

STOW BEDON AND BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023 in Caston Village Hall.

Present: Councillors: Jonathan White, (Chairman), Lee Pilkington, Dawn Jessett, Hannah Reed, Jean Williams, (Locum Clerk), and nine members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence: were received from Councillor Phil Childs.

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. To Consider any Applications for Dispensations: None

4. Public Participation: A member of the public had an ongoing boundary and footpath issue. A neighbour had been given a date of 17th February 2023 to abide by an imposed condition. After much discussion the Chairman stated that no action could be taken until after the given date.

5 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2022

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed by all present and signed by the Chairman.

The Chair explained that the Parish Clerk has suffered a life changing illness, which means that, unfortunately he will probably not be able to work in the capacity of Parish Clerk again. The Clerk is still employed by the Parish Council, his contract means his salary will be paid for the next year. There are financial arrangements in place to cover this expense, which means there is no pressure on the budget. Once the Clerk is able to, the family will be moving from the area. A locum clerk, Jean Williams, has been appointed for a year, after such time, the post will be advertised.

6 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Despite the fact that Frosts Common is not in the Parish, it has been decided to give support to the neighbouring Parish Council. The area is an eyesore, and was inhabited by the land owner, there is a Planning Enforcement in place to clear the site completely. There has recently been a fire on the site which is adjacent to an SSI site. Whilst the site has been cleared of caravans there is still considerable amount of rubbish to be cleared.

Clerk to follow up Norfolk County Council to discover the progress of the situation.

SAMS2 Now that the A1075 has a 40 mile an hour speed limit through Stow Bedon, the unit can now be also be sited in this area to monitor traffic speeds. Clerk to request an additional post to be installed to enable the monitor to be mounted on the A1075.

7 Correspondence:

None

8 Planning Applications 3PL/2012/0932/VAR Cherry Tree Farm, Sandy Lane, Stow Bedon.

The Chairman stated he would deal with this item first because the members of the public had attended to raise their comments on this ongoing issue. The company are asking for a retrospective variation on the original planning application. Building has taken place which is not compliant with the ongoing application approval. The result of the building means that areas to the north and north east of the farm are suffering extensive pollution. The Environmental Agency do not appear to be carrying out enforcement procedures to the company; neither do the Environmental Agency and the Planning

Department appear to communicate over this issue. After prolonged discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would object strongly to the Variation. Parishioners were reminded that they too, should write to Breckland District Council stating their objections. The Parish Council will also write to the Environmental Agency voicing, grave concerns that they do not appear to be dealing with the lack of compliance on this farm.

Planning Applications 3PL/2022/1450/F & 1451/F Land at East and West Barns Stow Bedon.

Concerns were raised that contaminated land could be disturbed in the building of these properties. The building of two properties on each site will exceed the footprint of the barns.

Design of the dwellings is out of character with the area.

Councillors concerns also include changing the bio diversity of the area, there could be possibilities in the future of this becoming an estate which would not be in keeping with the individual dwellings in the area. Councillors agreed unanimously that the parish Council would object to this application

9. To decide the frequency of future Parish Council Meetings

The Chairman proposed that from May 2023 Parish Council Meetings be reduced to six times a year namely March, May, July, September, November, January and March. After discussion, all Councillors agreed.

10. Precept

The Chairman informed the meeting that the precept request had been submitted. He has received an acknowledgement.

11. Clerks Pay

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Locum Clerk had requested that a payroll company be appointed to deal with her salary. The Clerk stated that after investigation it would appear NALC costs were favourable. The Clerk asked how the salary of the Clerk receiving sick allowance would be paid. It was agreed that she would contact NALC to deal with both salaries. The Councillors discussed the change of signatories at the bank, the council currently bank with Barclays. It was decided by all, that the account should be changed to on line banking. At the Clerks recommendation it was decided to transfer to Unity Trust Bank. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

12. Pingo Trail Car Park

The Chairman reported that the work carried out in the Car Park to enable more vehicles to park and manoeuvre safely was most disappointing. Cutting the overgrown vegetation would also have possibly helped lone people feel safer. The Chairman will write to Norfolk County Council express his disappointment and request further clearance and enlargement.

13. To receive an update on Footpath 1 in Stow Bedon

See Item 4

14. Fuel Allotment Charity

It was agreed by those present that Councillor Childs would carry this project forward for now.

15. To receive an update on the Parish Noticeboards

No information available

16. To decide matters for consideration at the next meeting.

Councillor Jessett raised the issue of Defibrillator training, after holding a conversation with a resident it was evident that people were not aware how to access or use the machine.
Clerk will seek information re: Training.

The Clerk requires a laptop to work on, the Chairman has the Council laptop.
Clerk will collect and try to gain access to the machine if this is not possible then a new or refurbished laptop would need to be purchased, budget to be decided.

The Chair informed the meeting that he has received planning applications to vary the plans of the proposed Cart Lodge attached to Pig Patch House, Mere Road, to erect a detached garage/carport etc, this can be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he would be seeking re election as a Councillor in the forthcoming elections. If he in was successful in the elections he would not be seeking to serve as Chairman, but would remain as a Councillor.

The Parish Council has received a letter from Ms Liz Truss MP, stating that she would like to meet with the Councillors, to discuss relevant issues in the Parish. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Ms Truss, accepting her offer to visit and request some suitable dates to enable the necessary arrangements to be made.

Thanks were voiced for the work the Chairman had carried out in relation to the organisation of the role of the Parish Clerk.

17. To confirm the date of the next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 27th March 2023 at 7:30 in Caston Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:25pm

Chairman.....

Date.....