

STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 20 June 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

Present: Councillors: Phil Childs (Chairman), Andrew Hayward, Paul Howe, Dawn Jessett, John Morfoot, Lee Pilkington (Vice-Chairman), Jonathan White. Julian Gibson (Clerk)

As the Chairman was delayed, the Vice Chairman opened the meeting, the Chairman assuming the Chair on his arrival after item 3.

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** None.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.

It was agreed to bring items 10 and 9 forward to this point.

- 10 **Broadband.** District Councillor Phil Cowen provided an update on the matter of providing super-fast broadband in the parish, having received a briefing from Karen O’Kane, Programme Director - Better Broadband for Norfolk. She had said that BT Openreach had identified 95 properties in the parish to which it had telephone lines. (**Post meeting note:** As the Electoral Register lists 127 properties where electors live, the Clerk sought confirmation from Ms O’Kane, who has now said that she was only referring to Stow Bedon village.) Some of these are linked directly to Caston or Hockham exchanges, and there are no details yet about how anything can be done for these. 80 are linked to Caston Cabinet 1, and the work to upgrade this may be part of the next phase, which may be implemented during 2018. Two properties in the village apparently are already receiving super-fast broadband. It appears that the only people who might actually know what will be done and when it will be done are the BT Openreach team. The Clerk has arranged for Ms O’Kane to come to the Council Meeting on 18 July to answer questions about the planned roll-out in the parish.
- 9 **Village Appraisal.** Two parishioners said that they had obtained copies of the Appraisal recently carried out in Thompson Parish, and also a list of other questions drawn up by the University of Gloucestershire that it might be considered suitable to include in a questionnaire in this parish. They had also been assured that volunteers would be found from among the Residents Association to take these door to door to deliver them and to stress how much the Council would like residents to complete and return them. The volunteers would then return to collect the responses. It was **agreed** that Councillors Hayward, Jessett, Pilkington and White should form a working party with Ms Croad and Mrs Machorton to bring a proposed questionnaire to the next Council meeting, and seek permission to have them printed and distributed.
- 4 **Public participation session.** County Councillor Ian Monson tried to explain what was happening in the Devolution debate, but this still seems very unclear. A consultation will be launched shortly, and it seems that his Council will make a decision in October. He once again promised to take up the issues of the blocked gullies on the B1111 outside Breckles Church, the Pingo Trail lay-by, a missing sign at Spinney Corner, subsidence on the B1111 between Spinney Farm and Shropham Hall, and overgrown verge on A1075 at the junction of Low Road.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 16 May 2016 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [10, Minutes of 14 December 2015] **50 mph speed limit on A1075.** The Clerk reported that, after several confusing messages about exactly what was proposed, he

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had now received details of a proposed Traffic Regulation Order which would introduce a 50 mph speed limit between Stow Bedon and Watton and from Watton to Ovington.

- 6.2 [7.4] **B1111 by Breckles Church.** The Clerk has reported he had now been told that an order has been placed to ‘refresh’ the worn SLOW signs, and this will be done during the summer months when the road temperature is more suitable. Reinstallation of the reflector posts has been programmed and will take place in accordance with the Defect Risk Register, in priority order and as resources allow.
- 6.3 [15] **Wheelie bin speed stickers.** The Clerk has signed and returned a Memorandum of Understanding with Norfolk County Council relating to the Speed Awareness Bin Sticker messages. Councillor Jessett took the signs and will ask people to affix them to their bins.
- 6.4 [4.2] **Footpath defects.** In April the Clerk reported the five separate issues with Public Rights of Way (Stow Bedon FP1: finger post at Mere Road, impassable section, Sandy Lane finger post and unauthorised diversion by Prince of Wales Lodge; and Stow Bedon FP2: finger post near Cherry Tree Farm). The NCC Public Rights of Way and Trail Maintenance team had responded “We have resolved the problem”, but not specified what the problem (singular) they resolved was. He has asked. With regard to the diversion of the Right of Way, it was pointed out that the applicant had told the Council Meeting on 18 April that he had obtained permission from the adjacent landowner for a prescriptive right of way (although he probably means “permissive path”, as a “prescriptive” easement is the acquisition of a right through long use or enjoyment, which must be at least 20 years, whereas a permissive path actually creates no rights at all). This claim is repeated in a document sent to Breckland Council and published on their planning website. However, a Councillor said he had spoken to the owner of the adjacent field who denied this categorically. The Clerk said he would suggest that Breckland asks the applicant to show them documentary evidence of this agreement.

