

STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 14 October 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

**Present: Councillors: Phil Childs (Chairman), Paul Howe, Dawn Jessett, John Morfoot, Lee Pilkington.
Julian Gibson (Clerk)**

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** None.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None.
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.**
 - 4.1 **Breckles Heath.** Mark Gorton and Simon Guise (Traditional Norfolk Poultry) and Margaret Shelley (agent) addressed the Council, explaining the latest amendments they had made to their planning applications, and then faced questions from the Council and public. They confirmed that they did not have a license for the borehole sunk as this was not required. A member of the public stated that his business had been adversely impacted, as many regular customers who had visited in 2012 complained that the developments on Peddars Way had ruined the area for walking purposes, and did not return as usual this year. It was confirmed that tourism businesses in Wretham and Thompson were making similar comments. The Council stressed that it had no issues with a poultry farm *per se*, but objected to the impact on the environment (an ecologically sensitive area) the location (immediately adjacent to Peddars Way), and in particular, the way the development had deliberately been carried out with total disregard of the planning process, thus destroying all the evidence which would have led to it being refused had permission been applied for first.
 - 4.2 County Councillor Ian Monson gave an update on County matters, drawing attention in particular to the consultation on the County budget. He announced that the Parish Partnership scheme was being repeated for highway improvements, with £200,000 set aside for this, but returning to a 50:50 basis. In response to a request he said he would ask the Highway Engineer to look again at the possibility of improving visibility to make exiting from the Pingo Trail lay-by safer.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 16 September 2013 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 6 **To report** matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda: **for information only**.
 - 6.1 [9.1] **Blocked Drains outside Church Cottage, Breckles.** It was confirmed that Norfolk County Council Highways has now installed a larger silt trap outside Church Cottage as an interim measure.
 - 6.2 [10.2 Minutes of 10 May 2013] **Refurbishment of Notice Boards.** The Clerk reported that he had been chasing the absence of contact from HM Prison Service, and learned that the officer he was in contact with had sadly died at a very young age. He had now established contact with Godfrey Starr and arranged to meet with him. He was hopeful that the project would eventually go ahead.
- 7 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:
 - 7.1 Mrs Sue Tanner: *Resignation letter.*
 - 7.2 Breckland Council: *Changes to scrap metal collection.*

- 7.3 Norfolk County Council: *Notice – Norfolk Putting People First consultation now open.*
- 7.4 Breckland Council: *Remittance advice.*
- 7.5 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Annual General Meeting Agenda.*
- 7.6 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Annual General Meeting 8 November 2012 - Minutes.*
- 7.7 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Annual Report 2012/13.*
- 7.8 Breckland Council: *Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests: A Guide for Councillors.*
- 7.9 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Autumn Seminar – 6 November 2013.*
- 7.10 Barclays Bank Plc: *Community Account Statement - 31 August - 30 September 2013.*
- 7.11 Barclays Bank Plc: *Active Saver Account Statement - 31 August - 30 September 2013.*
- 7.12 Ordnance Survey: *Public Sector Mapping Agreement.*
- 7.13 Mrs Rachael Garrod: *Resignation letter.*

8 Bottle Bank. A letter from Breckland Council headed *Future of Recycling in Breckland – Stow Bedon Lay-by* advising that in 2014/15 glass recycling will be included in the black bin collections was **received**. This will obviously affect the viability of the Council’s bottle bank, although in the first year it appeared that Breckland Council intended to offer some form of compensation for the lost revenue.

9 Planning.

- 9.1 **3PL/2013/0764/F: Chapel Farm, Mere Road, Stow Bedon.** Erection of two-storey dwelling and detached garage, new access and change of use of land to domestic garden. Planning Permission dated 27 September 2013 was **received**.
- 9.2 **3PL/2013/0730/F etc.: Breckles Farm Site, Land near Breckles Heath.** Notice that applications 0733, 0736 and 0737 had been amended to be for “retention of polytunnel for the seasonal rearing of turkeys for a four month period between mid-August and mid-December” was **received**. The Council **resolved** that this made little difference, because it must be remembered that this business is approaching the end of its second season of operation on this site, and the resulting amended (again) claimed vehicle movements were the contributory cause to the damage to the highways and environment which has already been caused. The applicant has also pointed out that a small portion of the County Wildlife Site is not actually being used by the birds as it fenced off. The Clerk was instructed to send a further letter repeating the Council’s objection.

10 Drainage on Mere Road. The Clerk has, as instructed, written to local residents, and it had been noted that several had arranged for their septic tanks to be emptied. Nothing had been heard from the Environment Agency, and the Clerk will chase this.

11 Maintenance of burial grounds. After considerable discussion it was agreed that provision for a grant of up to £150 towards the costs of maintaining the burial grounds in the churchyard of each of the two churches (Stow Bedon and Breckles) would be included in the Council’s budget for 2014/15.

12 External Audit. The report of the External Auditor for the year ended 31 March 2013 was **received**. The necessary statutory information will now be displayed on the notice board. The Clerk will also complete the Client Satisfaction Survey.

13 Casual Vacancies. The Clerk said that notices advertising the vacancies were being displayed, and that if by 25 October insufficient requests for an election had been received by Breckland, the Council would be given power to co-opt.

14 Finance.

14.1 **Training.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100626 for £4.38 to Norfolk Association of Local Councils be signed, being this parish's share of the cost of the Clerk attending the Autumn Seminar. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111*)

14.2 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 30 September 2013 was **received**.

15 Matters for consideration at next meeting.

15.1 Pingo Trail lay-by and car park.

16 Next meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council, was **confirmed** as **Monday, 18 November 2013** at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

Confirmed:

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Phil Childs, Chairman

18 November 2013

Scheduled future Meeting dates:

Monday, 16 December 2013 *If needed

Monday, 20 January 2014*

Monday, 17 February 2014

Monday, 17 March 2014