

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 at 7.30 pm on 8th September 2025 in Caston Village Hall.

Present: Councillors J White (Chair), H Reed, J Bush, C Allen, J Morfoot, County Councillor F Eagle, J Preston (Parish Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

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 District Councillor P Cowen and Councillor L Pilkington.

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 14th July 2025.

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

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

The Chair referred to Item 9, PL/2025/0836/HOU Benjamin House, Breckles and if the clerk had submitted a representation agreeing to the application. The clerk replied that this had been done.

6. Public Participation (30 minutes).

Ann Cuthbert updated everyone with her latest investigations into the operation of the pig unit, Cherry Tree Farm detailing her research into the invalidity of the permit issued by the Environment Agency. The Chair responded by explaining that Simon Wood had indicated that he would be forwarding an update regarding the planning applications at Cherry Tree Farm in time for this evening's meeting but nothing had been received from him. The planning committee meeting regarding these planning applications that had previously been postponed due to the vast amount of objection letters received may or may not now be held on 30th September 2025 but official confirmation of this had also not been received. Enforcement notices have been served on both applications which take effect from 1st October 2025. It was agreed that the parish council should wait for the update from Simon Wood and assuming the planning committee meeting is held on 30th September, a council member will attend and read out the two, three minute long recommendations to object to both planning applications. The Chair also raised the issue that the presentations from different parties should not in any way duplicate each other. As well as the parish council, there will be presentations made by Ann Cuthbert and probably by Dr Bull (author of Ammonia Air Pollution Report) amongst others. Ann Cuthbert suggested that it may be helpful if the parish council also made a complaint to the Environment Agency about the permit not being valid and offered to forward information to assist the council with this. The Chair advised that he would circulate this and decide with councillors whether to forward a complaint at this time.

7. Report of County Councillor Fabian Eagle.

County Councillor Fabian Eagle began by talking about LGR (Local Government Reorganisation) and devolution and how this process has been affected by the change in the entire ministerial team of the government. It is not known if the plans for the establishment of unitary authorities and election of a mayor will remain the same. County Councillor Eagle promoted the work done on Norwich Castle which has now raised its national and international significance. Most of the keep has been restored back to its original status and there is a visitor's centre with items loaned from the British Museum. The castle is well worth visiting and there is access to the battlements giving fantastic views of the city of Norwich. Elsewhere the local authority's scheme to support high streets in our towns resulted in nearly sixty applications being received for grants to increase footfall in towns. The applications were being worked through with support being given to individual retailers with advice including shop layout, purchasing and visual placement. The recent news that the car manufacturer Lotus is struggling financially having lost £100m is that the Chinese firm will remain open at the cost of half of its workforce. Norfolk County Council have set up a task force with South Norfolk to help redundant workers relocate.

Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen.

Phil Cowen's report advised that Breckland is finalising its submission to government to deliver three unitary authorities as the proposal favoured by Breckland, Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, Great Yarmouth, Norwich City, Broadland and North Norfolk councils. This proposal would see three authorities of circa 300,000+ population each with Breckland and Kings Lynn forming a West Norfolk unitary authority with elected members having constituencies of around 3,500 residents. The proposals are to be submitted to government on 26th September which may or may not be accepted. The government may propose a different solution.

Report of the Chairman

The Chairman advised that the next agenda items would cover all aspects of a separate report from him.

Parish Clerk including any correspondence not previously circulated.

The Parish Clerk advised that following an enquiry from Councillor Bush regarding the possibility of her having some training for new councillors she had obtained details and availability of suitable courses with NPTS (Norfolk Parish Training and Support). With the Chair and Councillor Bush's agreement the clerk advised that Councillor Bush had been enrolled for two on line training courses taking place later this month and the beginning of October.

8. Village Hall Fund: Barclays Bank Mandate Change.

The clerk advised that she had forwarded the authorised signatory list to James Eyre as requested but had not amalgamated the two Barclays bank accounts because signatories on both accounts needed to be updated with current parish councillor's details before any transactions could be made. She had contacted Barclays Bank and obtained a Mandate Change Form requiring new signatory details to be completed and signed by Councillor Reed and Councillor Bush. Before the completed Mandate Change Form is sent back to Barclays, Councillor Bush must be added to the website with her details and photograph which has not yet been done since only recently joining Stow Bedon and Breckles Parish Council.

Decisions: It was agreed that,

- a). The website must be updated with all council members.

9. To receive and discuss any planning applications.

Planning Consultation: PL/2025/1061/FMIN – Watering Farm, Stow Bedon. Change of use of an approved agricultural storage building (ref 3AG/2024/0010/AG) for use as a livestock building including external alterations. After discussion it was agreed that there is no written assurance that the number of pigs on the farm will not increase. The farm's vehicles regularly use Peddars Way to transport supplies which has already caused much damage to this nationally important footpath. This application would increase vehicle movements along Peddars Way causing further damage.

Decisions: It was agreed that,

- a). The parish council should submit an objection to the planning application.

