

STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 14 February 2011 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Peter Mills (Chairman), Phil Childs, Melanie Hannam, Susan Tanner.
Julian Gibson (Clerk)

The meeting originally scheduled for 21 February had been brought forwards to 14 February 2011.

1 **Apologies for absence.** None.

2 **Declarations of interest.** None.

3 **Public Comment Facility.**

3.1 **Highways.** Norfolk County Councillor (NCC) Ian Monson, and Paul Groom, Highways Engineer, spoke of the walk along Mere Road they had recently undertaken with Breckland Councillor Phil Cowen, and some parishioners. Mr Groom accepted that there were major problems with mud, pot holes, damage to the verges, and the surface in general. He was able to confirm that the pot holes had been repaired last weekend, and that the road had been scheduled to be top dressed from end to end this year. Before then the verges would be repaired by putting in a new sub-base, then soil, and seeding in March. All drains under the road will be checked and cleared, along with the grips. The “unofficial” passing place near Stow Bedon House will be reconstructed, and then top dressed with the road. Hopefully all this will reduce the mud and surface water on to the road. However, it was pointed out that:

3.1.1 Mud deposited on the road was an offence, and it was the responsibility of farmers, etc., to clean up after them. Offenders could and would be reported to the Police;

3.1.2 Manure heaps should not be allowed to run into water courses or the highway. To help prevent this, they should not be kept in the same place year after year, and this would be reported to the Environment Agency and/or NCC for action;

3.1.3 Damaging the verge was an offence, and would be reported to the police. Additionally, NCC would recharge offenders with the cost of restoration. Mr Groom said that he had identified a possible case for this;

3.1.4 Removal of hedges to make new access to fields requires planning permission, and as part of this NCC highways would be consulted.

3.1.5 With regard to the damage caused at the west end of Mere Road, Mr Groom said he had spoken with the developers who had been parking their vehicles inconsiderately, and this had now improved.

The Clerk assured the meeting that, if the public could supply him with the necessary facts (date, time, precise location, registration number, name of offender, etc.) he would follow all such matters up vigorously.

3.2 **Sandy Lane.** A member of the public said that she suspected there was a water main leaking in Sandy Lane, Breckles. The Clerk agreed to inform Anglian Water.

3.3 **Mere Road ditch.** Concern was expressed about an overgrown ditch, the responsibility of the land owner, at the east end of the road. The Clerk will inspect and write if necessary.

3.4 **County Councillor’s report.** Mr Monson said that, despite the impression given by the demonstration, the results of the County Council’s decisions at the budget meeting

that day would not have as great an impact as was anticipated. In particular rural bus services and Meals on wheels are largely unaffected.

4 Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 13 December 2010 were **confirmed** and **signed**.

5 Matters arising.

5.1 [7.3 minutes of Meeting on 18 October 2010] **Mere House, Mere Road, Stow Bedon - Enforcement Order.** Following a meeting between the householder and Breckland Council's Enforcement Officer it was agreed that the fence panels and concrete posts along Mere Road would be removed, and an application submitted regarding the fence along Attleborough Road.

5.2 [8] **Adoption of Telephone Kiosk in Mere Road.** BT has returned the signed contract. It has now removed the payphone equipment and replaced the damaged panes. The electricity supply is still connected, although this will eventually be removed. The Clerk will put up a notice of explanation. The damage to the panes in the Lower Stow Bedon kiosk have also been repaired, although this is due to be completely removed by BT.

5.3 [16] **Bulk Fuel Syndicate.** Maurice Stainsby has volunteered to be Syndicate Coordinator.

5.4 [11] **Pingo Trail Walks Board.** As agreed with Norfolk County Council, the Clerk has now been removed this.

6 Correspondence. The following correspondence was **received**:

6.1 Breckland Council: *Town & Parish Council Forum.*

6.2 Breckland Council: *Town & Parish Council Forum Newsletter.*

6.3 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *The Localism Bill.*

6.4 Norfolk Rural Community Council: *Signpost - December 2010.*

6.5 Norfolk County Council: *Norfolk Gritting Routes Leaflet.*

6.6 Norfolk County Council: *Temporary road closures - we'd like your help ...*

6.7 Breckland Council: *Severe weather - Snow Code.*

6.8 Norfolk Police Authority: *Invitation to attend an Open Meeting to discuss the Police Budget for 2011/2012.*

6.9 Barclays Bank Plc: *Community Account Statement - 30 November-29 December 2010.*

6.10 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Community Led Design.*

6.11 Came & Company: *To Grit or Not To Grit.*

6.12 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Norfolk Link - December 2010.*

