

PARISH of STOW BEDON & BRECKLES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday, 18 May 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

Present **Phil Childs (Chairman of the Parish Council), and 9 Parishioners**
Julian Gibson (Clerk)

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** Phil Cowen, Jonathan White.
- 2 **Minutes.** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 12 May 2014 were **confirmed and signed.**
- 3 **Matters arising.** None.
- 4 **Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council.** The Chairman reported on a number of items from the past year, some of which had been successful and others not. The Council has so far been unable to persuade Norfolk County Council highways to make any improvements to the Pingo Trail lay-by, despite support from the County Councillor, and had also been unable to recover the costs of repairs to the telephone kiosk from the family whose son caused the damage. The Prison Service, which had promised to restore the notice boards, had been obliged to withdraw the offer, so the Council has asked Harry Stebbings Workshops to carry out the work, and it was hoped this would start soon. The Chairman was critical of the development by TNP at Breckles Heath, and expressed the Council's extreme disappointment that, even though planning permission had been refused and the developer's appeal rejected, they had managed to find a loophole and so retain what they had constructed. The other unauthorised development at Watering Farm has yet to be determined by Breckland Council.

After much persuasion, NCC Highways had carried out some remedial work to the drains and gullies outside Church Cottage in Breckles, and this appears to have been successful. The Clerk discovered that, although the Parish had been referred to by all as 'Stow Bedon and Breckles' for many years, its name had never actually been changed from 'Parish of Stow Bedon.' At the Council's request, Breckland Council sealed an Order formalising the change of name. One of the two vacancies on the Council had been filled by co-opting Mr Jonathan White, and all six sitting members had been elected unopposed at the election on 7 May. It was hoped that the final seat would be filled by co-option soon. The Chairman closed by saying that the Council had met only 8 times this year, commented on 8 planning applications, and received 107 items of correspondence.
- 5 **Report of the County Councillor.** Councillor Ian Monson gave a review of the past year at Norfolk County Council, mentioning the financial difficulties the new "rainbow alliance" was coping with following reductions in central government funding. He then spoke of the various service areas, in particular noting that the Adult Social Care Department had improved performance, despite a couple of well reported instances, and he praised highly the work of his Council's Care workers.
- 6 **Report of the District Councillor.** Councillor Phil Cowen was unable to be present, and had sent his apologies.
- 7 **Stow Bedon PCC.** Beryl Warren (now entering her 21st year as Church Warden) reported on 2014's activities at St Botolph's Church, Stow Bedon. Eight benefice services had been held, along with a Carol Service, two funerals and one interment of ashes. The Parish Council was thanked for its support with the costs of maintaining the churchyard, where the grass was cut 10 times during the season. The big news was that the Heritage Lottery Fund had approved a grant of £250k. Mrs Gillian Machorton had taken on responsibility for this project, and gave a report on progress to date.
- 8 **Breckles PCC.** Mrs Margaret Morfoot (Church Secretary) gave a report on activities at St Margaret's Church, Breckles. Generally the fabric was in "remarkably good condition".

Nine benefice services had been held much enhanced by the Wayland choir, plus four special services and one funeral, but all attended by an average of only two Breckles residents. During the year there was no church warden, but following the recent annual meeting of the PCC Mrs Karen Allen has been appointed, and Mrs Chrissie Stone was appointed Church Secretary to replace Mrs Morfoot. There is now a PCC consisting of six members plus the *ex-officio* Treasurer. Once again the Council was thanked for the grant for maintenance of the churchyard, which was cut every 4 to 6 weeks during the summer.

- 9 **Stow Bedon Fuel Allotment.** Phil Childs, Chairman of the Trustees of the Charity presented his annual report, which will be made available in full on the Parish Council Website. The shooting rights were let on a long term contract. Five people in the parish had received grants of £400 each and he made his usual request to be informed about other potential beneficiaries. He reminded the Meeting that grants were not only available for fuel, but also education and other needs.
- 10 **Stow Bedon Village Hall Fund.** The Chairman presented the Charity's Annual Report, which will be available on the Parish Council website. It was pleasing to see that the St James's Place investment was performing particularly well, although the old warning about the value of investments going down as well as up was relevant!
- 11 **Any other business.** None.

Confirmed:


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Phil Childs, Chairman

16 May 2016