

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
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NR17 1UU

Minutes of Stow Bedon and Breckles Parish Council Meeting held on 9th September 2024 at Caston Village Hall.

Present: Councillors H Reed (Chair), J White, 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 Councillors L Pilkington, P Childs, J Morfoot 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 8th July 2024.

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

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

Councillor White requested clarification on specific items in the minutes:

Item 7: Had the Parish Council been advised of the meeting to be arranged by Simon Wood for all parties to discuss issues concerning the pig unit at Cherry Tree Farm with a planning committee at the beginning of August?

The reply from all present was 'no' and the Chair advised that she would follow this up.

Had the Parish Clerk written to the CEO Cranswick Country Foods as requested?

The clerk replied that she had not written to either the CEO Adam H. Couch or the new MP George Freeman as discussed in the meeting.

Item 12: Had Councillor Childs advised that he had arranged a meeting with Fidelity Investments planned for November?

The clerk replied that nothing had been advised.

Councillor White enquired about the ways to let parishioners know that money was available should they wish to draw on the fund and getting the assistance of the church wardens.

A group discussion followed. Councillor Allen advised that the church wardens had been asked for help with this but no-one so far had been nominated. The name of a resident was suggested and Councillor Allen replied that he would speak to them. There was discussion about making the funds available to help with adult training, higher education for children or people finding it difficult to get a job. It was mentioned that The Charity Commission has to see that available funds are being used. Councillor Allen suggested that the new vicar may

be able to assist with locating residents that could be entitled to assistance for any of these reasons and he would start enquiries.

Item15: Had the Parish Clerk registered online the concerns of the Parish Council regarding the proposal to build 1,900 new dwellings at Barkers Farm, Larling?

The clerk replied that this had been done and a discussion followed.

6. Public Participation.

No members of the public were present.

7. Report of County Councillor Fabian Eagle.

Councillor Eagle was not present and no report had been received. The Chair suggested that he should be contacted and asked to attend Parish Council meetings. Councillor White offered to do this with a phone call rather than sending him an official letter.

Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen.

Councillor Cowen not present but he had forwarded a report which the Chair read out to all present. The report summarised the District Boundary Review, The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Document, The Local Plan, Budget Setting and Town and Parish Council Engagement Events.

Report of Chairman.

Councillor Reed advised that having been away for some time she did not have anything to report on other than issues concerning the Pig Unit, Cherry Tree Farm which was on this meeting's Agenda at Item 10.

Parish Clerk including any correspondence not previously circulated.

The clerk advised that she had a letter from HM Revenue & Customs for Stow Bedon and Breckles Parish Council that had been sent to a Wretham address where former Parish Clerk J Gibson used to live. The letter advises of a credit balance on the PAYE account and having established that this did not relate to Mr Gibson personally, the clerk was instructed to request the amount be credited to the Parish Council's bank account. The Parish Clerk confirmed receipt of the key person claim payment from AXA in the sum of £2,500.00 on 3rd July 2024 and that she had received confirmation from PKF Littlejohn LLP that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 submitted in June had been accepted.

8. Councillor Six Month Rule.

The Parish Clerk advised that with the Parish Council's agreement Councillor Jessett had been absent from Parish Council meetings for almost six months. It was discussed and agreed that Councillor Jessett could continue to be absent and that her position on the Parish Council would be reviewed again in March 2025. It was also noted that Councillor Morfoot had not attended meetings since 20th May 2024. Councillor White offered to telephone Councillor Morfoot to make him aware of the Six Month Rule.

9. To receive and discuss any planning applications.

3PL/2024/0472/F Garden Land, Mere Farm (erection of 1 new self-build dwelling and detached double garage). The Parish Council had submitted an objection to this on 5th August 2024 and the application had been refused.

3PL/2024/0303/F River Cottage, Rockland Road (demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 detached, 2 storey self-build dwellings). This application was discussed at length and Councillor Allen advised that 82% of the village of Lower Stow Bedon had signed a petition stating that they are against the erection of the 2 detached, 2 storey self-build dwellings. It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue their objection to this planning application and requested the Parish Clerk to submit another objection on their behalf.

3PL/2024/0553/HOU 1 Hall Cottages, Rockland Road (demolition of timber garage and removal of re-fabricated building, erection of new pitched roof garage and garden room). This application was discussed and everyone was in approval. The Parish Clerk was requested to submit this decision online on behalf of the Parish Council.

3PL/2024/0693/VAR Land at East Barns, Mere Farm (variation of Condition 2 on 3PL/2022/1450/F re-locate the approved garage (Plot 4)). This application involves demolishing a new garage in the final stages of being built and moving it to a different location which will advantage the possibility of further development which has already been refused. The Parish Council did not agree to this application and instructed the Parish Clerk to submit an objection on their behalf.

