

STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 18 April 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

Present: Councillors: Phil Childs (Chairman), Paul Howe, Dawn Jessett, John Morfoot, Lee Pilkington.
Julian Gibson (Clerk)

There being no urgent business to discuss, the meeting scheduled for 14 March 2016 did not take place.

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was resolved to accept the reasons for apologies for absence from Councillor Hayward and Councillor White.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** Councillor Jessett said that although she did not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the development which was the subject of item 8.2, she was a near neighbour, and had already registered her objections to the proposal with Breckland Council. Therefore, in order to avoid any suspicion of predetermination, she would not take part in the discussion or vote on this matter.
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.**
 - 4.1 **Agenda item 12.** Mrs Machorton said that she was interested in this item in view of the changes proposed for Stow Bedon Church. The Clerk said that, having read the application form, it was apparent that applications could only be made by bodies which owned or had a long lease on the site where any grant made would be used, so as the Council did not own such land it would not be able to apply. However, the grants were not exclusively available to Parish Councils, but other community bodies could apply, so he gave Mrs Machorton the paperwork so she could look into this further.
 - 4.2 **Agenda item 11.** Mrs Cuthbert explained that she was hoping to improve some of the footpaths in the parish, notably the one from Breckles Church to Stow Bedon, and to encourage their use for nature and heritage walks. She identified some locations where the finger post signs were damaged, and the Clerk said he would report this to Norfolk County Council.
 - 4.3 **Agenda item 8.2.** The applicant spoke briefly about some aspects of this application and responded to some questions. A number of parishioners voiced their objections to the development, the objections including *inter alia* unsuitability, un-sustainability, out of character with village, flooding/drainage, access via Sandy Lane and ecology concerns. The parishioners were reminded that they should pass their comments to Breckland themselves.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 15 February 2016 were confirmed and signed.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [6.4] **Hedge outside Breckles Hall.** Following Councillor Pilkington's contact, the Clerk has been advised that they will arrange for the hedge to be cut back.
 - 6.2 [6.6] **Pingo Trail lay-by and Car Park.** County Councillor Ian Monson has also expressed disappointment that this work was done without any consultation. In his view the funding of only £500 will 'go nowhere'. He will discuss the matter again with the Environment and Trails department. The Clerk will ask him for an update.

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

- 7.1 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: Service to Members update.
- 7.2 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: What we do for our Councils.
- 7.3 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: Café Clusters.
- 7.4 County Officer, Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Letter re. Election to Executive Committee.*
- 7.5 Tower Mint Limited: *HM Queen Elizabeth II 90th birthday commemorative medal for schools and councils.*
- 7.6 *Clerks & Councils Direct* - March 2016.
- 7.7 Norfolk County Council: *The Norfolk County Council Local List for Validation of Planning Applications Consultation Draft 2016: Invitation to make Representations.*
- 7.8 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account Statement* - 30 January - 29 February 2016.
- 7.9 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account Statement* - 1 January - 29 February 2016.
- 7.10 The Pensions Regulator: *Act Now: the law on workplace pensions has changed.*
- 7.11 The Pensions Regulator: *The essential guide to automatic enrolment.*
- 7.12 Barclays Bank Plc: *A change to the way we pay interest on your Active Saver account.*
- 7.13 Magpas: *Appeal letter.*
- 7.14 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Spring Conference* - 28 April 2016.
- 7.15 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Subscription Form 2016/17.*
- 7.16 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Services Leaflet.*
- 7.17 Barclays Bank Plc: *Advance notification of charges.*
- 7.18 Norfolk County Council: *Electronic Consultation for Planning Applications.*
- 7.19 Joint Practitioners Advisory Group: *A Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory annual accounts and governance statements.*
- 7.20 Joint Practitioners Advisory Group: *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England.*
- 7.21 Joint Practitioners Advisory Group: *Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities in England - Annual return for the year ended 31 March 2016 - PROOF.*
- 7.22 Came & Company: *Council Matters* - Spring 2016.
- 7.23 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account Statement* - 1-31 March 2016.
- 7.24 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account Statement* - 1-31 March 2016.
- 7.25 Breckland Council: *Precept remittance advice.*
- 7.26 Norfolk County Council: *Highway and community Ranger visit* - 16 May 2016.

8 **Planning.**

- 8.1 **3PL/2016/0058/F & 3PL/2016/0059/LB: Stow Bedon Hall, Rockland Road, Lower Stow Bedon.** Construction of swimming pool plant room. Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent dated 3 March 2016 was **received**.

At this point Councillor Jessett left the room.

