

STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 17 October 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

Present: Councillors: Jonathan White (Chairman), Phil Childs, John Morfoot, Lee Pilkington, Hannah Reed., Julian Gibson (Clerk).

Absent: Councillor: Dawn Jessett.

The meetings scheduled for 15 August 2022 did not take place.

As a mark of respect to Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, the meeting scheduled for 12 September 2022 was cancelled.

Before the start of the meeting, the Chairman said a few words to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth, ending with, "God save the King!"

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the reason for absence offered by Cllr. Jessett.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None.
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.** District Cllr. Phil Cowen, said that the Local Plan Update (Agenda item 7.10) included lists of sites which had been put forwards as part of the Call for Sites process, but that these had at this stage not been subject to any form of scrutiny or assessment. He also reported that he had now lodged a formal complaint with the Environment Agency against the lack of action by their local staff in respect of the pollution issues at Cherry Tree Farm.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 18 July 2022 were **confirmed**, and **signed** by the meeting Chairman.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [7.1, Minutes of 13 June 2022] **Footpath Stow Bedon FP1.** The NCC Countryside Access Officer has reported that she has now met with both landowners on site, and it was apparent that there was a dispute over where the land boundary between them was, one stating that it was the post & rail fence, the other the hedgerow. A previous Diversion Order processed by the District Council stated that the diverted footpath ran to the east of the western boundary of Prince of Wales Lodge, but did not contain specific detail as to where that was. One landowner was seeking professional assistance to confirm their boundary, but that has not yet been provided, and even without this, the officer said she would be writing to the landowner of Prince of Wales Lodge "this month" (i.e., September). The Clerk is aware that she has since been referred to the Design & Access Statement submitted with the application for development of the Prince of Wales Lodge site, which certain appears to make it clear that the applicant/landowner knew and accepted that the PRoW ran on his side of the hedgerow, which was the true boundary line.
 - 6.2 [9] **Cherry Tree Farm.** The Clerk represented the Council at the meeting with several councillors and officers from Breckland Council, the principal complainants about the pollution, and two representatives from the Environment Agency (EA). It was apparent that Breckland Council was making every effort to progress the determination of the outstanding planning applications, but was hamstrung by the fact that the EA had not stated that the business was failing to operate within the terms of the permit they had issued. The EA officers said that they were extremely busy, that they could not provide equipment for the complainants to use to measure air quality as the equipment did not exist, and they whenever their officers attended they found no issue (although they had not actually been to the complainant's property). They also stressed that the EA was principally concerned with the impact on the environment, which included flora and fauna, but did not cover the impact of odours on human life. It was also apparent that they did

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not know whether or not being in breach of an EA Permit was a criminal offence. The Head of Breckland Planning was intending to arrange a meeting with the company management and its owners, EA and Breckland to take the matter forward. In an email last month, he said they were taking legal advice as to their powers in relation to any Statutory Nuisance offences which may or may not be taking place, and wished to have that before meeting with Cranswick.

7 Correspondence. The following correspondence was received:

- 7.1 PKF Littlejohn LLP (External Auditor): *Receipt of documents - notification of exempt status, 2022.*
- 7.2 *Breckland Council: *Local Plan (Partial Review) Regulation 19 Consultation.*
- 7.3 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Business accounts - at a glance - Your balances on 29 July 2022.*
- 7.4 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account - 1-29 July 2022.*
- 7.5 *SAM 2 Co-ordinator: *Statistics July 2022.*
- 7.6 *Norfolk County Council: *TL99207 Stow Bedon Bridge – Feasibility Study.*
- 7.7 Barclays Bank Plc: *We're changing our business savings accounts.* Barclays are closing the Active Saver accounts and putting us into a Business Premium Account, which will pay an interest rate 15 time higher. That is from 0.01% to 0.15%
- 7.8 *Breckland Council: *Breckland Council: Local Plan Partial Update (Regulation 19 Consultation).*
- 7.9 *Norfolk County Council: *Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Pre-Submission. Invitation to make representations.*
- 7.10 *Breckland Council: *Breckland Local Plan Update.*
- 7.11 *Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Norfolk ALC Share Certificate.*
- 7.12 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Business accounts - at a glance - Your balances on 30 September 2022.*
- 7.13 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account - 30 July - 30 September 2022.*
- 7.14 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account - 1 March - 30 September 2022.*
- 7.15 *SAM 2 Co-ordinator: *Statistics August 2022.*