3PL/2024/0697/F Home Farm, Stow Road (Change of use of an existing office for a mixed use of holiday let and annexe). This application was discussed and there were no objections to the request for change of use. It was agreed to register acceptance to this application.

10. Review progress with the Pig Unit, Cherry Tree Farm.

Various communications between Ann Cuthbert, the Parish Council, Breckland Council and the Environment Agency were reviewed and discussed and the general feeling was that the Parish Council have done as much as they can in resolving the issues raised by Ann Cuthbert. It was noted that the Parish Council has not had other parishioners coming forward to complain about the pig unit. The chimneys were added to the unit to reduce the bad odours and that appears to have been successful. To take this matter any further it was agreed that actual proof of nitrogen pollutants or ammonia would be required and at present the Environment Agency is stating that Cranswick Country Foods is operating within their permits. The Parish Council has been invited to a meeting along with MP George Freeman that has been arranged by Ann Cuthbert and provisionally planned to be held at her home on 27th September 2024. It is the intention that the Parish Council will be represented.

11. Discuss relocation of Stow Bedon Footpath 1.

Councillor Pilkington had requested this item be put on the Agenda following communications he had had with Dick Childerhouse who remains aggrieved about the relocation of the footpath. In Councillor Pilkington's absence, Councillor White detailed the events leading up to the moving of the footpath and advised that Breckland Council had previously been consulted about this. Francis at Breckland Council had given the Council's view that moving the footpath was illegal but the location now is better than where it was before. She had also advised that the Council could prosecute but the funds are not available to do that and leaving the footpath where it is now is acceptable to them. It was agreed not to raise this matter again with Breckland District Council at this time and to place this item on the Agenda for the next meeting if further discussion was requested.

12. Update and handover of website.

This item was not discussed. The Chair requested it be moved onto the Agenda for the next meeting.

13. Defibrillator reporter update.

The Parish Clerk advised that she had spoken to a resident in Stow Bedon who would like to take on the responsibility for the defibrillator checks. A mutually convenient time is to be arranged when Graham Whitehead from Community Heartbeat Trust can speak with her to explain what checks are required and how to report the information on line. There had been a report that the internal light in the phone box and the green light on the front of the defibrillator cabinet were not working. The clerk advised that she had contacted Community Heartbeat Trust about resolving this problem and that both lights were now working.

14. New Unity Trust bank account.

The clerk advised that the new accounts (savings account and current account) with Unity Trust Bank were now open and that she had entered creditors details for payments that were due to be made as per the financial statement. Councillor Pilkington and Councillor Childs were named on the bank mandate to authorise and release payments which they were now required to do. The Chair instructed the clerk to email both councillors requesting them to log onto the Unity Trust website and authorise the payments as soon as possible. The clerk also advised that correspondence relating to the Parish Council accounts still held with Barclays Bank was being sent to the previous Parish Clerk's address. She had

prepared a letter to Barclays Bank to correct this and required Councillor Pilkington and Councillor Childs to sign the letter. The Chair requested the letter be sent and to inform both councillors on the same email that this needed to be arranged.

15. To present the financial statement and approve any expenditure.

The clerk presented the statement of finances to date.

Unity Trust Current Account Balance as at 9 th September 2024	£4,353.89
Unity Trust Savings Account Balance as at 9 th September 2024	£ 0.00

Invoices Outstanding

11/07/24 Community Heartbeat Trust	£198.00	
31/07/24 Clerk's salary (July 2024)	£226.37	
31/07/24 Clerk's tax liability (July 2024)	£ 56.60	
31/08/24 Clerk's salary (August 2024)	£226.37	
31/08/24 Clerk's tax liability (August 2024)	<u>£ 56.60</u>	
Total	£763.94	£3,589.95

16. Any other relevant matters not included on this agenda.

Councillor White requested that the Parish Council contact Highways Department to advise them that nearly all the cats' eyes are missing on the B1111 from the junction with the B1075 down to Low Road. Also, the white lines on that stretch of road have nearly worn off completely making driving conditions dangerous especially with the winter months approaching. There is also a massive silt catcher on the B1111 near St Margarets Church which is full of silt reducing flow down the connecting pipes resulting in silt entering the stream at Breckles Hall. The clerk was asked to notify Highways about these issues. Councillor White also mentioned the possible introduction of parking fees in Watton. It was suggested that Stow Bedon and Breckles Parish Council send an email to Breckland Council informing them that they do not agree with the car parking charges and copy in Watton Town Council to show support.

17. To receive items for the next agenda.

Councillor White requested that the car park on the Pingo Trail be put on the next Agenda.

18. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Monday 11th November 2024.

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday 11th November at 7.30 pm.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.45 pm.

SignedChairman Date.....

Subsequent meetings booked at Caston Village Hall: Mon 11th November 2024
Mon 13th January 2025
Mon 10th March 2025
Mon 12th May 2025