

STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 20 July 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

Present: Councillors: Lee Pilkington (Vice-Chairman), Andrew Hayward, Paul Howe, John Morfoot, Jonathan White, Julian Gibson (Clerk)

There being no urgent business to discuss, the meeting scheduled for 15 June 2015 did not take place.

Before the start of meeting, Councillor White signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

In the absence of the Chairman the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **agreed** to accept the reason for absence offered by Councillor Jessett.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None.
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.**
 - 4.1 District Councillor Phil Cowen explained the changes his council was making now that Universal Credit, which was handled by the Department for Work and Pensions rather than the Anglia Revenues Partnership, a consortium of councils of which Breckland as one. Budgetary constraints we making his council constantly look for ways of getting more value for money, and all departments were looking for possible savings. He then said that BT was not going to be able to deliver the promised broadband speeds, and that some 5% of properties would not be covered by the 'cabinet' system. The lack of adequate broadband was holding back the economic growth of the District.
 - 4.2 County Councillor Ian Monson said his council was looking at a 25% reduction in its spending between now and 2018, which looked impossible to achieve, especially as in the first quarter of the current year the Council had overspent by £12m. He was, though, hopeful that the go-ahead for the Northern Distributor Route round Norwich would be given soon. That very day the council had agreed a £6m loan for the building of an Aviation Academy at Norwich Airport, and in September there would be an Amnesty Day at the recycling centres.
 - 4.3 **A1075 proposed speed limit** (see item 8). A member of the public said that she was not happy with the proposal that a 50 mph speed limit be imposed on the A1075 between Stonebridge and Watton (see item 8). She felt that sections of the road were more appropriate for the National Speed Limit, and that imposing a lower limit would irritate some drivers to the extent that they would overtake slower vehicles in inappropriate places, so creating a greater risk and danger. She believed that making taxpayers pay for a specific position for the Safety Camera Partnership vehicle on the one straight piece of road where it was possible to see well ahead and overtake safely (between Griston crossroads and Wayland Wood) was simply a way to raise revenue. Councillor Cowen agreed, although Councillor Monson sought to justify the decision.

*It was **agreed** to bring item 8 up the agenda to this point.*

- 8 **Watton Road, Watton to Stonebridge - Proposed 50 mph speed limit.** A letter from Norfolk County Council, Community and Environmental Services, this proposed speed limit was **received**. The Clerk pointed out that the consultation had started some time ago, but inexplicably NCC had omitted to send details to the parishes the road passed through! It was

agreed that the Council objected to the proposal, stating that sections of the road (e.g. Hockham Woods, Hockham By-pass, Griston cross-roads to Wayland Woods) were clearly suitable for the National Speed Limit to apply, and that NCC frequently told Parish Councils that there was no point trying to impose a lower limit than drivers could see was sensible, as they would not respect it. It also agreed with the views of the member of the public relating to the speed trap position. The Clerk will respond appropriately.

5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 18 May 2015 were **confirmed** and **signed**.

6 **Matters arising.** None.

7 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:

7.1 Norfolk Constabulary: *Parish/Ward Crime Statistics* - 1-30 April 2015.

7.2 HM Revenue & Customs: *BACS Remittance Advice (VAT repayment)*.

7.3 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account Statement* - 1-29 May 2015.

7.4 Barclays Bank Plc: *Changes to the way you receive statements*.

7.5 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account Statement* - 1-29 May 2015.

7.6 Breckles PCC: *Letter of thanks*.

7.7 Norfolk County Council: *Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with Town and Parish Councils*.

7.8 Norfolk Constabulary: *Parish/Ward Crime Statistics* - 1-31 May 2015.

7.9 *Clerks & Councils Direct* - July 2015

7.10 Breckland Council: *Breckland Council Tour of Britain Community Grant Scheme - Deadline for entry - 12 July*.

7.11 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account Statement* - .30 May - 30 June 2015.

7.12 Elizabeth Truss MP: *News release re tickets to Battle of the Somme commemoration*.

8 See after item 4.

9 **Planning. 3AG/2015/0012/AG and 3AG/2015/0013/AG: Breckles Farm Site, Breckles Heath.** Applications under The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 for Erection of Poultry Arcs. Notices that no prior approval is required dated 20 April 2015 were **received**.

10 **Transparency Code.** Following the coming into force of *The Smaller Authorities (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2015*, the Clerk pointed out that the Council should publish various documents and information on a website, as specified in the *Transparency code for smaller authorities*. It had been the Council's policy not to publish the Meeting Minutes until they were confirmed as being accurate at a subsequent meeting, but the Code requires draft minutes to be published within one month, and then republished whenever any changes or amendments were made. It was **agreed** that all documents required under the Code be published on the Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council website, and that draft minutes should in future be displayed on the Council's notice boards.

11 **Peddars Way Developments.** It was accepted that nothing could be done about the TNP situation, which had now been regularised. There was still no date when the Watering Farm situation would go to Breckland's Planning Committee.

12 **Pingo Trail lay-by and Car Park.** Another theft had taken place from a car in this car park. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should invite David Jacklin, the new Highway Engineer, to a site meeting in the hope that he would better understand the situation, and be prepared to make some changes.

13 **Finance.**

13.1 **Clerk's salary.** It was **resolved** that cheques numbered 100671 & 100672 totalling £628.89 (salary for 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015: £515.75; Mileage Allowance

Payment for 9 March 2014 to 12 July 2015 £113.14 (of which £3.43 is the VAT element)) to the Clerk and HM Revenue & Customs be signed. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 112(2)*)

- 13.2 **Clerk's reimbursement.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100673 for £69.71 (Postage & Telephones: £33.68; Heating for Meetings: £1.00, Gift for Internal Auditor £35.00, VAT £0.03) to the Clerk be signed, as reimbursement for items paid on behalf of the Council for 9 March 2015 to 12 July 2015. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111*)
- 13.3 **Training.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100674 for £11.25 to Norfolk Association of Local Councils be signed, being this parish's share of the cost of the Clerk attending the Annual Joint Summer Conference on 26 June 2015, as per invoice SC2015/20. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)
- 13.4 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 30 June 2015 was **received**.
- 14 Matters for consideration at next meeting.** None.
- 15 Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council, was **confirmed** as **Monday, 17 August 2015** (unless there was no urgent business to discuss, in which case it would be **Monday, 14 September 2015**), at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

Confirmed:


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Phil Childs, Chairman

17 August 2015

Scheduled future Meeting dates:

Monday, 17 August 2015*	Monday, 16 November 2015	Monday, 15 February 2016
Monday, 14 September 2015	Monday, 14 December 2015	Monday, 14 March 2016
Monday, 19 October 2015	Monday, 18 January 2016*	

*If needed