8 Planning.

- 8.1 **3PN/2022/0022/UC: Mere Farm Barn, Watton Road, Stow Bedon.** Prior approval for change of use and conversion of an agricultural barn to 2no dwellings within Class Q of Part 3, of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. It was **noted** that after consulting with Members, the Clerk has responded, "No objections" using his delegated powers, and that Prior Approval has now been given.
- 8.2 **3PL/2022/0274/VAR: Land North of Mere House, Mere Road.** Variation of condition 2 on 3PL/2020/0439/VAR - Amended plans. Re-consultation: **Revised application form, now seeks to vary condition 3 (materials) in addition to condition 2 (plans).** It was **noted** that, after consulting with Members, the Clerk has responded using delegated powers saying "Previous response still applies", and notice dated 7 September 2022 that the application has been approved was **received**.
- 8.3 **3PL/2022/0447/VAR: Land adjacent to River Cottage.** Variation of Condition 2 on 3PL/2020/1479/F - Revised house design and to replace approved drawing numbers. Notice dated 19 August 2022, that the application has been approved was **received**.

9 **Casual vacancy.** Members were reminded of the requirement to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Cllr. Cuthbert as soon as practicable.

10 **Notice boards.** Cllr. White had checked the board at Breckles church, and found that it was sound, but needed to have the lettering on the header board replaced. Cllrs. Morfoot (Pingo Trail) and Childs (Mere Road and Lower Stow Bedon) had not yet been able to check, but promised to do so. Cllr. White said he would get something put on a local Facebook page asking if anybody local was able to do sign-writing.

11 **Blocked drainage pipe under Rocklands Road.** The Clerk reported that he had met on site with the property owner and NCC Highways. The upshot was that the owner needed to clear

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out the drain/ditch in his property so that there was at least 18 inches clearance below the start of the pipe. Then Highways would come and check the system, jet-wash it and see what else was needed. However, they confirmed that the pipe did not belong to NCC, and so their responsibility was only to maintain what was there, and not to improve it.

- 12 Pingo Trail lay-by and Car Park.** The Chairman reported that he had been unable to move this issue a great deal further forward. However, it seemed that the necessary surveys had been undertaken, and so he would push for the scrub in the car park and the trees to be cleared this winter. The car park signs had been erected, but sadly one omitted the direction arrow.
- 13 Community Speedwatch.** The Clerk reported that he had been approached by the organiser of the Speedwatch Group that (unknown to the Council) has been operating in Lower Stow Bedon, who had asked for access to the data which is collected by the SAM2, and he had agreed. The police used to require these to be “sponsored” by a Parish Council, but clearly this was no longer the case. The Council **agreed** that he should ask whether they would extend their group by allowing residents from Mere Road and elsewhere to join then, be trained, and then operate it at approved locations elsewhere in the parish.
- 14 External Auditor.** It was **resolved** that the Council wished to continue to “opt in” to the external auditor central procurement regime managed by **Smaller Authorities’ Audit Appointments for the 5-year appointing period running from 2022-23 until 2026-27.**
- 15 Decisions taken by the Clerk using delegated powers.** The following decisions taken after consultation with members were **noted**.
- 15.1 Payment via cheques nos. 100882 & 100883 to the Clerk and HM Revenue & Customs totalling £1,212.70 (salary for 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022: £1,050.20; Homeworking Allowance: £19.50; Mileage Allowance for 3 June 2022 - 28 August 2022: £143.00). (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 112(2)*)
- 15.2 Payment via cheque no. 100884 of £23.88 (Postage & Telephones £7.88, Other £13.33, VAT £2.67,) to the Clerk as reimbursement for items paid on behalf of the Council for 6 June 2022- 5 September 2022. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111*)
- 15.3 Payment via cheque no. 100885 of £198.00 (£165.00 + £33.00 VAT) to The Community Heartbeat Trust (solutions) Limited, in settlement of invoice no. 13334, being year 3 of the 5-year annual support for the defibrillator. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111*)
- 16 Finance.**
- 16.1 **Other.** It was **resolved** that cheque numbered 100887 for £154.08 (£128.40 + £25.68 VAT) to Viking be signed, in settlement of their invoice no. 9268140, for stationery supplied. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)
- 16.2 **Credits.** Receipt of the following credits was **noted**:
- 16.2.1 Jubilee event - Sale of surplus mugs and badges - £117.50 - 21 July 2022.
- 16.2.2 Breckland Council - Precept - £3,000.00 - 27 September 2022.
- 16.3 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 30 September 2022 was **received**.
- 17 Matters for consideration at next meeting.**
- 17.1 Pingo Trail car park update.

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18 Next meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday, 14 November 2022, at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

Confirmed:

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Jonathan White, Chairman

14 November 2022

Scheduled future Meeting dates:

Monday, 14 November 2022

Monday, 12 December 2022

*Monday, 16 January 2023

*If needed

Monday, 13 February 2023

Monday, 13 March 2023

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