

STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 19 August 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

**Present: Councillors Phil Childs (Vice-Chairman), Rachael Garrod, Paul Howe, John Morfoot, Lee Pilkington.
Julian Gibson (Clerk)**

Following the resignation of Mr Mills, the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

- 1 **Election of Chairman.** Mr Childs was elected Chairman.
- 2 **Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.** Mr Childs signed the declaration, which was received.
- 3 **Election of Vice Chairman.** Mr Pilkington was **elected** Vice Chairman.
- 4 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the reasons for absence provided by Mrs Tanner.
- 5 **Declarations of interest.** None.
- 6 **Dispensations.** None.
- 7 **Public participation session.**
 - 7.1 Breckland District Councillor Phil Cowen said that the Boundary Review proposals were that Wayland Ward would lose Shropham, but gain Caston, Griston, Sturston and Tottingham. He invited people to comment via the website.
 - 7.2 He then said that he was moving on to attend a meeting of Hockham Parish Council, at which the Agent and representatives from TNP were going to be present to face questions about the seven retrospective planning applications they had submitted following Enforcement Action. He expressed regret that Breckland Council had decided not to exercise the power given them by the Localism Act 2011, s. 123, which had been introduced by the Government specifically to cope with this sort of situation, and allowed planning authorities to refuse to accept applications that were submitted simply because the authority had commenced enforcement proceedings. He said it appeared the decision to accept the applications followed a meeting between the applicant and his agent and William Nunn (Leader of Breckland Council) and Paul Jackson (Planning Manager). He had not even been told that this secret meeting was taking place. He congratulated the Clerk on spotting that the number of vehicle movements specified in the application was inaccurate, in that they had only thought of the vehicles travelling in one direction, and cast doubts on all the figures quoted. He suggested that this elementary error should be reported to the Planning Officer. He asked for clear guidance as to what action the Council wanted him to take.
 - 7.3 The matter of the wrecked cars on the land adjacent to Gay-Dene was again raised and several councillors said they had received complaints from parishioners. The Clerk said he would chase Breckland Council once again.
- 8 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 15 July 2013 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 9 **To report** matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda: **for information only**.
 - 9.1 [10, Minutes of 17 June 2013] **Blocked Drains outside Church Cottage, Breckles.** The owner of the property has again complained to the Highways Engineer about this long-standing problem. The Clerk forwarded this to County Councillor Ian Monson

with the request that he try to get some action to resolve the issue. The Engineer has now responded that a jetting team should try again to clear the system “in the next three weeks” (i.e. by 19 August), and giving details of a proposed extension of the drainage system. Unfortunately the latter will not be until 2015/16 at the earliest. With regard to the Council’s Freedom of Information request, the Engineer says that the contractor did not make a report (presumably not a written one) so this cannot be made available under the Act. Mr Howe reported that the jetting had not been done as yet.

- 9.2 [7.1] **Speeding farm vehicles.** The Clerk has received a report from a parishioner that she has reported a specific vehicle to the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, supplying the registration number. He was asked to try to find out what happened as a result.
- 9.3 [7.2] **Junction of A1075 and B1111.** The Highway Engineer has again said that the number of collisions at this location does not warrant a detailed investigation or a change in the speed limit.

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

- 10.1 Norfolk Constabulary: *Parish/Ward Crime Statistics* – 1-30 June 2013.
- 10.2 Norfolk County Council: *Highway & Community Ranger visit* – 13 September 2013.
- 10.3 Norfolk County Council: *Advance Notice – forthcoming consultation by Norfolk County Council on the 2014/15 Budget and savings proposals for 2014/17.*
- 10.4 Margaret Shelley, LANPRO Services: *Breckles Heath – Application Submissions by Traditional Norfolk Poultry.*
- 10.5 Barclays Bank Plc: *Community Account Statement* – 29 June – 31 July 2013.
- 10.6 Norfolk County Council: *Better Broadband for Norfolk Information Sheet 13* – 7 August 2013.
- 10.7 Norfolk County Council: *Watering Farm Update.*
- 10.8 Peter Cotes: *Email relating to footpath from Waters Edge towards Prince of Wales Feathers.* The Clerk was asked to write to the landowner asking if he would do something to improve this.

