

## STOW BEDON AND BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

*Chairman: Hannah Reed  
Deer Cottage  
21 Mere Road  
Stow Bedon  
Attleborough  
Norfolk  
NR17 1DA*

*Clerk: Jackie Preston  
Pear Tree Cottage  
Magpie Lane  
Rockland St. Peter  
Attleborough  
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### **Minutes of Stow Bedon and Breckles Annual Parish Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Caston Village Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors H Reed (Chair), J White, C Allen, J Morfoot and J Preston (Parish Clerk)

#### **1. To open the meeting and welcome those present.**

Councillor Reed opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

#### **2. To elect a Chairman.**

Councillor Reed nominated herself to continue as Chairman for the next year which was agreed by all.

#### **3. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Councillor Pilkington, Councillor Childs, Councillor Jessett, District Councillor Cowen, County Councillor Eagle, Beryl Warden Stow Bedon PCC and Karen Allen Breckles PCC, accepted by all present.

#### **4. To agree and sign the minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting.**

For reasons outside our control the minutes were not available.

#### **5. Any matters arising not on this agenda.**

None.

#### **6.a. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council.**

Councillor Reed began her report describing the last twelve months as a period of transition with the Locum Clerk Jean Williams being replaced by newly appointed Parish Clerk Jackie Preston. She summarised the issues that the Parish Council had dealt with over the year and what had been achieved.

##### **b. Report of the County Councillor.**

County Councillor Eagle was not present but advised will be forwarding a short report.

##### **c. Report of the District Councillor.**

District Councillor Cowen was not present but had forwarded a summary of information about highlights of achievements and workstreams that was read out by Councillor Reed. District Councillor Cowen also advised that Breckland continues to manage its finances in a prudent manner and is maintaining a balanced budget although there are stresses in the system that are a result of external pressures particularly relating to housing costs and the like.

##### **d. Report of Stow Bedon PCC.**

Beryl Warren was not present but her report was read by Councillor Reed.

*Churchwardens' Report on the Buildings, Goods and Ornaments of the Church for 2023.*

All Goods and Ornaments are present and correct, as stated in the Church Inventory and Terrier. During 2023 we hosted eight group services of Holy Communion and one Songs of Praise service for the Harvest

Festival. We also joined the other five churches in a Pilgrimage, round the six churches in the Wayland Benefice, stopping at each church to listen to a reading and sing a hymn, ending at Great Hockham at 3pm. for quiet reflection. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Carol Service as mice had bitten through the electric wires in the organ. The PCC thank everyone who cleans the church and arrange flowers, also those who make the lovely refreshments after each service. I thank the PCC for their hard work and support during the year.

#### *St. Botolph's Church Fabric Report for 2023.*

The Quinquennial Report was carried out by Nicholas Warns on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Nothing immediate needs to be done. An electrical check and service was carried out by Elec-Tech Electrical Services Ltd on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.

#### *Churchyard Report 2023*

Due to so much rain in 2023 the grass was not cut as often as usual. Gary's Gardening Services found it difficult to fit in all the monthly cuts, due to other commitments, so with mutual agreement decided to give it up. We thank him for the work he has done over the last two years. Mr Pillar from Groundscape has agreed to take it on and do a monthly cut. Andrew Balls topped the low hanging branches overhanging the path and also cut the beech hedge bordering the road, and cleared the ivy from the gateposts, and trimmed back some stray branches. Mr & Mrs Gulliver from Church Farm let us use the adjacent field as a car park for which we are very grateful.

#### *Parochial Church Council Report: 2023*

The council has had two meetings since our last AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023. We met on 25<sup>th</sup> July at White Horse Barn, Lower Stow Bedon, and at Wayside Farm, Stow Bedon on 21<sup>st</sup> November. The annual Church Fete held on 10<sup>th</sup> June at Stow Bedon Hall was again a great success and, unusually for fete day, very hot! The Christmas coffee morning on 4<sup>th</sup> November, was again a great success. It was good to see so many friends from the group supporting us. It was a lovely atmosphere, a really great morning, we raised £900 for church funds. Our annual Christmas Hamper and Pop Up shop took place throughout December at Wayside Farm, Stow Bedon and again raised £300 for church funds. We thank all those who visited the Pop Up shop and supported the raffle.

#### **e. Report of Breckles PCC.**

Karen Allen was not present but her report was read by Councillor Reed.

#### *Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council of St. Margaret's Breckles for 2023/2024*

The method of appointment of PCC is as set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC. In 2023/2024 there were 5 PCC members and one co-opted member.

Electoral roll: In 2023/2024 there were 6 people on the electoral roll, 5 of whom were not resident in the parish of Breckles. This is updated every six years and will be updated again in 2025.

The 2023/2024 year for St Margaret's Breckles has been a reasonably busy year for the PCC. The PCC was able to meet 4 times up to the end of March. The Quinquennial inspection of St. Margaret's took place and a report was received from the architect. A concert was held by the Norwich Accordion Band. This was well attended and the audience was able to partake of a wonderful array of food prepared by parishioners and friends of St. Margaret's. Mrs Karen Allen held a Christmas concert but unfortunately the weather was awful, cold and wet, and sadly only a few people were able to attend. Because of the extreme weather our annual carol service had to be cancelled as the car park was waterlogged.

In the year, 8 Holy Communion services were held in St. Margaret's, 2 Songs of Praise services and 2 special services. There were no weddings, baptisms or funerals. In the new year it was reported to Mrs Allen that a vicar was applying to fill the benefice vacancy. There has since been an interview and Rev Vanessa Layfield has accepted the invitation to the post of Rector of Wayland Benefice. Thank you to the members of the PCC for all their help over the past 12 months or more.

#### **f. Report of Stow Bedon Fuel Allotment.**

Councillor Childs was not present. Councillor Reed requested that this be carried forward to the next Parish Council meeting.

**g. Report of Stow Bedon Village Hall Fund.**

Councillor Childs was not present. Councillor Reed requested that this also be carried forward to the next Parish Council meeting.

**7. Questions/comments from the residents.**

No members of the public present.

**8. Any other relevant business.**

None.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 pm.

Signed .....Chairman Date.....

DRAFT