

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council held on Thursday, 12 August 2021 at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall, Church Road.

Present: Councillors: Harold Smith (Chairman), Paul Barley, Jon Ford, Sharon Ford.
Clerk: Julian Gibson.

Absent: Cllr. Paul Barnard.

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the reason for the apology for absence offered by Cllr. Barnard.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.**
 - 4.1 Breckland Cllr. Phil Cowen highlighted the recent prosecutions his council had undertaken against fly-tippers. The Clerk said that in his experience the service clearing fly-tipping on public land was excellent, but mentioned that he had still not heard of any action being taken regarding his having reported the Untidy Site on Illington Road, which was a magnet for fly tipping, and Cllr. Cowen said he would look into this. He also said that his council had used the opportunity of staff having to work at home to refurbish Elizabeth House. Finally, he said he had contacted Enforcement concerning their initial reluctance to carry out a site visit to 4 Manor Cottages, and was pleased that this had now been rectified (see item 10).
 - 4.2 Regarding the damage to the Trod (item 6.2), County Cllr. Fabian Eagle confirmed that Highways would be inspecting when the development was completed and ensure that the developer carried out any necessary repairs. He said that following the elections some reorganisation of his council had taken place, and he had been appointed Member Champion - Rural Economy.
 - 4.3 A member of the public said that he had been able to help Cllr. Barnard with his project to repaint areas of the Village Sign by providing picture of it when it was new.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 8 July 2021 were **confirmed**, and **signed** by the Chairman.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [4.1] **Foul odour emanating from the stream at Stonebridge.** The Environment Agency has confirmed that they had received two reports regarding this issue before the Clerk contacted them, and have been liaising with the site manager at the Mill Stone Green development, who was already investigating a problem with the sewage treatment plant. On 16 July they tested the water quality both up- and downstream and found no issues – oxygen levels were normal and ammonia levels were very low. There was no odour at the time. They will monitor routinely through regular sampling. They have asked for any recurrence to be reported to them as soon as possible.
 - 6.2 [4.2] **Damage to the Trod.** Three areas of the Trod have been marked with white paint, presumably prior to repairs being carried out.
 - 6.3 [6.3] **Flooding on Peddars Way.** The NCC Trails team has visited. They are considering levelling and improving the path from Illington Road to the bottom of the hill where they hope to insert a French drain along one of the bridge piers to a large soakaway in the north east corner. Coupled with the addition of a camber it is hoped that this will ensure that there is always a walkable section.
 - 6.4 [9] **Platinum Jubilee.** The Clerk advised the Council of the Queen's Green Canopy scheme (www.queensgreencanopy.org) which was encouraging tree planting as a part of the Jubilee celebrations. The Parish has a tree (by the entrance to the Hall) planted to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, and the Council planted a *quercus*

robur at Letchmere Corner for the present Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Clerk was asked to see if he could get permission to plant another tree at that location.

6.5 [7 Minutes of 6 May 2021] **Deer Sign.** The Clerk reported that he had found that the sign was being activated by vehicles driving away from it in addition to those approaching, which resulted in the battery being drained faster, but he had arranged for Westcotec to rectify this, and it was now back in use.

7 Correspondence. The following correspondence was received:

- 7.1 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Business accounts - at a glance* - Your balances on 30 June 21.
- 7.2 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account* - 29 May-30 June 2021.
- 7.3 Norfolk Constabulary: *Community Update* - July 2021
- 7.4 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Share Certificate no. C-1324.*
- 7.5 Campaign to Protect Rural England: *Country Voices* - Summer 2021.
- 7.6 Campaign to Protect Rural England: *Fieldwork* - Summer 2021.
- 7.7 Norfolk Association of Local Councils Well-being Initiative: *Details required.*
- 7.8 Norfolk County Council: *Temporary closure of B1111 Road from Larling to Bridgham in the Parish of Roudham & Larling - water communication pipe repair works (STRO5248)*

8 Planning. None.

9 Trod outside Stonebridge Camp/Mill Stone Green development. In response to the Clerk asking which of the approved plans the developer was going to be required to follow when it came to the location of the Trod Breckland initially said that the understood that the offsite works had been completed, because NCC as Highway Authority, had sent the developer a Final Certificate confirming that all the off-site highway works required by the planning permission and covered by the Small Highway Works Agreement had been completed to a satisfactory standard, and returned the £6,000 deposit. In reality, the required works were the relocating of the Trod broadly along the required visibility splay, and creation of a crossing point (involving work on each side of the road) to the north of the entrance to the site, and none of this has been done. Both Breckland and Highways have told the Clerk that they are looking into the matter, and he will continue to press for confirmation w=that the work will be carried out.

10 4 Manor Cottages, Church Road. Several residents had alerted the Clerk to some development which has taken place at 4 Manor Cottages, where a 2-metre-high fence has been constructed round a paddock directly adjacent to the road, and the land inside cleared, turned into hardstanding, with a large number of second-hand cars brought it, in connection with a dealership advertised on the internet. He and a number of the residents had reported this to Breckland Planning Enforcement, and the Clerk had received an email from the Director of Planning and Building Control, saying that an Enforcement Officer had visited the site on 29 July. Breckland considered that a material change of use of land had taken place. The owner had been advised to cease the use of the land and remove all vehicles, hardstanding, etc from the land. He was also advised that he had the option of submitting a retrospective planning application, and was asked to respond by 16 August. It was **agreed** that the Council was pleased that Planning Enforcement was now taking action in regard to these breaches of planning control, hoped that this would be pursued with the utmost vigour, and looked forward to seeing the site restored to its original state as soon as possible.

11 Minute Book. It was **noted** that the Clerk had bound the Council Minutes for 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2021 and will deposit these with the other Council papers at the Norfolk Record Office in due course.

12 Finance.

12.1 **Section 137.** An appeal letter from MAGPAS (Mid Anglia General Practitioner Accident Service) was received. In accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, it was **resolved** that cheque number 100805 for £75.00 to MAGPAS be signed as a grant, which in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area and its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 137*)

12.2 **Budgets.** It was **agreed** to vire £212 from Contingency to Other budget line to cover the cost of padlocks for the Deer Sign and the annual maintenance fee for the defibrillator.

12.3 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 31 July 2021 was **received**.

13 **Matters for consideration at next meeting.** None.

14 **Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 9 September 2021, at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall.

Confirmed: 

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Harold Smith (Chairman)

14 October 2021

Future Meeting dates:

Thursday, 14 October 2021

Thursday, 9 December 2021

Thursday, 10 February 2022

Thursday, 11 November 2021

Thursday, 13 January 2022

Thursday, 10 March 2022