discuss the situation with Councillor Eagle .

6. Public Participation:

Member of the public complained about the change of date for the meeting.

The resident is concerned about the planning application for a four bedroomed house in Mere Road.

Plans for the garage are on same area as the septic tank.

There is potential for another housing estate.

Concerns re: drainage from the site going into the Mere.

There is a change of use for the land.

Concerns that to date there are no comments from the Parish Council, the Clerk informed the meeting that she had posted comments.

Discussion took place at length about the application.

Councillors agreed that they would write further comments to Breckland Planning

The closing date for comments is 01/02/2024

ACTION: Councillor White to write comments to be posted on the on-line application documentation.

7. Report of County Councillor Fabian Eagle

Councillor Eagle not present, no report received.

Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen

Councillor Cowen not present, no report received.

Report from the Parish Clerk Parish Clerk stated that she had forwarded all relevant correspondence to the Councillors as it arrived.

The Clerk resigned her post by letter to the Chairman. Currently the post is a locum position. The clerk stated that she would not be applying for the permanent post.

ACTION: The clerk to draft an advert and forward it for advertising to NALC and NPTS Inform attendees of the NPTS networking meeting held on 24/01/2024 of the vacancy.

8. To discuss the SAMS2 situation.

Councillor Allen informed the meeting that he has the SAMS2 equipment in his garage.

A person has volunteered to be responsible for the SAMS2 in Lower Stow Bedon, the person is not able to move the equipment to the sites on the A1075.

After discussion: it was agreed that the volunteer would be asked if she would undertake the responsibility for Lower Stow Bedon. Councillor Allen agreed to liaise with the person and assist in the setting up.

Councillors requested that the Clerk place an article in the Waylander asking for more volunteers to move the SAMS2 and to thank Mr Williams publicly for the service he has given to the village..

The Clerk has an Amazon Voucher to the value of £25 for Mr Williams, Cllr Jessett agreed to deliver it to him.

ACTION: Councillor Allen to liaise with the volunteer re: SAMS2 in Lower Stow Bedon.

Clerk to deliver gift for Mr Williams to Councillor Jessett, Councillor Jessett to deliver the gift to Mr Williams.

Clerk to write an article in the Waylander asking for more volunteers for the siting of SAMS2 in Mere Road and on A1075.

Clerk to thanks Mr Williams via the Waylander for his work with SAMS2.

9. To receive and discuss any planning applications:

3PL/2023/1166/F this application was discussed at length, the re submission is no different from the original application, other than some change of wording. Councillors stated that the area would become a small estate if building on this site is allowed to continue. It is not a ribbon development that fits in with the existing houses but large executive homes.

Concern was raised about drainage and excess water being discharged into the Mere.

The development exceeds the original footprint of the previous building., it is out of place and out of keeping with the area.

All Councillors stated that this application should be refused on the same grounds as the original application was refused.

ACTION: It was agreed that Cllr White would contact District Councillor Phil Cowen to discuss the situation with him, then draft comments stating the Councils objections.

Cllr Reed will take the lead re: The Mere.

10. To discuss the possibility of a Litter Pick

After a discussion around the logistics of a litter pick, it was decided that this should be deferred for now.

11. To discuss a plan for the appointment of a Permanent Parish Clerk.

See item 7.

12. Update on change of Bank Account

This is work in progress.

13. To receive the Financial Statement to date and approve any expenditure.

The Clerk presented the statement of finances to date.

Opening Balance of Barclays Community Account at 01/11/2023	£2,684.71
Transfer from Business Premium Account on 08/11/2023	£2,757.62
Total	£5,442.33

Invoices Paid

21/11/2023	HMRC Clerks Tax Liability Apr-Oct 2023	£ 407.40
21/11/2023	Electoral Costs	£ 75.00
21/11/2023	Payroll NALC	£ 115.20
21/11/2023	HMRC Clerks Tax Liability Nov-Dec 2023	£ 93.00
21/11/2023	Clerks Salary Apr-Oct 2023	£1,632.14
Total		£2,323.14
Balance		£3,119.19

Payments owing

Heartbeat Trust	£ 198.09
Reimburse the Clerk for Amazon Voucher	£ 25.00
Clerks Salary Nov-Jan 2024	£ 872.71
HMRC Clerks Tax Liability	£ 62.60
Total	£ 1,158.40
Balance	£ 1,960.79

14. To discuss the Budget and the Precept Application

The Clerk had prepared a budget, which she presented to the Councillors. The required precept should be £6,500.00 for the forthcoming financial year. This was agreed by all Councillors present.

ACTION: Clerk to complete and submit the Precept Request.

15. Any other relevant matters not included in this Agenda.

Councillors queried if the Parish Council should be meeting more frequently to be able to discuss planning applications in a timely manner. After discussion, it was decided to continue with the same cycle until a new Clerk is appointed and decide then.

The Clerk reported that the notice board in Lower Stow Bedon is very loose, could be a risk.

A resident attending the meeting agreed to look at the board and stabilise it, if possible.

The Clerk could ask Peter Sorenson to repair the board if it cannot be made safe.

Clr White asked about the Website, the Clerk stated that she had not used it. Clr Pilkington said he is prepared to attempt to post items.

16. Items for the next Agenda

To discuss the post of Chairperson for the coming year.

17. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Thursday 28th March 2024 at 7:30pm

The meeting was closed by the Chairperson at 21:55

Signed..... Date.....
Chairperson

DRAFT