

STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 6 November 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in St Botolph's Church, Gravelpit Hill, Stow Bedon, NR17 1BX.

Present: Councillors: Lee Pilkington (Chairman), Andrew Hayward, Phil Childs, Paul Howe, Dawn Jessett, Jonathan White. Julian Gibson (Clerk)

In order to meet the response deadline for item 8.2 the meeting scheduled for 20 November was brought forwards.

1 **Apologies for absence.** None.

2 **Declarations of interest.** None

3 **Dispensations.** None.

4 **Public participation session.**

4.1 District Councillor Phil Cowen said that he had been advised that fibre to cabinet broadband should be available by the end of the year. Residents were advised to keep checking on <https://www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/adsl.htm>, as BT Openreach will not advise anybody when the connections are made. The final consultation of the Breckland Local Plan has been completed, and the comments are being collected ready to be sent to the Planning Inspectorate with the Plan. An examination in public will be held, probably early in 2018, and it was hoped that the approved Plan could be adopted towards the end of the year. Breckland Council is currently working on setting the budget for 2018/19. Councillor Cowen explained the background to the Planning Officer's decision regarding agenda item 8.1. Finally, he spoke about agenda item 8.2, saying that he considered it to be virtually the same as the previous application which had been refused permission by the officers, and had an appeal against this decision dismissed. He said he had already requested that, should the officers be inclined to grant permission this time, the application be called in to Planning Committee, and said that he would object on behalf of the parish and Council.

4.2 Parishioners expressed concerns about agenda item 8.2, questioning why it had been submitted so soon after an application for the same number of new houses on the same site made by the same applicant had been refused permission by Breckland Council and had the appeal against that refusal so comprehensibly dismissed. Councillor Cowen explained that there was no reason why this should not be done, but stressed that, if people objected, they needed to do so again, as comments received on the previous application would not be carried forwards to the new one.

4.3 Parishioners once again raised concerns about drainage issues in Mere Road. The Council agreed to make representations on their behalf (see item 9).

5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 16 October 2017 were **confirmed** and **signed**.

6 **Matters arising.**

6.1 [6.1] **Broadband.** Elizabeth Truss MP had forwarded an email from BT Openreach purporting to be in response to the Clerk's email on behalf of the Council. However, it appeared that BT has no idea what a parish council is. The response was not to the question of why the charges for broadband are the same for poorly supplied rural areas as they are for urban areas where much better speeds are available, but addressed to the Clerk as a private individual, suggesting he contacts his own service provider. The Clerk responded directly to BT pointing out their error, copying the

MP's aide, and this elicited a response in which BT Openreach denies that it has prioritised urban areas over rural areas for fibre roll-out. Instead, they say they have targeted the upgrade of cabinets that are commercially viable, reaching the maximum number of premises within cost limits, apparently without appreciating that the effect of this is the same.

- 6.2 [19, Minutes of 18 September 2017] **General Data Protection Regulation.** The Clerk has attended the training course, which exposed the “nightmare” which these changes involve. Hopefully the National Association of Local Councils will deal with the appointment of the statutory post of Independent Data Protection Officers to cover parish councils, and produce templates detailing what councils need to do.
- 6.3 [6.3, Minutes of 18 September 2017] **Blocked gullies on B1111 near Church Cottage.** Councillor White reported that some work had been carried out on these blocked gullies. The ones further down the hill had been dug out by two men with spades. However, at the one at the top of the run, which has an eight foot deep silt trap, they only removed the top 0.5 m. of silt, saying that this was all they had been instructed to do. They also said that they no longer had the budget to jet out the pipes between the gullies, which will obviously be completely blocked up. The Clerk was asked to raise this with County Councillor Fabian Eagle.
- 6.4 [14.1] **2018 Remembrance.** The Clerk advised the meeting that at the recent SLCC Norfolk & Suffolk Autumn Conference The Lord Dannatt had said that plans were underway to commemorate the centenary of Armistice Day with a countrywide installation, *There, but not there*, which originated from one in Pevensey Church in 2016. Life sized Perspex silhouettes, one for each of the names on their War Memorial were seated in the church pews. The film can be viewed at <https://www.therebutnotthere.org.uk/>. Further details will be available in due course, but the Clerk thought this might be something that the Council would be interested in considering.

