

## STOW BEDON AND BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Jonathan White  
Church Cottage  
Breckles  
Attleborough  
NR17 1EW

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

### **Minutes of Stow Bedon and Breckles Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at Caston Village Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors J White (Chair), L Pilkington, C Allen, J Morfoot and J Bush. Mr J Eyre, representative from St. James Place 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 were received from Councillor H Reed. County Councillor Fabian Eagle and District Councillor Phil Cowen were not required to attend.

**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 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025.**

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

**5. Matters arising from the minutes not included in this agenda.**

There were none.

**6. Review of Stow Bedon Village Hall Fund.**

James Eyre presented a review of the fund which had achieved a growth over the last 12 months of 7.4%. He was asked to provide value updates of the fund at the end of each tax year going forward and to ensure quarterly and annual updates from St. James Place were being sent to the correct address for the attention of the Parish Clerk. The clerk was requested to provide a current authorised signatory list for reference for any future withdrawals from the fund and to amalgamate the funds in the two Barclays bank accounts leaving one current account in operation which it was agreed was all that was required.

**Decisions: It was agreed that,**

- a). Clerk will provide James Eyre with authorised signatory list.
- b). Clerk will amalgamate Barclays bank accounts.

**7. Public participation (30 minutes).**

There was no public participation.

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

Councillor Eagle had not forwarded a report.

### **Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen.**

In Phil Cowen's report he advised that Breckland continues to lead the response to the government's call for proposals for unitary authority status in Norfolk on behalf of six authorities, Breckland, Broadland, Great Yarmouth, Kings Lynn, North Norfolk and Norwich City. The proposal being developed would see three Unitary Authorities established for Norfolk centred on Kings Lynn, Great Yarmouth and Norwich with work on this due to be submitted to government in September. In the meantime, Breckland continues to provide all its statutory services until the election of the new Mayor in May 2026 when some of the duties and responsibilities will be passed to alternative service providers. The Local Plan process continues involving local communities as much as possible in order to deliver the 903 houses that the government requires Breckland to provide each year through the next local plan period.

### **Report of the Chairman**

The Chairman had forwarded the following report to everyone in advance of the meeting by email.

**Amber (2 Sisters) Poultry Farm, Breckles:** The Enforcement Case Officer from Breckland has visited the site and seen that all the poultry sheds have been demolished; he has stated that this action could have needed planning permission and could be illegal. He has informed the owners of the site (Amber) that no building is to take place there without planning permission; he followed this up in writing and there is, effectively, a 'Stop Notice' on the site. I reported to him that concrete and concrete-laying specialists arrived on site on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and I asked him to investigate. He came back to me following my request for a full update; this was sent to you all this morning. I did ask whether they were going to need retrospective planning permission (RPP) before building could begin and he stated that they did not; however, any building would, then, be at their own risk, and would need to be removed if RPP was not granted.

**Destruction of Trees and Hedgerows - Breckles Moor:** Despite me reporting said damage in May 2023, and gaining the Breckland Enforcement Officer (Richard Fisher) access to investigate the matter, I have been unable to get any feedback from him. My last three emails (in Spring 2025) were ignored so I have asked the Head of Planning (Simon Wood) to require Richard to come back to me. As nothing happened, I chased him again; Richard is now on leave until 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025. I have written to him again requesting an update, copy to Simon Wood.

**Local Plan - Call for Sites:** As agreed at the last Parish Council Meeting, I made a formal objection to Breckland about the two Stow Bedon sites which were offered (Ackerman's Land and Prince of Wales Land). This objection has been noted by the Head of Planning and will be taken into consideration at the next stage of the process.

**Remaining Councillor Vacancy:** As agreed, I have been in conversation with Helen Maxwell. She showed a good deal of interest in becoming a Parish Councillor; however, despite her owning land in Stow Bedon (Mere Covert - not The Mere), it appears that she actually lives in Caston, so is ineligible. We need to continue the search.

**Plot 6 - Mere Farm:** As agreed, I contacted Norfolk Wildlife Trust and asked my contact there to re-engage with Planning and tell Planning that they (NWT) believe that a house should not be built on Plot 6 at all. She replied and said that NWT had been notified that the planning application had been refused. I assume that we were not notified?

