

# STOW BEDON AND BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

*Chairman: Hannah Reed*  
*Deer Cottage*  
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## **Minutes of Stow Bedon and Breckles Parish Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Caston Village Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors J White C Allen, D Jessett, P Childs, and Jean Williams Locum Clerk and two members of the public. District Councillor Fabian Eagle arrived a little after the meeting began.

**1. Welcome:** Councillor White as the Chair for the meeting welcomed those present.

**2. To receive and approve apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Councillors Reed, Pilkington and District Councillor Phil Cowen. Apologies were accepted by all those present.

**3. To receive any declarations of interest from members and consider requests for dispensations:** None

**4. To Co-Opt Mr John Morfoot onto the Parish Council.**

Mr Morfoot was not present at the meeting Co option did not take place.

**5. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

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

**6. Matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda.** None.

**7. Public Participation.** None.

**8. Report of County Councillor Fabian Eagle.**

Councillor Eagle did not give a report, however, he spoke about the concerns associated with the Pingo Trail car park and the issues with Footpath One which are included in his agenda.

**Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen.**

Councillor Cowen was not present at the meeting, he had sent a report which was read by the Chairman.

Councillor Cowen reported that the new Council members were managing their new roles there are induction programmes and training in place for those where needed.

Councillor Suggitt is now Deputy Leader of the Council as well as Executive member for Strategic and Operational Planning.

Councillor Cowen continues to hold the post as Executive member for Finance, Revenue and Benefits within Breckland Council.

Councillor Cowen reported that the Local Plan is progressing well and that the Serco contract is being reviewed to ensure that any changes needed in waste collection are in line with Government Policies.

**Parish Clerk.**

The Parish Clerk reported that all correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors as it arrived. Information about funding available through the Parish Partnership Scheme had arrived today, this was shared with the Councillors and will be an item on the next agenda.

**9. To receive updates on Cherry Tree Pig Farm.**

The chimneys have now been built.

There have been less deliveries of livestock.

With the lack of northerly winds a few less odours have been detected.

Lights have been on at 3am in the morning, the police have been called. The company stated that they had been left on by accident.

A resident stated that it is very important to keep reporting and copying in all agencies involved with the premises. Pigs squealing as though they were in distress in the middle of the night has been heard, this has been reported to the RSPCA. Red Tractor have also been informed. The resident stated that there appeared to be fewer animals on site which has lessened the odours and pollution.

Simon Wood head of Breckland Planning Department is due to visit later in the week  
Cranswick no longer have a licence to export to China.

A newsletter from Cranswick had been received this week.

Councillor White stated that the response from the Secretary of State was most unsatisfactory.

The Health Assessment of the site recently carried out reported no concerns at that time.

Councillor White stated that he will respond to an email from a member of the public re their concerns.

Concerns to be presented to Liz Truss when she meets with the Parish Councillors in September.

Councillor White impressed upon members of the public and Councillors that Ms Truss would want to know what the problems are at the current time, she would not be interested in historical complaints. If matters have not improved what would Councillors and members of the public like her to do about it?

#### **10 To receive updates on Stow Bedon Footpath One.**

Councillor White stated that the deadline for this pathway was 7th July 2023 which has obviously now passed, the fence has been removed, now awaiting a visit from NCC Footpath Officer.

#### **11. To receive update on the Pingo Trail Car Park**

A site meeting was recently held at the Pingo Trail Car Park, Councillor White informed the meeting that the representatives of various departments appeared to have a higher level of responsibility than those he had met previously. He is hopeful that something positive may happen as a result of the meeting. The car park needs to be reinstated to its original size. Encroaching vegetation has lessened the parking areas. Norfolk Wildlife Trust do not want the Car Park to be reinstated because of fear that visitors will disturb the wildlife who inhabit the area. As a result of the meeting Councillor White reported that representatives from NCC Highways would cost the work. The Parish Council would need to contribute towards the cost of the refurbishment.

#### **12. To receive update on the Meeting with Liz Truss. M.P.**

Councillor White reported that a date to meet with Liz Truss has now been arranged. It is 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 at 3:30pm.

As mentioned earlier in the minutes Councillor White stated that an Agenda should be drawn up, Councillors would need to stick to the point during discussions. Two items would be raised. Cherry Tree Pig Farm and Broadband Issues.

