

PARISH of STOW BEDON & BRECKLES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday, 16 May 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

**Present Phil Childs (Chairman of the Parish Council), and 13 Parishioners
Julian Gibson (Clerk)**

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** Karen Allen, Phil Cowen, John Morfoot, Lee Pilkington, Beryl Warren.
- 2 **Minutes.** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 18 May 2015 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 3 **Matters arising.** It was pointed out that the NCC work on drains and gullies outside Breckles Church during the year had only been partially successful. The lower gullies they did not touch, so these continue to be blocked, and spew water out onto the road, which is causing other damage. The new gully which was put in is now also full of sediment. Requests to clear these have been ignored. County Councillor Ian Monson said it was poor that requests had not been responded to, and said he would raise the matter with the officers.
- 4 **Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council.** The Chairman reported on the activities of the Council for the past year. At the 6 May elections the six sitting Councillors were elected unopposed, leaving one vacant seat, which was filled at the first meeting when the Council co-opted Andrew Haywood. He mentioned the NCC proposal 50 mph speed limit on the A1075 (which had been amended after the Council objected, but appeared to have got no further), the new Transparency Code and the accompanying grant from the Fund, the on-going issues with the Pingo Trail lay-by and car park, the newly refurbished notice boards, and the impact of the Breckland Local Plan consultation. He wound up saying that the Council had met only 7 times this year, commented on 9 planning applications, and received in excess of 95 items of correspondence
- 5 **Report of the County Councillor.** Councillor Ian Monson gave a brief summary of what he described as a difficult year for his council, mainly because of the reduced Government funding. However, he said that Children's Services had made progress following a difficult OFSTED report, and that the performance of Schools was also improving, with many less well performing ones opting for the Academy route. When preparing the budget for the current year many unpopular proposals were considered, but eventually reprieved. He mentioned the Government's devolution plans saying that it seemed that the people of Norfolk were not yet "enthusiastic" about these. Finally he announced that he was not intending to stand for re-election at the County Council elections in May 2017. The Council's Receipts and Payments Account, which was displayed on the Council's notice boards and website, was made available to the Meeting.
- 6 **Report of the District Councillor.** Councillor Phil Cowen had apologised for not being present and his report was available for all to read at the meeting.
- 7 **Stow Bedon PCC.** Church Warden Beryl Warren had sent her apologies as she was being sworn in to her post at Kings Lynn Minster. Her report was read by the church Treasurer, Gillian Machorton. The most important item was the work repairing the church roof.
- 8 **Breckles PCC.** Church Warden Karen Allen had apologised as she too was in Kings Lynn Minster, and her report was displayed for all to see.
- 9 **Stow Bedon Fuel Allotment.** Phil Childs, Chairman of the Trustees of the Charity presented his annual report.
- 10 **Stow Bedon Village Hall Fund.** The Chairman presented the Charity's Annual Report, which is available on the Parish Council website. The Chairman said that the Council acting

as Trustee had continues to follow its policy of allowing the capital to grow, and had received only one request for support. However, at a meeting later that evening a Trustee Meeting would be considering a more substantial grant.

- 11 **Any other business.** Parishioners expressed their frustration that there appeared to be no plans in the foreseeable future for high-speed broadband in the parish. Various suggestions were made, and the Clerk agreed to ask Karen O’Kane (*Better Broadband for Norfolk*) and District Councillor Phil Cowen to provide an update of what they believe the situation to be for the next Council meeting on 20 June, and also to write to Elizabeth Truss MP to make the parishioners’ concerns known.

Confirmed:

.....P.S.C.H.....

Phil Childs, Chairman

15 May 2017