

## WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council on Thursday, 10 March 2016 at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall, Church Road.

**Present:** Councillors Will Townsend (Chairman), Sharon Ford, Jean Gray, Ann Schofield, Harold Smith (Vice-Chairman)  
Julian Gibson (Clerk)

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** None.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** The Chairman declared an interest in items 10.2 and 10.3 as they related to payments to his wife.
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.** A member of the public said that he had enquired at the Land Registry and found that the plot of land between the Manor Farm development and Croxton Road, amounting to some 5 acres was owned by Norfolk County Council and wondered why they had bought it. He left the Title Number with the Clerk who offered to try to find out.  
**Post meeting note:** Subsequently the Clerk obtained a plan from the Land Registry showing that the Title Number in question related only to the two small triangles of verge each side of Church Road at its junction with Croxton Road, and not to the plot of land believed to be owned by Mr Andy Mexhome.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 11 February 2016 were **confirmed and signed.**
- 6 **Matters arising.**
  - 6.1 [6.2] **Transparency Fund.** The Village Hall committee has agreed that the Council should arrange for an internet connection in the Hall. The Clerk will continue to try to get through to BT to ask them to make the necessary connection.
  - 6.2 [10] **Millennium Row.** The Clerk has as requested purchased a Field Maple which Mr Phil Foster, Councillors Townsend & Smith and he had planted in position 10 of Millennium Row to replace the one that had died. They also inserted new posts for the labels for two trees to replace those which had rotted.
  - 6.3 6.3] **Gully in Hilda Raker Close.** The recent heavy rain has once again created a flooding issue. Councillor Gray has been on to Flagship, which initially tried to deny any responsibility and pass it over to Breckland Council or Norfolk County Council. However they, of course, said that the land was owned by Flagship, who eventually admitted they had a responsibility, but did not say what they would do. She and the Clerk both said they would keep chasing Flagship.
- 7 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received:**
  - 7.1 Norfolk County Council: *NHS Health Checks campaign.*
  - 7.2 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Service to Members update.*
  - 7.3 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *What we do for our Councils.*
  - 7.4 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Café Clusters.*
  - 7.5 County Officer, Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Letter re. Election to Executive Committee.*
  - 7.6 Tower Mint Limited: *HM Queen Elizabeth II 90<sup>th</sup> birthday commemorative medal for schools and councils.*
  - 7.7 *Clerks & Councils Direct - March 2016.*
  - 7.8 Norfolk County Council: *The Norfolk County Council Local List for Validation of Planning Applications Consultation Draft 2016: Invitation to make Representations.*
  - 7.9 Forestry Commission: *New Forest Design Plan for Hockham statutory consultation.*

- 7.10 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account Statement* - 30 January - 29 February 2016.  
7.11 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account Statement* - 30 January - 29 February 2016.

## 8 Planning.

- 8.1 **3PL/2015/1446/LB: Dog and Partridge Public House, Watton Road.** Application for listed building consent to Create disabled access to the dining room. Notice of Appeal (ref: APP/F2605/Y/16/3144588) against non-determination of the application dated 24 February 2016 was **received**.
- 8.2 **3DM/2016/0001/DEM: Wretham Camp, Croxton Road.** Application for Demolition of buildings 12 & 13 B and the removal of eleven foundation slabs (permitted development). It was **resolved** that the Council had no objections.
- 8.3 **3PL/2016/0248/VAR: Grove Farm Nurseries, Thetford Road, Wretham. Application for Erection of dwelling and garage block (revised scheme).** The Clerk explained that notice of this planning application had arrived only that day, and therefore did not appear on the agenda, meaning that the Council could not legally make a decision. However, he could respond using delegated power after consulting with members, and he therefore took this opportunity to consult. As required, the resultant action taken would be reported to Council at the next meeting.

## 9 Broadband.

Following a recommendation by Mr Jon Ford, who had been looking into Broadband issues for the Council, it was **agreed** that the Council should recommend that parishioners should register their interest in getting a superfast broadband service with three companies, namely:

- BT (<http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/expression-gen.aspx>),
- Virgin (<https://cablemystreet.virginmedia.com/#!/register>), and
- WiSpire (<https://wispire.co.uk/register-interest/>).

These companies require a specific number of people to register interest before they will even enter into a discussion about the possibility of providing broadband, so it would be a good way to identify the level of interest, without any commitment at this stage. The Editor of *Wretham Village News* said he would publicise this recommendation.

The Council also **agreed** that the Clerk should write to Jesse Norman MP, Chairman of the House of Commons *Culture, Media & Sport Committee*, expressing its disappointment that there was no prospect of the parish receiving improved broadband speeds in the foreseeable future, and regretting that BT has been allowed to decide on the method used for the *Better Broadband for Norfolk* programme and chosen the one which provided the greatest profit for them rather than the best service to rural areas.

## 10 Finance.

- 10.1 **Grass cutting.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100615 for £482.15 (£401.79 + £80.36 VAT) to Serco be signed in settlement of invoice no. 91239488 for grass cutting. (Public Health Act 1875 s. 164 & *Local Government Act 1972* LGA 1972 Sch. 14 para. 27)

*The Chairman vacated the Chair which was taken by the Vice-Chairman.*

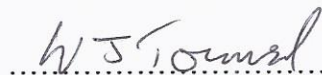
- 10.2 **Transparency Code.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100616 for £450.12 to Joy Townsend be signed, for setting up a new Village Website capable of displaying all the Council documents required by the Transparency Code, including the website cost and uploading documents each month for 2015-16. **Note:** this has been funded by the grant from the Transparency Fund. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)

- 10.3 **Transparency Code.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100617 for £55.88 (£46.57 + £9.31 VAT) to Joy Townsend be signed, in reimbursement for her having paid the invoice from Wix.com dated 15 February 2016 for the new Village Website. **Note:** the Council will be able to apply for a grant for this from the Transparency Fund in the next financial year. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)

*The Chairman resumed the Chair.*

- 10.4 **Clerk's reimbursement.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100618 for £48.36 (£11.22 Postage & Telephones; £30.85 Millennium Row tree; £6.29 VAT) to the Clerk be signed, as reimbursement for items paid on behalf of the Council for 3 December 2015 to 3 March 2016. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)
- 10.5 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 29 February 2016 was **received**. Councillor Smith asked whether the fact that from October 2014 glass could be now collected in the black wheelie bins had impacted the recycling credits received. The Clerk said it had made an adverse impact. **Post meeting note:** In the financial year 2013/14 the bottle bank had collected 9.75 tonnes, in 2014/15 during which the change took place only 6.82 tonnes (-30%) and in 2015/16 4.41 tonnes (down another 35%).
- 11 **Matters for consideration at next meeting.** Update on STANTA visit.
- 12 **Next meeting.** The next meeting will be on **Thursday, 14 April 2016, at 7.00 p.m.** in **Wretham Village Hall.**

**Confirmed:**

  
.....

**Will Townsend (Chairman)**

14 April 2016

**Future Meeting dates:**

Thursday, 14 April 2016	Thursday, 11 August 2016	Thursday, 8 December 2016
Thursday, 12 May 2016*	Thursday, 8 September 2016	Thursday, 12 January 2017
Thursday, 9 June 2016	Thursday, 6 October 2016	Thursday, 9 February 2017
Thursday, 14 July 2016	Thursday, 10 November 2016	Thursday, 9 March 2017

\* Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Meeting of the Parish Council