

# STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 20 October 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

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

1 Apologies for absence. None.

2 Declarations of interest. None.

3 Dispensations. None.

4 Public participation session.

4.1 **State of Peddars Way.** Parishioners were joined by District Councillor Phil Cowen , raising the issues of access to the dwelling by Watering Farm following the still unauthorised development of Watering Farm. Photographs of Peddars Way were shown, and this ancient path is now virtually impassable for all but farm vehicles. Delivery drivers have stopped delivering, and Royal Mail has now also refused to deliver post. The residents used to be forced exit via the track to join the A1075 at White Post Corner, but Mr Garrod also started using that route, totally ignoring instructions from the Forestry Commission that it was a private road as he should not do so because of the damage he was causing. So the Commission was obliged to erect barriers, which of course stops everybody from using it. Now the preferred exit route for residents is to continue up Peddars Way to Thompson, and then down the A1075, a diversion of 7.3 km on every journey. Councillor Cowen pointed out that it was the responsibility of Norfolk County Council to maintain the Peddars Way highway, and said he was surprised that their officer seemed to think that a single payment of £10,000 would be sufficient to restore the road to the required standard, and to maintain it for all time thereafter, despite the damage regularly being wreaked upon it by Mr Garrod. There was also great concern over the potential inability of emergency services to get to the dwellings, the farm, and any other users or passers by in the event of accident, crime or other emergency.

4.2 **Broadband.** Caston Parish Council had enquired about setting up an Action Group to press for faster Broadband. The Chairman said he might know somebody who would be interested in joining, and would ask him to get in touch.

5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 18 August 2014 were **confirmed** and **signed**.

6 **Matters arising.** [15.3] **Telephone Kiosk repair.** The Clerk reported that he had still not received any response to his request for reimbursement from the perpetrator of the vandalism. He was instructed to chase.

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

7.1 Mid Norfolk Citizens' Advice Bureau: *Annual General Meeting* - 17 September 2014.

7.2 Shelter Solutions: *Bus Shelter Grants*.

7.3 Breckland Council: *Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places*.

7.4 Breckland Council: *The Recycling Revolution is coming*.

7.5 Norfolk Accident Rescue Service: *Appeal letter*.

7.6 Barclays Bank Plc: *Community Account Statement* - 1-29 August 2014.

7.7 Barclays Bank Plc: *Active Saver Account Statement* - 1-29 August 2014.

7.8 Mid Norfolk Citizens' Advice Bureau: *Re: The Dereham /Watton and Holt Mid Norfolk 2014 Citizens Advice Bureau Appeal*.

7.9 Kickstart: *Information re. Moped hire scheme*.

- 7.10 Norfolk County Council: *Norfolk County Council's budget and priorities for 2015/18.*
- 7.11 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Norfolk Link - Special edition for all Norfolk councillors.*
- 7.12 Norfolk County Council: *Hello, can you give me a little help?*
- 7.13 Norfolk Parish Training Partnership: *Introductory Training for Clerks and Councillors.*
- 7.14 Norfolk Parish Training Partnership: *'Polish up that press release' workshop.*
- 7.15 Vitalise: *Are you caring for a loved one with a physical disability or dementia?*
- 7.16 Nicholas Hancox Solicitors: *Advising and Representing Parish and Town Councils.*
- 7.17 Orchard Barn: *Brecks Building Skills.*
- 7.18 Norfolk County Council: *Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with Town and Parish Councils.*
- 7.19 Breckland Council: *Payment from Breckland Council by BACS.*
- 7.20 Barclays Bank Plc: *Community Account Statement - 30 August - 30 September 2014.*
- 7.21 Norfolk County Council: *Stoptober.*
- 7.22 Breckland Council: *Breckland Council Local Plan - Issues and Options consultation 2014.*
- 7.23 Breckland Council: *Recycling in Breckland.* The Clerk was asked to remind residents to recycle their bottles in the Pingo Trail Lay-by Bottle Bank rather than use the black bin, so that the parish continues to receive the recycling credits.