**Cherry Tree Pig Farm, Stow Bedon:** You will have seen my email to the Head of Planning asking why an Enforcement Notice had only been served against the minor and peripheral buildings on the farm and yet not against the main issue here, i.e., the main buildings' structure. He has replied and stated that a second Enforcement Notice has now been served; this is against the main pig buildings (as they had not been built in accordance with approved plans).

### **Parish Clerk including any correspondence not previously circulated.**

The clerk did not have anything further to add.

### **9. To receive and discuss any planning applications.**

Planning Consultation: PL/2025/0836/HOU Benjamin House, Breckles. Demolition of existing extension and erection of two storey extension and single storey garaging.

This application was discussed with no objections to what is being proposed.

**Decisions: It was agreed that,**

a). The clerk should submit a representation from the parish council stating that they are perfectly content with this planning application.

**10. Update re Local Plan and site submissions.**

See Chairman's Report.

**11. Hook Two Sisters Poultry Farm.**

See Chairman's Report.

**12. Damage on Land, Breckles Moor.**

See Chairman's Report.

**13. Re-installation of Deer Sign.**

Councillor Pilkington advised that he had collected the deer sign from one of Wretham's Parish Councillors, had put a new battery in it and it was now fully operational in this parish. He will periodically vary the location of the sign between the poles already set up for the sign to be attached.

**14. Road safety and speeding issues.**

The Chair had requested this be put on the agenda because in the past, a speed awareness police officer would visit the parish council to discuss road safety issues. Also, the SAMS2 system is not updating or producing reports. Councillor Allen advised that police have started attending when speed checks are taking place and a police officer from Attleborough had been present twice and spoken to speeding drivers. Councillor Bush suggested contacting the SAMS2 operators to get more information about the problems they are experiencing with the system and to request regular information from them about instances when speeding occurs. It was thought this information would keep the parish council more updated and enable them to contact the police directly if necessary.

**Decisions: It was agreed that,**

a). Councillors Bush and Allen will liaise with the SAMS2 operators to obtain from them the information required and to organise regular reports from them to the parish council.

**15. Stow Bedon Fuel Allotment.**

After discussion it was unclear whether all the information required by Lovewell Blake had been dealt with and the clerk was requested to ascertain what was still outstanding. The risk profile for the investment was discussed as well as the banking requirements that would best suit the future operation of the Stow Bedon Fuel Allotment. For the filing of Annual Accounts with the Charity Commission it was suggested that an accountant be instructed to complete these on behalf of the parish council.

**Decisions: It was agreed that,**

a). The clerk will contact Matthew Harrington at Lovewell Blake to confirm risk profile and whether any administrative requirements remain outstanding.

b). The current banking arrangements will stay in place for the time being.

c). The clerk will make enquiries regarding the instruction of an accountant.

**16. Update re Pig Unit, Cherry Tree Farm.**

See Chairman's Report.

**17. To present the financial statement and approve any expenditure.**

The clerk presented the statement of finances to date.

**Balance Unity Trust Current Account 8 July 2025**

**£ 879.36**

Invoices due for payment

Parish Clerk salary June 2025	£296.62	
Expenses P Childs	<u>£ 30.90</u>	
	<b>£327.52</b>	<b>£ 551.84</b>

**Payments not claimed**

Stow Bedon Church grass cutting	£150.00	
Breckles Church grass cutting	<u>£150.00</u>	
	<b>£300.00</b>	<b>£ 251.84</b>

**Balance Unity Trust Saver Account 8 July 2025** **£5,023.08** (£23.08 int accrued 30.06.25)

**18. Remaining Councillor Vacancy.**

See Chairman's Report.

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

The Chair advised that the planning application for Plot 6 Mere Farm had been refused and the clerk confirmed that the parish council had not been notified.

Councillor Bush enquired about training courses for new councillors. The clerk advised courses were available with Norfolk Parish Training & Support and she would obtain information.

The clerk advised that she will be on leave between 10<sup>th</sup> August and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

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

Councillor Bush requested litter picking be put on the agenda.

**21. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

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

**Future meeting dates:**

8<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026.