

STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council on Monday, 17 October 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

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

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the apology offered by Councillor Haywood.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.** A pothole near Shropham Hall was reported, and the Clerk agreed to pass this message on to Norfolk County Council.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 18 July 2016 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [6.1] **Highway matters.** Having provided more information, NCC Highways has now managed to find the verge subsidence and the missing sign, and are deciding whether to take any action.
 - 6.2 [13] **External Audit.** The External Auditor has amended his comments, and the Clerk has published the documents as required.
 - 6.3 [6.1] **Pingo Trail lay-by.** Councillor Morfoot reported that extensive repairs had been carried out to the lay-by, and that work had also been done clearing part of the Trail and around the car park.
- 7 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:
 - 7.1 Gavin Barwell MP, Minister for Housing and Planning: *Neighbourhood Planning Bill*.
 - 7.2 Breckland Council: *Payment remittance*.
 - 7.3 Barclays Bank Plc: *Savings interest rates are reducing*.
 - 7.4 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account statement - 1-30 September 2016*.
 - 7.5 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account statement - 30 July - 30 September 2016*.
- 8 **Planning.**
 - 8.1 **3PL/2016/1103/HOU: Heath Farm, Breckles Heath, Stow Bedon.** Application for Proposed extension to existing dwelling. It was **noted** that the Clerk has responded "No objection" under his delegated powers.
 - 8.2 **3PL/2016/0901/F: Waters Edge, Mere Road, Stow Bedon.** Erection of bespoke energy efficient house and garage. Notice that this application has been withdrawn dated 5 October 2016 was **received**.
- 9 **Breckland Local Plan Working Group.** In Councillor Haywood's absence, Councillor White reported on the meeting they had attended, at which the Working Group had decided to recommend that the settlement boundary for Stow Bedon should be withdrawn. He explained that in order for Breckland to agree that a settlement could have a boundary it needed to meet three out of five criteria. It was accepted that the data on which the officers had originally based their view was largely inaccurate, and that there is public transport, and there will imminently be a community facility when the work on the church is completed, the

main point of discussion was the shop. Although Councillor White reported that this was well used by residents, Breckland refined its requirements and said that as this was more than 800 metres from the centre of the settlement it did not qualify. He then said that it was pointed out that the outcome of not having a settlement boundary should be that there is less development in the parish, which appeared to be what the objectors wanted to achieve. The Chairman thanked him for his efforts.

- 10 **Breckland Local Plan Preferred Sites and Settlement Boundaries consultation.** Councillor White and the Clerk explained that under these proposals the parish would come under Policy PD05B, and under these conditions development would be allowed where certain criteria are satisfied. basically this involved (a) it being within a cluster of 10 or more existing dwellings on an existing highway, (b) with appropriate support of local communities, (c) infilling a small undeveloped plot by up to 3 dwellings, (d) when considered alongside expected development and any other commitments, the cumulative development level was within 5% over the plan period (2011-2036), (e) the proposal does not harm a visually important gap in the rural scene. Development in isolated parts of the open countryside would be resisted unless it satisfied four other criteria (affordable housing, re-use of a rural building, replacement of an existing dwelling, and required in association with an existing rural enterprise). There was discussion about the 5% figure, and the Clerk said he had found out that the starting position was determined by taking the number of people in the parish in the 2011 census (290) and dividing by the assumed occupancy rate of 2.3, which makes 126. A 5% increase on this would make 6 additional dwellings in the parish as a whole over the period. There were, though, a number of inconsistencies in the consultation document, and parts which were unclearly defined, and the Clerk was instructed to comment accordingly and to ask for an explanatory response.
- 11 **Precept Consultation.** A document giving legal advice on the Government's proposals for *Precept Consultation* from the Norfolk Association of Local Councils was **received**. It was **agreed** that the Council was opposed to these sections of the Government's Technical Consultation Paper on *The 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement* and the Clerk was instructed to respond accordingly.
- 12 **Village Appraisal.** Councillor Jessett said that the organising committee had not yet met, but it was hoped to arrange this soon.
- 13 **Mere Road telephone kiosk.** After some discussion it was **agreed** that this should be fitted out with a notice board inside to allow residents to put up adverts for items for sale, events, or other matters. The Chairman agreed to do the necessary work, and the Village Appraisal team were asked to include information about this in their questionnaire.
- 14 **Venue for future Council Meetings.** As no member of the Council had looked into the suitability of using Stow Bedon church for meetings, it was **agreed** to leave this matter until after the planned Open Day on 10 December.
- 15 **Bus shelter.** The Chairman said he would look at the graffiti and report back on what needed to be done.
- 16 **Pensions Act 2008.** The Council **noted** that under this Act the Council must put staff who (a) earn over £192 per week (or £833 per month), (b) are aged 22 or over, and (c) are under state pension age, into a pension scheme and pay into it ('automatic enrolment') and that the Council's staging date is 1 April 2017. The Clerk does not meet all of these criteria, but could ask to join a pension scheme, and within six weeks after the staging date the Council must write to ask him to tell the Council in writing if he wants to do this. Within five months after the staging date the Council must complete an on-line declaration of compliance.

17 Finance.

- 17.1 **Dog waste bin.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100709 for £103.82 (£86.52 + £17.30 VAT) to Glasdon UK Limited be signed, in settlement of invoice no. 716876 for a dog waste bin. The Clerk said he was still waiting for permission to be given for the proposed location, before buying the post, postcrete, etc. (*Highways Act 1980 s. 185*)
- 17.2 **Budgets.** It was **agreed** to vire £115.00 from the Contingency to the Other budget line to cover the cost of the new dog waste bin.
- 17.3 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 30 September 2016 was **received**.

18 Matters for consideration at next meeting. None.

19 Next meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as Monday, 14 November 2016, at 7.30 p.m. in Caston Village Hall.

Confirmed:

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Phil Childs, Chairman

Monday, 14 November 2016

Scheduled future Meeting dates:

Monday, 14 November 2016

Monday, 20 February 2017

Monday, 12 December 2016

Monday, 20 March 2017

Monday, 16 January 2017*

*If needed