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

- 7.1 CGM Group: *Perfect for your Parish Council* - Ground maintenance advertising letter.
- 7.2 The Pensions Regulator: *by law minimum pension contributors will soon be increasing.*
- 7.3 Barclays Bank Plc: *We're making important changes: updating your terms, and creating our ring-fenced bank.*
- 7.4 Came & Company: *Council Matters* - Autumn 2017.
- 7.5 Breckland Council: *Parish Precept Requirement 2018-19.*
- 7.6 Breckland Council: *Parish Grant Allocation 2018-19 to 2020-21.*
- 7.7 Breckland Council: *Guidance for setting parish/town precepts 2018/19.*
- 7.8 Interprint: *Marketing letter.*
- 7.9 Barclays Bank Plc: *Advance notification of charges.*
- 7.10 Barclays Bank Plc: *Confirmation of Signing Arrangement Amendments.*
- 7.11 Wicksteed Playgrounds: *raising funds for your new play area? We'll match it!*

8 **Planning.**

- 8.1 **3PL/2017/1076/F: Attleborough Road, Rockland All Saints.** Application for Use of site as separate, self contained dwelling (retrospective) and widening of joint access. Refusal of Planning Permission dated 10 October 2017 was **received**.
- 8.2 **3PL/2017/1309/F: Prince of Wales Lodge, Cherry Tree Lane, Stow Bedon.** Application for Erection of 8 dwellings with parking, garaging, amenity and open space and retain existing dwelling. It was **resolved** unanimously that the Council

objected in the strongest possible terms to this application, on the grounds that it was substantially the same as the one refused previously by Breckland Council which was appealed and had that appeal dismissed by the Planning Inspector. Two houses from that application had been removed, leaving an area of land which, in the unfortunate event of the principle of development be accepted, would be target for future development. Two three-bedroom, double garage “affordable” houses had been included, but no evidence provided that a Housing Association would be interested in taking responsibility for these in such a remote location, and as such, the Council felt that a subsequent application to have any condition relating to these removed would be likely. The Council supported the arguments put forward by the Planning Inspector, and could see no reason why these did not still apply, notably where he had said that, even if there was a shortfall in the five-year land supply, and relevant policies were not up-to-date, “the adverse impacts of granting permission ... would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits”. The Clerk also advised the Council that he had noticed that Breckland Council was no longer sending out a full set of documents with planning applications, and had ceased doing this some five months ago, with no consultation or notification given. He said he was in correspondence with the Head of Planning over this matter.

- 9 **Drainage issues in Mere Road.** Having heard from various parishioners, the Council **agreed** that the Clerk should contact three bodies. Firstly, he will write to the Environment Agency to ask them to investigate and identify the source of the sewerage which is entering the watercourse and ends up in a trap in Walnut Farm. Councillor Jessett agreed to provide the Clerk with a sketch map showing the details of the watercourse in question. Secondly, he will contact the East Harling Internal Drainage Board about the condition of the watercourse further downstream, leading up to Stow Bedon House, and southwards from there. Thirdly, it was reported that three gullies, one outside Old Farm and two outside Pear Tree Cottage were blocked with silt, not having been cleared out for a long time. The Clerk will report this to Highways via County Councillor Eagle (see item 6.3 above).
- 10 **Meeting dates.** The schedule of meeting dates for 2018/19 was **agreed**.
- 11 **Budget 2018/19.** The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2018/19 which was **approved**. This included provision in the reserves against the possibility of the Council having to pay for contested elections.
- 12 **Precept 2018/19.** It was **agreed** to fix the Precept for 2018/19 at £4,700, an increase of £100. The Clerk pointed out that the number of Band D equivalents in the parish had risen so this should not result in an increase in the Parish Council part of Council Tax bills.
- 13 **Finance.**
 - 13.1 **Training.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100735 for £6.25 to Norfolk Association of Local Councils be signed, being this Council’s share of the cost of the Clerk attending the General Data Protection Regulation training on 1 November 2017. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)
 - 13.2 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 31 October 2017 was **received**.
- 14 **Matters for consideration at next meeting.**
 - 14.1 Village Appraisal results.
 - 14.2 Defibrillator.

15 **Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as Monday, 18 December 2017, at 7.30 p.m. in St Botolph's Church, Gravelpit Hill, Stow Bedon.

Confirmed: *CP. White*

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Jonathan White Vice
Lee Pilkington, Chairman

18 December 2017

Scheduled future Meeting dates:

Monday, 18 December 2017	Monday, 18 June 2018	Monday, 12 November 2018
Monday, 22 January 2018*	Monday, 16 July 2018	Monday, 10 December 2018
Monday, 19 February 2018	Monday, 13 August 2018*	Monday, 14 January 2019*
Monday, 19 March 2018	Monday, 17 September 2018	Monday, 18 February 2019
Monday, 16 April 2018	Monday, 15 October 2018	Monday, 18 March 2019
Monday, 21 May 2018		

*If needed