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

- 7.1 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Training*.
- 7.2 Breckland Council: *Payment Remittance (Glass recycling)*.
- 7.3 Fields in Trust: *The Centenary Fields Programme - protecting valuable green space across the Country*.
- 7.4 Norfolk County Council: *Total Transport Project*.
- 7.5 Norfolk County Council: *Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with Town and Parish Councils*.
- 7.6 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account - 30 April - 31 May 2016*.
- 7.7 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver - 30 April - 31 May 2016*.
- 7.8 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Norfolk ALC Newsletter - 3 June 2016*.
- 7.9 Norfolk County Council: *Notice of road closure in Little Cressingham - Diversion route runs through the parish*.
- 7.10 The Pension Service: *Employers - your earnings records*. (Note: The Clerk has written asking for more information about the information they urgently require.)

8 **Planning.**

- 8.1 **3AG/2016/0005/A: Whews Farm, Caston.** Application for Erection of agricultural building (permitted development). It was **noted** that the Clerk has responded “No objection” under his delegated powers.
- 8.2 **3PL/2016/0649/HOU: Breckles House, Sandy Lane, Breckles.** Application for Front single storey extension. It was **resolved** that the Council had no objections.

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- 9 See above.
- 10 See above.
- 11 **Dog waste bin.** Councillor Jessett suggested that it would be a service to villagers and others if a bin were to be placed somewhere on the corner where the Village Sign is located, but well away from the bench. The Clerk pointed out that permission to position it on the highway (which includes the verge) would have to be obtained from Norfolk County Council, and Breckland Council would have to agree that it was suitable for their contractors to empty as and when necessary. It was **agreed** in principle to get a bin, and that Councillor Jessett should decide on the best position. Then the Clerk would go ahead and obtain the necessary permission and agreement.
- 12 **Stow Bedon Village Sign.** It appeared that no progress had been made since the last meeting. Councillor Morfoot said he would ask Mr Julian Sims if he would be prepared to undertake it.
- 13 **Annual Parish Meeting minutes.** The contents of the Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 16 May 2016, to be confirmed and signed at the next Parish Meeting, were **agreed**.
- 14 **Clerk's salary.** It was **noted** that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached an agreement for new pay scales for 2016-2017 to be implemented immediately and backdated to 1 April 2016 and new pay scales for 2017-2018 to be implemented from 1 April 2017. For the Clerk currently on Spinal Column Point 20, this would take his rates from 1 April 2016 to £9.999/hour (£2,399.76 p.a.) and from 1 April 2017 to £10.099/hour (£2,423.76 p.a.) if he remained on the same SCP.
- 15 **Finance.**
- 15.1 **Clerk's salary.** It was **resolved** that cheques numbered 100698 & 100699 totalling £714.99 (salary for 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016: £599.94; Mileage Allowance Payment for 9 February 2016 - 10 June 2016: £115.05) to the Clerk and HM Revenue & Customs be signed. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 112(2)*)
- 15.2 **Clerk's reimbursement.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100700 for £57.75 (Postage & Telephones: £24.70; Hall heating: £3.00; Gift for Internal Auditor: £30.00; VAT: £0.05) to the Clerk be signed in reimbursement for items paid on behalf of the Council for 6 December 2015 to 10 June 2016. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111*)
- 15.3 **Other.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100701 for payment of £100.00 to Norfolk County Council be signed, for speed limit stickers to be placed on wheelie bins on Mere Road and elsewhere in the parish. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111*)
- 15.4 **Budgets.** It was **agreed** to vire £100 from the Contingency budget line to Other to cover the cost of the Wheelie bin speed stickers.
- 15.5 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 30 April 2016 was **received**.
- 16 **Matters for consideration at next meeting.** Village Appraisal

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17 Next meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council was **confirmed** as Monday, **18 July 2016**, at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

Confirmed:

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Phil Childs, Chairman

18 July 2016

Scheduled future Meeting dates:

Monday, 18 July 2016	Monday, 17 October 2016	Monday, 16 January 2017*
Monday, 15 August 2016*	Monday, 14 November 2016	Monday, 20 February 2017
Monday, 19 September 2016	Monday, 12 December 2016	Monday, 20 March 2017

*If needed

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