- 8.2 **3PL/2016/0360/F: Prince of Wales Lodge, Cherry Tree Lane, Stow Bedon.** Application for Erection of 8 dwellings with parking, garaging, amenity & open space & retain existing dwelling. The Clerk reported that he had obtained an extension to original deadline for a response to 18 May. The Council discussed the application in some detail, supporting many of the comments made in the public session. It was **resolved** that the Council objected, and **agreed** that the Clerk should write up his notes in the form of a letter to Breckland, which would be circulated to members. This could then be amended and agreed in detail at the May meeting and sent to Breckland before 18 May.

Councillor Jessett rejoined the meeting.

9 **Housing and Planning Bill.** As this Bill continues to make its way through the process of becoming an Act, the Government has launched a *Technical Consultation on Implementation of Planning Changes*. Many of the proposed changes will lessen the opportunities for Parish Council consultation on applications. The Clerk said that the Norfolk Association of Local Councils had sent an excellent 12-page letter commenting on the proposals, making all the points that the Council would have made. It was **agreed** that this would suffice.

10 **Broadband.** After a short discussion during which the failure of the Better Broadband for Norfolk project to come up with any idea which would benefit residents of this parish was regretted, it was **agreed** that the Council should recommend that parishioners should register their interest in getting a superfast broadband service with three companies, namely:

- BT (<http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/expression-gen.aspx>),
- Virgin (<https://cablemystreet.virginmedia.com/#!/register>), and
- WiSpire (<https://wispire.co.uk/register-interest/>).

These companies require a specific number of people to register interest before they will even enter into a discussion about the possibility of providing broadband, so it would be a good way to identify the level of interest, without any commitment at this stage. The Clerk was asked to send an article to be included in *Waylander* urging parishioners to register an interest.

11 **Public Rights of Way.** The Council **welcomed** the proposals made during the public session, and as stated, the Clerk will report the several problems highlighted with Norfolk County Council.

12 **Play & Sports funding.** An advance copy of a Breckland Council Press Release concerning some £310,000 which it has received from housing developers as funding to help improve local play and sports facilities was **received**. This funding has been ring-fenced for use in the parish or surrounding area from which the contribution was sourced, and there is £20,600 available for use in Hockham, Stow Bedon & Breckles, Shropham and Wretham parishes. Unfortunately the Council does not own any land where this money could be used to provide facilities.

13 **Stow Bedon Village Sign.** It was **agreed** that Councillor Jessett should carry out the remedial work necessary to the post of this sign.

14 **Receipts & Payments Account.** The Receipts and Payments Account for the year 2015-2016 was **approved** and **signed** by the Clerk and the Chairman. The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit had now been completed, and the Auditor's Report and Annual Return would be on the agenda of the next Meeting.

15 **Electors' rights.** It was **confirmed** that the 30 working day period during which electors' rights to inspect the accounts may be exercised will commence on 3 June 2016 and end on 14 July 2016, and that the date appointed for the exercise of electors' rights to question the auditor or make objections is 15 July 2016.

16 **Clerk's hours of employment.** It was **agreed** that the hours the Clerk is paid be increased by two hours/month, to 20 hours, to take account of the time involved with the required compliance with the Transparency Code. The Council used this figure when applying for the Transparency Fund grant and will do so again when it applies to the Fund for grants to cover this work in 2016/17 and 2017/18.

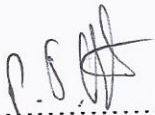
17 Finance.

- 17.1 **Subscriptions.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100691 for £29.95 (£24.96 + £4.99 VAT) to Spanglefish be signed in settlement of invoice no. 14566/2016 for website hosting. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111*)
- 17.2 **Subscriptions.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100692 for £35.00 to the Information Commissioner be signed, being the renewal of the Council's required registration under the Data Protection Act for the year ending 26 April 2017. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111(1)*)
- 17.3 **Subscriptions.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100693 for £99.95 to Norfolk Association of Local Councils be signed, being the Annual Subscription for 2016/17. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 143*)
- 17.4 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 31 March 2016 was **received.**

18 Matters for consideration at next meeting. Annual Return, etc.

19 Next meeting. The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, and was **confirmed** as Monday, **16 May 2016**, at 8.00 p.m. in Caston Village Hall. (**Note:** The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m.)

Confirmed:



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....., **Chairman**

16 May 2016

Scheduled future Meeting dates:

Monday, 16 May 2016**	Monday, 15 August 2016*	Monday, 12 December 2016
Monday, 20 June 2016	Monday, 19 September 2016	Monday, 16 January 2017*
Monday, 18 July 2016	Monday, 17 October 2016	Monday, 20 February 2017
	Monday, 14 November 2016	Monday, 20 March 2017

*If needed

** Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Meeting of the Parish Council