

# 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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 in Caston Village Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors: J White (Chair), L Pilkington, J Bush 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.

### **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 meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025.**

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

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

*Stow Bedon Fuel Allotment Minutes Item 2 b):* Councillor Bush, having looked in more detail at the investment files stated that invoices should not be paid from the growth of the fund. It was agreed that the amount due should be paid from the Barclays bank account.

*Stow Bedon and Breckles Parish Council Meeting Item 6 a):* This decision from the last meeting was discussed again and it was agreed that formal complaints from the parish council to the Environment Agency and Breckland Council should not be sent until Brookside Farm Poultry Unit submits its application when this will have more impact.

*Report of Chairman Item 7:* The Chairman requested response to his query on the length of time allowed during meetings for public participation which he thought had been twenty minutes for several years but was now thirty minutes duration. After discussion it was agreed that the time allowed would go back to twenty minutes with discretion used to increase that to thirty minutes if necessary.

*Update website Item 10:* The Chairman requested confirmation that this had been done.

Councillor Pilkington advised that the website had been updated with future parish council meeting dates and the addition of Councillor Bush's photograph. Some contact details were missing which Councillor Bush advised she would forward to Councillor Pilkington so that they could be entered.

*Deer Sign:* The Chairman requested confirmation that the deer sign is operational. Councillor Pilkington advised that this was not the case due to the battery requiring recharging for which he apologised and advised would be attended to. It was agreed that the sign will be returned to Wretham Parish Council in January when the six months of management by Stow Bedon and Breckles Parish Council will have expired and management of the sign would continue by Wretham Parish Council as per agreement already in place.

## **6. Public Participation (30 minutes).**

No members of the public were present.

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

Councillor Eagle had not forwarded a report.

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

Councillor Cowen had not forwarded a report.

### **Report of the Chairman.**

The Chairman advised that he had not constructed a report and would comment at items as the meeting progressed.

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

The Parish Clerk advised that she had received an email from Mr John Dell who is PCC Secretary for St.Margaret's Church, Breckles thanking the parish council for their donation of £150.00 towards the cost of grass cutting and upkeep of the church grounds which was very much appreciated. He has requested that their thanks be minuted at our next parish council meeting which shall be done.

The clerk also advised that she had received an email from a Mr Mitchell who is researching information about village signs in Norfolk and would like to know more about the sign at Stow Bedon. She asked if anyone at the meeting knew of anyone that could help with this enquiry. Councillor Bush suggested contacting Karen Fitch as she runs a local history group which the clerk advised she would do.

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

**Notification of Appeal: APP/F2605/W/25/3373253 – Mere Farm, Stow Bedon.** Erection of new dwelling and garage (plot 6). The Chairman had already prepared and circulated a strongly worded draft representation for submission by 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025 objecting to this application which was agreed by all present. The Chair advised that having written to Norfolk Wildlife Trust to inform them of the appeal, they would also be submitting a similar representation.

### **Decisions: It was agreed that,**

- a). The Chair will forward a finalised version of the draft representation to the clerk.**
- b). The clerk will submit the representation to the Planning Inspectorate by 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**

## **9. Community flyer re Item 8.**

Councillor Bush advised that she had printed and circulated 62 copies of an information leaflet to make the local community more aware of the application and subsequent appeal for a 6<sup>th</sup> house to be built at Mere Farm, Stow Bedon and hopefully gather more support against it. It was generally agreed that whilst this was a worthwhile task it would be easier and more effective if information could be circulated to parishioners on line by means of Instagram or a Whats App Group. This could be managed just for public view supplying information including pictures and have links to the parish council website for further details.

### **Decisions: It was agreed that,**

- a). Councillor Bush would look into the possibility of setting up an on-line forum so that parishioners can be advised of important local developments.**

## **10. Additional pig housing on land adjacent to Spinney Farm.**

The pig housing was discussed which comprises of movable canvas on metal frames set on skids having a tent-like appearance which does not require planning permission. Therefore the council has no issue with the extra pig housing.

## **11. Update Brookside Farm Poultry Unit.**

The Chairman began by updating everyone with the numerous communications he had had with the Health & Safety Executive, Environment Agency (EA), Natural England and RSPB whilst investigating what is really happening on this site in connection with the application for an increased Operator's

Permit. As reported at the last parish council meeting, the EA had advised that they did not receive any reports of illegal waste disposal at the site in March 2025 or at any time prior to that. The Chair advised that he had subsequently gone back to the EA stating that the parish council had reported it and requested that the EA contact the contractor to find out if the asbestos had been disposed of correctly. A response from the EA to this request was promised within 21 days which so far has not been forthcoming. The Chair advised that if a reply is not received by 14<sup>th</sup> November he will contact them again asking them for the full results of their investigation. Natural England had originally claimed no knowledge of the application for an increased operator's permit and then conceded that was incorrect having been contacted by the EA requesting information about their acceptable levels of pollution under the licence. The RSPB will be contacting the EA about the permit after the Chair was initially told in error that the RSPB had given the matter their full consideration and could not get involved. The Chair advised that having written to neighbouring parish councils requesting their support, Thompson, Caston, Griston and Great Hockham Parish Councils will also be responding directly about the permit. Having also been in contact with Simon Wood at Breckland Council it is now known that the operators company name has changed to Amber REI Ltd and they have submitted a retrospective planning permission. However, that application is invalid because it does not contain the appropriate environmental information to allow the application to be fully determined. The operator has complied with the temporary stop notice and given a written undertaking that they will continue to abide by the requirements of this retrospective application while it is being validated.