## 8 Planning.

- 8.1 **3PL/2014/0859/D: Adjacent Mere House, Mere Road, Stow Bedon.** Application for Minor material amendment to 3PL/2006/1655/D - Detached garage, remove stonework detailing & 2 revised openings in sitting room. It was **noted** that the Clerk has responded under delegated authority, and lodged that the Council had no objection, and notice of Planning Permission dated 2 October 2014 was **received**.
- 8.2 **3PL/2014/0634/F: Harvester, Mere Road, Stow Bedon.** Double 2 storey extensions, one on either side of existing property. Planning Permission dated 2 September 2014 was **received**.
- 8.3 **3PL/2012/0707/F etc.: Watering Farm.** It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to Norfolk County Council demanding that they carry out necessary repairs to Peddars Way so as to maintain access, and ensure that the cost is met by the developer who has caused the damage. NCC should revisit and re-inspect the highway, and then revisit their estimate of the amount they would require as part of a Section 106 Agreement in the highly regrettable event of Breckland Council granting Planning Permission, because it will require maintenance at least every 6 months, and it was essential that this cost should be paid by the developer and not the Tax payers of Norfolk. Failure to do this would amount to Council Tax payers subsidising Mr Garrod's business. It was also **agreed** that the Clerk should write to Breckland Council's Planning Manager pointing out the risks to Health and Safety caused by the fact that Peddars Way is impassable.

## 9 Casual Vacancies. No progress.

- 10 **Drains outside Church Cottage.** The Council **received** various emails concerning the ineffective drain outside Church Cottage, Breckles, and the flooding of the property garden as a result. Councillor Howe said he had seen the new drain being inserted, and thought that they had fitted in wrongly, so that the gulley failed to collect the water. The Clerk was instructed to write to NCC Highways again demanding that they actually resolve the problem.

- 11 **Notice boards.** It was **agreed** that the Clerk should go back to the manufacturers of the four notice boards (Harry Stebbing Workshops) and ask them to carry out the required

maintenance work as suggested in their letter dated 26 August 2011. He was authorised to commit up to £800 plus VAT.

- 12 Village Sign.** In response to a request from a parishioner the Council considered repositioning the village sign, even though no alternative location had been suggested, but it was **agreed** that the present location was the best available, and the cost would not be justified.
- 13 Parish Name.** The Clerk reported that he had discovered that the name of the parish may never have been formally changed from “Stow Bedon” to “Stow Bedon and Breckles”. He had contacted the Democratic Services Manager at Breckland Council, who had been unable to find any record of the name being changed. It was **resolved** that the name of the Parish should be legally changed to Stow Bedon & Breckles, and the Clerk was instructed to require Breckland Council to make the necessary changes.
- 14 Clerk’s Annual Appraisal.** The Chairman confirmed that he had carried out an Annual Appraisal of the Clerk’s performance, assessing it as being fully satisfactory. It was **agreed** to accept his recommendation that with effect from 18 August 2014 he is awarded an additional Spinal Column Point to take him to SCP 19. This will increase his pay rate by 33.6p/hour or £72.58 p.a., making the total salary £2,018.52 p.a. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his work, and the Clerk expressed his thanks.
- 15 External Auditor’s report.** The External Auditor’s has made a “clean” report for the year ended 31 March 2014, which was **received**. The Clerk will now display the Annual Return and statutory notice on the board.
- 16 Finance.**
  - 16.1 Training.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100652 for £15.00 to Norfolk Association of Local Councils be signed, being this Council’s share of the cost of the Clerk attending their Autumn Conference. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111*)..
  - 16.2 Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 30 September 2014 was **received**.
- 17 Matters for consideration at next meeting.**
- 18 Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council, was **confirmed** as **Monday, 10 November 2014**, at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

**Confirmed:**

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**Phil Childs, Chairman**

15 December 2014

**Scheduled future Meeting dates:**

Monday, 15 December 2014      Monday, 16 February 2015

Monday, 19 January 2015\*      Monday, 16 March 2015

\*If needed