Planning Consultation: PL/2025/1241/VAR – 1 Hall Cottages, Stow Bedon. Variation of Condition 2 on 3PL/2024/0553/HOU- Change to location (orientation) and revise the appearance of the garage/garden room. After discussion it was agreed to consent to this variation providing there is no increase in deprivation of light to the occupants of Oak View.

Decisions: It was agreed that,

a). The parish council should support this application.

Notification of Appeal: APP/F2605/W/25/3370362 – The Arkon, Flybarn Farm, Stow Bedon. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of use of buildings on agricultural units and former agricultural buildings to 2 no 2 bed dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) – Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q. After discussion it was agreed to continue objection to this application.

Decisions: It was agreed that,

a). The Chair was to add extra script to the Parish Council's original objection to the Planning Application; this would then form the Parish Council's request that the Appeal be rejected.

b). The clerk was to submit the whole script as soon as possible.

10. Amber (2 Sisters) Poultry Farm Breckles.

The Chair updated everyone with events at Brookside Poultry Farm advising that he had written to Simon Wood, Head of Planning at Breckland Council, asking him to confirm whether planning permission should have been obtained by the operator before demolishing the old poultry sheds, whether this was legal and if the asbestos roofing on those sheds had been disposed of correctly. No reply to date has been received. Six new larger sheds have already been erected but a Stop Notice has now been issued stating that a retrospective planning application must be submitted by 16th October 2025. However, the owner has applied for an operating permit from the Environment Agency to allow him to increase the volume of birds being processed every six weeks from 106,000 to 434,000. It was agreed that if the operating permit is declined it will reduce the likelihood of retrospective planning being granted. The Chair advised that he had already written to Natural England, Norfolk Wildlife Trust and The RSPB to make them aware and get their support for refusal of the operating permit as Brookside Poultry Farm is surrounded on two sides by registered areas of conservation and protection for wildlife and woodland. The Chair suggested involving neighbouring parish councils Great Hockham, Merton, Caston, Great Ellingham and Rocklands to increase the support for objection to the Environment Agency issuing a permit and retrospective planning permission being granted.

Decisions: It was agreed that,

a). The Chair will wait for Simon Wood to respond about the legality of the poultry sheds destruction.

b). The Chair will contact the clerks of neighbouring parish councils requesting their support.

11. Update re Pig Unit, Cherry Tree Farm

This Item is fully minuted at Item 6.

12. Destruction of Trees and Hedgerows – Breckles Moor.

The Chair advised that despite many requests he has had no response from either Richard Fisher (Breckland Enforcement Officer) or Simon Wood for information regarding the destruction of trees and hedgerows on Breckles Moor in May 2023. The Chair stated that he would contact Richard Fisher one final time for a response and if that was not forthcoming he would complain to the CEO of Breckland District Council that one of their employees is evading the issue.

Decisions: It was agreed that,

a). The Chair will contact Richard Fisher once more.

b). The Chair will contact the CEO Breckland District Council if necessary.

13. Road Safety and Speeding Issues.

As requested, Councillor Bush had obtained a report from the operators of the SAMS 2 community speed-watch system about the problems they are having with the equipment. The computer system has now stopped working altogether and requires servicing and updating by the supplier 'Westcotec' as well as a new battery for a total cost of £75.00. It was agreed that the parish clerk should liaise with Fran (system operator) to get this done. When the SAMS2 is operating properly again regular reports will be supplied to the parish council. The possibility of arranging a regular visit from a member of the police to discuss road safety issues with the parish council was raised again.

Decisions: It was agreed that,

a). The Parish Clerk will arrange getting the SAMS2 operating again.

14. Litter Picking.

It was decided to put this on the agenda for the November meeting allowing time for a litter pick to be organised for next spring and for it to be advertised in the Waylander in the January 2026 issue.

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

The clerk presented the statement of finances to date.

Balance Unity Trust Current Account 1 Sept 2025		£ 779.15
<u>Invoices scheduled for immediate payment</u>		
Parish clerk salary July 2025	£296.62	
Stow Bedon Church grass cutting	£150.00	
Breckles Church grass cutting	£150.00	
NPTS Training Courses (J Bush)	<u>£124.80</u>	
	£721.42	£ 57.73
Precept 2nd Instalment due Sept 2025	£3,375.00	£3,432.72
<u>Invoices for payment after receipt of above</u>		
Parish clerk salary August 2025	£296.62	
Community Heartbeat Trust	<u>£198.00</u>	
	£494.62	£2,938.10
Balance Unity Trust Saver Account 1 Sept 2025		£5,023.08

16. Remaining councillor vacancy.

Further rules on residence, land ownership and business interests were discussed.

Decisions: It was agreed that,

a). The Chair was to contact Helen Maxwell again and invite her to join the Parish Council.

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

Nothing further to discuss.

18. To receive items for the next agenda.

None received.

19. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Monday 13th October 2025.

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday 13th October 2025.

SignedChairman Date.....

Future meeting dates:

13th October 2025, 10th November 2025, 12th January 2026, 9th February 2026, 9th March 2026,
13th April 2026 and 11th May 2026.

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