The meeting would last for 45 minutes. A planning meeting will be held prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, date to be arranged.

#### **13. Update on SAMS2**

The Parish Clerk had received a message from David White that he no longer wishes to be responsible for the siting and down loading of information from the SAMS2. Councillors asked the Clerk to place a notice in The Waylander Magazine asking for a volunteer to take on the task.

#### **14. To update on training for the use of the Defibrillator.**

Councillor Jessett reported that the company who supplied and fitted the Defibrillator provide training courses for members of the public. Councillor Jessett will place an article in The Waylander to offer training to residents and report back to the next meeting.

#### **15. To discuss Frost Common**

No further information, in the hands of Breckland Enforcement Team.

#### **16. To receive any planning applications.**

##### **Planning Applications.**

**3PL/2023/0596/HOU** Stanton Cottage, Rockland Road. No objections to this application.

**3PL/2023/0605/VAR** Small Paddock adjacent to Gay-Dene, Councillors raised objections that this building would be over development in a small village. Could lead to over population and an increase in vehicular use of the roads in the area. There has been no tree survey carried out in connection with this application. Councillors felt 2 bedroomed cottages were acceptable.

**3PL/2023/0499/O** This application has been refused by Breckland Council.

A member of the public raised the issue of Mere Farm where Planning Applications have been made to build properties on ground that he believes is contaminated. The area was used to inter animals suffering from Blue Tongue disease in the 1970's, added to this, buildings have been demolished that were contaminated by Asbestos. The resident has written to Breckland Council who have now closed the case. The resident is concerned that insufficient research and ground testing has been undertaken on the land.

Councillor White agreed to raise the concerns with District Councillor Phil Cowen.

**17. To receive and approve the Financial Statements for the year 2022 to 2023 and sign and approve the AGAR**

The Clerk presented the reports of the finances and read the report from the internal auditor, who said she had found the finance records to be in order. The Clerk apologised for the delay in presenting the AGAR, she had agreed an extension with the external auditor. The Councillors agreed the financial records.

The AGAR forms were agreed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO as required.

**18. To discuss the Finance Report**

**STOW BEDON AND BRECKLES FINANCE REPORT**

<b>Business Current Account 80845159</b>	<b>Balance</b>
30/06/2023	£3,390.49
<b>Business Savings Account 33506452</b>	<b>£2,743.46</b>

**Payments due:**

J Gibson Salary to end of March 2022	£2,069.02
HMRC re: J Gibson to end of March 2022	£ 517.20
J Gibson Salary April to June 2023	£ 955.04
HMRC re J Gibson April to June 2023	£ 238.60
Locum Clerk Salary May, June & July 2023	£ 699.22
HMRC Locum Clerk Tax Liability	£ 174.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4,653.68</b>

**Projected Expenditure**

J Gibson Salary July to Nov 2023	£1,044.44
HMRC J Gibson Tax Liability July to Nov 2023	£ 198.83
Locum Clerk salary August to March 2024	£1,865.76
HMRC Locum Clerk Tax Liability Aug to Mar 24	£ 465.60
Stationery	£ 70.00
Heartbeat Defibrillator	£ 198.00
Audit	£ 50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 3892.63</b>

Councillors discussed the financial situation. Money would be returned to the bank account from the Insurance claim for the Clerk. The second payment of the Precept will be received in September. Whilst the Parish Council is solvent there is not a great amount of money in reserve.

**19. To receive the Parish Clerks Annual Leave Dates**

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she would be taking leave from 24/07/2023 to 20/08/2023  
The Councillors agreed to these dates.

**20 Any other relevant matters not included on this agenda.**

Councillor Allen voiced his concerns about the lack of Broad band in Lower Stow Bedon.  
This is a subject to be raised with Liz Truss MP. On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.  
Councillor Allen stated that the lack of Broadband in the area is discriminative.  
It affects house prices.  
Prevents residents from working at home.  
Residents are also paying for services that they are not receiving.  
A report will be written to present to Ms Truss.

**21. To receive items for the next Agenda**

Defibrillator Training  
Up date of the Pingo trail Car Park  
Meeting with Liz Truss MP.

**22 To confirm the date of the next meeting as Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7:30pm**

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm.

Chairman ..... Date.....

DRAFT