## **12. Update pig unit, Cherry Tree Farm.**

The Chair advised of the current situation that Breckland Council and the Planning Inspectorate have been advised by solicitors acting for Wayland Farms that they intend to appeal the enforcement notice and the refusal of planning permission. They have requested that matters proceed by way of public enquiry with factual witnesses giving evidence under oath. Once appeals have been submitted (within ten working days of date of the letter) and the Planning Inspectorate have agreed the appeal format and timetable, local residents, parish councils and local councillors will be notified but that may be some weeks off. Discussion followed with general agreement that the parish council should respond whether that be resubmitting its original objection or making a new representation.

**Decisions: It was agreed that,**

**a). The parish council should wait until they are contacted and see how they are invited to respond.**

## **13. Invitation for comments regarding the Formal Regulation 18 consultation stage of the Local Plan.**

The parish clerk advised that just this afternoon an email was received regarding the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan formal consultation period (from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> December '25) during which there will be four evening events hosted by Breckland Council that parish councils and the public can attend to discuss the plan. The first of these events is being held at Attleborough Town Hall, Queens Square, Attleborough on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November from 17.30 to 19.30 to discuss the Roudham and Larling Strategic Development Area. The Chair immediately suggested that a representative from Stow Bedon and Breckles Parish Council should attend and that unfortunately he would be away and unable to. Both Councillors Pilkington and Bush advised that they would try to attend the meeting. It was noted that written objections had already been submitted to the possible development of the site in Stow Bedon put forward by the Ackermans as well as The Prince of Wales Land.

**Decisions: It was agreed that,**

**a). At least one councillor should attend the Roudham and Larling Strategic Development Area Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November '25.**

**b). The Chairman will find the previous objection regarding the Ackermans and Prince of Wales Land and send it again to Simon Wood to make sure that it is taken into consideration.**

## **14. Budget proposal 2026 to 2027 and precept request.**

The Parish Clerk advised that she had started working on the budget for the next financial year to calculate the amount required for the next precept and would email the spreadsheet with her prospective

figures to everyone as soon as possible. She requested that these be studied before the next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January which is when she will be advising Breckland Council that Stow Bedon and Breckles Parish Council's precept request will be agreed and the relevant request form submitted.

**Decisions: It was agreed that,**

- a). The clerk will forward prospective figures for 2026/27 budget to all councillors as soon as possible.**
- b). The precept request will be agreed at the next parish council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

#### **15. Fuel Allotment and Village Hall Fund annual returns.**

The clerk advised that she had circulated emails from the Charity Commission requesting completion of the annual returns for both charities to all councillors. Discussion followed and it was decided that an auditor did not need to be instructed to complete the returns as previously agreed. It was thought more suitable that a member of the parish council, i.e, a councillor, should submit the returns due to the parish council being the sole trustee for both charities. It was noted that statements from Barclays Bank had not been received since 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and that this issue should be addressed by the clerk as soon as possible.

**Decisions: It was agreed that,**

- a). The clerk will contact Barclays Bank to obtain missing bank statements.**
- b). The clerk will obtain required information to assist with completion of the annual returns.**

#### **16. New email requirement.**

The clerk advised that, as discussed at the last parish council meeting, a new email account had been opened with Parish Online to comply with new email management regulations being implemented at the start of the 2025/26 financial year. This email: [clerk@stowbedonandbreckles-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stowbedonandbreckles-pc.gov.uk) is now operational. However, it had not been possible to set up a forwarding process from the current email account which means that both email addresses will run until all users have been notified of the new email address.

**Decisions: It was agreed that,**

- a). The clerk will circulate new email details to users upon receipt of emails.**

#### **17. OP Radium Support.**

This item was not discussed and requested to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **18. Erection of white picket fencing Lower Stow Bedon.**

This item put forward by a former councillor to help reduce speeding issues through Lower Stow Bedon was discussed, however the general opinion of those present was that they were not in favour. The project would need approval by Highways and possible planning permission as well as additional unwanted signage. It was thought there was no value in this for Lower Stow Bedon and give a false impression of it's size as it is not a village.

**Decisions: It was agreed that no further action was required.**

#### **19. Organisation of litter pick for February 2026.**

Councillors are keen to get a litter pick organised for next spring and proposed the date of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed to purchase a supply of litter picking tools, fluorescent jackets and bags which can then be stored for use again in the future. Councillor Pilkington owns a trailer that can be towed behind a car to meet litter pickers on route collecting bags when they are full. It was agreed to advertise the litter pick in the Waylander with plenty of notice and to make the day a community event.

**Decisions: It was agreed that,**

- a). Councillors will advise clerk of script for an advertisement to go in the Waylander.**
- b). The clerk will arrange advertising in the Waylander (Jan, Feb and March '26 editions).**

## 20. Councillor vacancies.

The Chair confirmed that having spoken again to Helen Maxwell, she would like to become a Parish Councillor and enrol with the parish council after Christmas. The clerk advised that she will notify Breckland Council Electoral Services of the confirmed resignation of Councillor Allen.

## 21. To present the financial statement and approve any expenditure.

The clerk presented the statement of finances to date.

<b>Balance Unity Trust Current Account 4 November 2025</b>	<b>£ 2,413.43</b>
--	-------------------

### Invoices due for payment

Parish clerk salary October 2025	£306.15
----------------------------------	---------

<b>Resulting balance will be:</b>	<b>£ 2,107.28</b>
-----------------------------------	-------------------

<b>Balance Unity Trust Saver Account 4 November 2025</b>	<b>£ 5,051.57</b>
--	-------------------

## 22. Any other relevant matters not included on this agenda.

There were none.

## 23. To receive items for the next agenda.

OP Radium Support

Litter Pick Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

## 24. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Signed .....Chairman      Date.....

Future meeting dates:

12<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 & 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026.