11 Planning.

- 11.1 **3PL/2013/0584/F: Mere Lodge, Watton Road, Stow Bedon.** Application for Replacement Dwelling including Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden. It was **resolved** that the Council had no objection.
- 11.2 **3PL/2012/1339/F: Breckles Farm site Land near Breckles Heath.** Retain Spanish-type polytunnel & associated water tank (Retrospective). Notice that this application has been withdrawn by the applicant dated 7 August 2013 was **received**.
- 11.3 **3PL/2012/1340/F: Breckles Farm site Land near Breckles Heath.** Retain Spanish-type polytunnel & associated water tank & grain silo (Retrospective). Notice that this application has been withdrawn by the applicant dated 7 August 2013 was **received**.
- 11.4 **3PL/2012/1341/F: Breckles Farm site Land near Breckles Heath.** Retain Spanish-type polytunnel, associated water tank & 3 no. grain silos (Retrospective). Notice that this application has been withdrawn by the applicant dated 7 August 2013 was **received**.
- 11.5 **3PL/2013/0469/O: Stone Leigh Cottage, Mere Road, Stow Bedon.** Erection of four bedroom dwelling and detached garage (outline application). Refusal of Outline Planning Permission dated 1 August 2013 was **received**.

- 11.6 **3PL/2013/0730/F: Breckles Farm Site Land near Breckles Heath.** Application to Retain 2 small poultry arcs in movable locations within area on Drawing TNP001/0250 5-3 & feed silo (Retrospective).
- 11.7 **3PL/2013/0731/F: Breckles Farm Site Land near Breckles Heath.** Application to Retain 2 small poultry arcs in movable locations within area on Drawing TNP001/0250 5-3 & feed silo (Retrospective).
- 11.8 **3PL/2013/0732/F: Breckles Farm Site Land near Breckles Heath.** Application to Retain small poultry arcs in movable locations, see Drawing TNP001/0250 7-3 & associated feed silo (Retrospective).
- 11.9 **3PL/2013/0733/F: Breckles Farm Site Land near Breckles Heath.** Application to retain Spanish-type polytunnel (No.1 on TNP001/0250 1), feed silo, water tank & access road/ turning area Retrospective).
- 11.10 **3PL/2013/0734/F: Breckles Farm Site Land near Breckles Heath.** Application to Retain 2 small poultry arcs in movable locations within area on Drawing TNP001/0250 6-3 & feed silo (Retrospective).
- 11.11 **3PL/2013/0736/F: Breckles Farm Site Land near Breckles Heath.** Application to Retain Spanish-type polytunnel (2 on TNP001/0250 2-1) feed silo, water tank, access & turning area Retrospective.
- 11.12 **3PL/2013/0737/F: Breckles Farm Site Land near Breckles Heath.** Application to Retain Spanish-type polytunnel (3 on TNP001/0250 3-3), feed silos, water tank, access & turning area (Retrospective).

The Council decided to regard these seven applications as one single development. It was **resolved** that the Council objected in the strongest possible terms. It regretted that Breckland Council had not followed up its enforcement action and success in defeating the applicant’s appeal by refusing to accept these retrospective applications. The Council felt that the Ecological Assessment Report was so slanted as to be worthless. Many assumptions made were only true because the site had been occupied by up to 40,000 chickens for the past 18 months. Under these circumstances it is hardly surprising that no nightjars or stone curlews are nesting on the site, or that the report writer found “no invertebrates of note”. The main areas of objection related to the Ecological Assessment, which makes no attempt to find evidence of what existed on the site before the Development was commenced, Access, and the proximity of the site to SSSIs, SPAs, SACs, CWS, and Peddars Way.

The Clerk was asked to write to Councillor Phil Cowen asking him to spare no effort in trying to persuade Breckland Council to support the views of the local communities, and refuse permission. He was also instructed to put in a Freedom of Information Request regarding the secret meeting which had taken place between the applicant and the Leader of Breckland Council at which the local people were unrepresented.

- 12 Casual Vacancy.** The Clerk reported that no electors had requested an election to fill this vacancy, so the Council was empowered to fill it by cooption. Members had been unable to find any candidates, so this was put off until the next meeting. The Clerk reminded the Council that it had an obligation to fill the post “as soon as practicable”.
- 13 Barclays Bank accounts.** It was **resolved** that Mr Pilkington be authorised to be a signatory in addition to the Chairman and Mrs Tanner.
- 14 National Pay Agreement.** Notice that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached agreement on the pay scales for 2013-14 (i.e. with effect from 1 April

2013) was **received**. For the Clerk on Spinal Column Point 17 this represents an increase of 8.8p/hour, making an annual salary of £1,908.36.

15 Finance.

15.1 **Publications.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100622 for £63.00 to SLCC Enterprises Limited be signed, in settlement of invoice no. 112144 for the purchase of a copy of *Arnold-Baker on Local Council* administration. (Local Government Act 1972, s. 111)

15.2 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 31 July 2013 was **received**.

16 Matters for consideration at next meeting. None.

17 Next meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council, was **confirmed** as **Monday, 16 September 2013** at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

Confirmed:

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Phil Childs, Chairman

16 September 2013

Scheduled future Meeting dates:

Monday, 14 October 2013

Monday, 16 December 2013

Monday, 17 February 2014

Monday, 18 November 2013

Monday, 20 January 2014*

Monday, 17 March 2014

*If needed