6.13 Norfolk Constabulary: *Parish/Ward Crime Stats - November 2010.*

6.14 AON Limited: *Cancelled Policy refund.*

6.15 Barclays Bank Plc: *Community Account Statement -Grants and Awards - 31July - 31 December 2010.*

6.16 Breckland Council: *Are you Breckland's 'Greenest Family'?*

6.17 Clerks & Councils Direct: *Councils Suppliers Guide & Yearbook - 2011.*

6.18 *Clerks & Councils Direct - January 2011.*

6.19 CAF Bank Limited: *CAF Gold Account Statement - 31 December 2010.*

6.20 Breckland Council: *Pride in Breckland Awards - Architectural Excellence Award.*

6.21 Breckland Council: *Glass Recycling.*

6.22 Breckland Council: *Prospective Councillor Campaign.*

6.23 Norfolk Playing Fields Association: *The Playing Field - Winter 2010/11.*

6.24 Breckland Council: *The Breckland Parish Glass Recycling Competition - positions as at end of December 2010.*

- 6.25 Breckland Council: *Race is hotting up for glass meltdown!*
- 6.26 Norfolk Parish Training Partnership: *The End of the Year!*
- 6.27 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Norfolk Link* - January 2011.
- 6.28 Breckland Council: *Breckland Local Development Framework, Site Specific Policies and Proposals Development Plan Document and Proposals Maps, Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Regulation 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, Publication of the Proposed Submission Document.*
- 6.29 Breckland Council: *Site Specific Policies and Proposals Development Plan Document, Proposed Submission Document* - February 2011.
- 6.30 Norfolk County Council: *Letter re. DEFRA and Forestry Commission consultation.*
- 6.31 Norfolk Parish Training Partnership: *Elections 2011.*
- 6.32 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Elections 2011* - Timetable.
- 6.33 CAF Bank: *CAF Gold Account Statement* - 31 January 2011.
- 6.34 Barclays Bank Plc: *Community Account Statement* - 30 December 2010 - 28 January 2011.
- 6.35 Breckland Council: *Breckland Town and Parish Council Forum.*

7 **Planning.**

- 7.1 **3PL/2010/1130/F: Chapel Farm, Mere Road, Stow Bedon.** Erection of a two storey side & rear extensions, porch, conservatories, new access, gates & fence & rear balcony. Notice of Planning Permission dated 14 December 2010 was **received**.
- 7.2 **3PL/2010/1167/F: Waters Edge, Mere Road, Stow Bedon.** Single storey extension to create utility room and garaging. Notice of Planning Permission dated 23 December 2010 was **received**.

8 Grit bin. The Clerk presented a request from the parishioners of The Close for a grit bin to be placed at the end of their road. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should proceed to order one and get it installed, spending up to £100 plus VAT.

9 Slow down in our village signs. The Clerk explained that he had received an offer to try to revive the Caring about Rural Speeds campaign, which had been run in North West Norfolk some years ago. This involved purchasing approved stickers to be placed on wheelie bins. Norfolk County Council Casualty Reduction Team confirmed that the original scheme (which was funded by them) had a very minimal effect on average speeds, and now the Council would have to bear the costs of printing the signs. It was **agreed** that this would not be worthwhile.

10 Damage to verges and mud on roads. This was very fully discussed during the public session. The Council formally **agreed** that the Clerk should take action on any facts reported to him.

11 Speeding on A1075. The Chairman explained that Great Hockham Parish Council had approached this Council to ask for support for a letter it had written to Norfolk County Council over road safety on the A1075, following an accident near the junction of Low Road, Breckles. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to NCC in full support. The Council also **received** a letter from a parishioner expressing concern over the fact that the road through Lower Stow Bedon is only subject to the National Speed Limit. The Clerk was asked to raise this with NCC at the same time.

12 Parish History. A letter from a parishioner objecting to information about his house (which had been published against his wishes in the original 2005 document) being made available on the internet was **received**. It was **agreed** that the picture should be deleted, and that the parishioner should be invited to suggest some alternative text. It was **agreed** that the remainder of the publication should be made available on the Parish website.

- 13 Parish Website.** The Chairman presented some changes he proposed to make to the layout and content of the website, which included the provision of advertising space. It was **agreed** that he should proceed, and that advertising should be offered at £10/quarter or £25/annum.
- 14 Safe keeping of records.** It was **noted** that the Clerk has deposited the Council's old Minute Books (covering Council and Parish Meetings from May 1976 to March 2010) and Receipts and Payments Books (covering April 1978 to March 2010) at Norfolk Record Office for safe keeping under temporary reference ACC 2010/271.
- 15 Future meeting dates.** A schedule of proposed meeting dates for the Council was **agreed**.
- 16 Finance.**
- 16.1 **Insurance.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100540 for £418.18 to the Clerk be signed in reimbursement of the payment made to Broker Network Limited for the new Aviva insurance policy with Came & Co. (Local Government Act 1972, s. 111 & 140(1).)
- 16.2 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 31 January 2011 was **received**.
- 17 Matters for consideration at next meeting.**
- 17.1 Code of conduct for handling complaints
- 17.2 Notes for members of the public attending Council Meetings.
- 17.3 Payment for cherry tree in Pingo Trail lay-by.
- 17.4 Speeding in Lower Stow Bedon
- 17.5 Glass bank collection method.
- 18 Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Council was **confirmed** as **Monday, 21 March 2011, at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.**

Confirmed:

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Peter Mills, Chairman

21 March 2011

Scheduled future Meeting dates:

Monday, 18 April 2011	Monday, 15 August 2011	Monday, 12 December 2011
Monday, 16 May 2011*	Monday, 19 September 2011	Monday, 16 January 2012
Monday, 20 June 2011	Monday, 17 October 2011	Monday, 20 February 2012
Monday, 18 July 2011	Monday, 21 November 2011	Monday, 19 March 2012

*Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Meeting of the Parish Council