

## STOW BEDON AND BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

*Chairman: Hannah Reed  
Deer Cottage  
21 Mere Road  
Stow Bedon  
Attleborough  
Norfolk  
NR17 1DA*

*Clerk: Jackie Preston  
Pear Tree Cottage  
Magpie Lane  
Rockland St. Peter  
Attleborough  
Norfolk  
NR17 1UU*

### **Minutes of Stow Bedon and Breckles Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at Caston Village Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors H Reed (Chair), L Pilkington, P Childs, C Allen and J Preston (Parish Clerk)

**1. To open the meeting and welcome those present.**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J White and accepted by those present.

**3. To receive any declarations of pecuniary interest from members and consider requests for dispensations.**

No declarations of interest were made.

**4. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

The minutes were agreed by all present and signed by the Chair.

**5. Matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda.**

None.

**6. Public Participation.**

No members of the public were present.

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

Councillor Eagle not present, no report received.

**Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen.**

Councillor Cowen not present, no report received.

**Report of Chairman.**

Councillor Reed gave a report on the pre-planned meeting she attended with Ann Cuthbert at Simon Wood's office in Dereham on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July to discuss the pig unit at Cherry Tree Farm. They challenged Simon Wood with a long list of issues associated with the breach of planning conditions by Cranswick at the unit and questioned why these had not been enforced by Breckland Council after nearly four years. Mr Wood responded by advising that the Environment Agency is passing permits to Cranswick to operate and whilst the Environment Agency believe that Cranswick is operating within those permits, Breckland Council is unable to take any action against them. All the issues causing pollution and smell, - the fans, chimneys and the fabric curtains on the sides of the unit come under the regulation of the Environment Agency and is nothing to do with Breckland Council. Simon Wood did however state that Breckland Council would not allow any further expansion at Cherry Tree Farm and that he would like to

arrange a meeting at the beginning of August for all parties (Breckland Council, Environment Agency, Parish Council, Ann Cuthbert) to discuss the issues in front of a planning committee. Councillor Reed advised that Simon Wood is going to arrange this and will advise the date of the meeting so that a councillor/s from the Parish Council can attend. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive of Cranswick Country Foods, Adam H. Couch, from the Parish Council enquiring about the lack of response regarding ongoing issues and what actions are being taken to reduce pollution/smells. The Parish Clerk was asked to submit a cordial letter that hopefully would receive a reply. The clerk was also asked to write to MP George Freeman to enquire whether he could help with this problem and give the Parish Council his support in getting these long-standing issues addressed.

**Report from the Parish Clerk.**

The clerk advised that she had submitted her expenses for May and June 2024 and circulated copies for approval by councillors. She had received a request from Norfolk Museums Service for a poster with details of a Summer Art Club to be placed on the notice boards which was agreed by all present.

**8. To receive and discuss any planning applications.**

There were none.

**9. Update of change of bank account.**

The clerk requested Councillor Childs to sign the Unity Trust Bank account application submission form and advised the councillors that she now had all the required signatures and the necessary documentation requested by Unity Trust Bank to be able to send them everything they needed to transfer the account mandate held with Barclays to Unity Trust Bank.

**10. To receive the Financial Statement to date and approve any expenditure.**

The clerk presented the statement of finances to date.

Barclays Community Account Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024		<b>£3,419.87</b>
Total of cheques issued not presented as at 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	£ 177.94	
<u>Donations</u>		
St. Botolph Church, Stow Bedon	£ 150.00	
St. Margaret's Church, Breckles	£ 150.00	
<u>Invoices Outstanding</u>		
30/05/24 L Wellbelove (internal audit)	£ 50.00	
31/05/24 NALC (payroll services)	£ 172.80	
31/05/24 NPTS (subscription 2024/25)	£ 65.00	
31/05/24 Clerk's salary (May 2024)	£ 226.37	
31/05/24 Clerk's tax liability (May 2024)	£ 56.60	
30/06/24 Clerk's salary (June 2024)	£ 226.37	
30/06/24 Clerk's tax liability (June 2024)	£ 56.60	
30/06/24 Clerk's expenses (May & June 2024)	<u>£ 234.30</u>	
Total	£1,565.98	<b>£1,853.89</b>

**11. Maintenance of the website.**

Councillor Pilkington advised that he had been in contact with Spanglefish regarding the website and explained to them that the clerk who will be taking over dealing with this hasn't worked with websites before. Spanglefish responded by offering to move the website to a newer version, tidy it up and get rid of all the things that don't need to be on there anymore. Doing this will make it a lot easier to use and less challenging for the clerk to take on. The cost and benefits were discussed and all agreed that getting this done would be the best way forward.

**12. Report of Stow Bedon Fuel Allotment.**

Councillor Childs advised on the funds held within the Fuel Allotment Charity which had initially not performed well but were now giving a better return. He suggested a meeting be arranged with Fidelity Investment when the Parish Council meets in November to get a professional review and discuss the future investment of funds held within the charity. There was discussion as to how to promote the availability of money to local people who were possibly struggling financially to cover the costs of basic needs such as heating. It was suggested to contact the churchwardens of St. Botolph Church and St. Margaret’s Church to help locate residents that might have a need for financial support.

**13. Report of Stow Bedon Village Hall Fund.**

Councillor Childs had arranged a meeting prior to the Parish Council meeting with James Eyre from St. James Place to receive an update on the funds invested by the Parish Council as trustees of the charity. Mr Eyre reported that the portfolio of individual funds chosen had performed very well with an average growth over the last ten years of 8.3% per annum. He provided information regarding a new fund named Polaris 2 that was managed differently and designed to react faster to changes in the markets that St. James Place believed would prove to be a good investment. After discussions between the Chair, Councillor Pilkington, Councillor Childs, Councillor Allen and James Eyre it was agreed to invest the funds of the charity in Polaris 2 with the necessary paperwork being completed.

**14. Change in responsibility for defibrillator checks.**

As discussed in the Parish Council meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> June, Councillor Childs was asked by the clerk to contact a local person whose name had been suggested as a possible new reporter for the defibrillator in Mere Road. He said that he would find out if this person was willing to be a volunteer.

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

Councillor Pilkington had received information about three preferred options for major development in the Breckland Local Plan, one of which being Barkers Farm at Larling with the proposal of building 1,900 new dwellings. The Parish Council had received no prior knowledge of this and everyone present had serious concerns about Breckland Council considering whether this location would be suitable for development where there was no infrastructure to support it. It was agreed that the clerk should respond to the invitation to register concerns online to the Planning Policy Team at Breckland on behalf of Stow Bedon and Breckles Parish Council.

**16. To receive items for the next agenda.**

None received.

**17. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.30pm.**

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.15 pm.

Signed .....Chairman Date.....