

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council held on Thursday, 25 July 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall, Church Road.

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

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the reason for absence offered by Councillor Sharon Ford.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.**
 - 4.1 The Chairman of the Wretham Village Hall Trustees spoke about item 10 on the agenda and said that the Trustees would be delighted to allow the Council to place a community Public Access Defibrillator (cPAD) on the exterior of the Hall, if it so agreed. The Trustees would agree to pay the on-going cost of the electricity supply to the cabinet, which is necessary to keep the cPAD battery warm and in good order, and if asked, would consider arranging a fund-raising event.
 - 4.2 County Councillor Fabian Eagle mentioned the "Slow down" signs he had purchased with his discretionary budget, to be deployed in parishes if they wished.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 12 June 2019 were **confirmed** and **signed** by the Chairman.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [6.2, Minutes of 11 October 2018] **Millennium Row Tree no. 10.** The tree planted in February has also died. The contractor has agreed to source a replacement for one final attempt in this location, but suggests that if this too fails there must be some significant contamination and so it would be best to accept that it is not possible to have a tree in this spot. He will plant the tree at the appropriate time (probably autumn), and the Clerk will advise the original donors.
 - 6.2 [6.2, Minutes of 6 December 2018] **Mill Stone Green.** The Clerk updated the Council with regard to two ongoing issues on this development site.
 - 6.2.1 **Village Hall contribution.** A payment of £80,000 towards the expansion of the Village Hall had been agreed as part of Planning Permission dated 20 October 2008, and was included in a s106 agreement, with index linking from the date of signature. Subsequently, without advising this Council, Breckland Council agreed a new s106 agreement linked with an application ostensibly to extend the time limit, given permission on 28 January 2013. When asked, Breckland confirmed that the £80,000 index-linked was still part of the agreement, but the Clerk found that this indexing was only effective from the new date. The index linking is based on the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Building Cost Information Service All in Tender Index, to which the Clerk does not have access, but using the Retail Price Index as a rough guide, this appears to indicate that (as of today) some £12,000 less will be available to the Hall Trustees for any future extension.
 - 6.2.2 **Affordable housing.** The original 2008 Permission included a requirement for provision of eight affordable houses. As part of the 2013 Time Limit permission, this was reduced to six dwellings. The Clerk was, therefore, surprised to find that these dwellings were being advertised on the open market and queried this with Breckland. He was told that an application Permission given on 25 November 2016

had agreed that this covenant would be “suspended” for a period of three years, this period ending on 23 November 2019. The Clerk had consulted with District Councillor Phil Cowen (a professional architect), and subsequently with Simon Wood, Interim Director of Planning and Building Control, and Jon Berry, Head of Development Management (both of Capita but working for Breckland Council), none of whom could understand how the commitment to deliver the affordable housing could be met at the end of the suspension period if the houses had already been sold. Breckland Council needed to get legal advice and has now said that under section 106BA of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), “suspended” meant completely lifted, on condition that the whole development was completed by the November 2019 date. This, the Clerk suggested, might account for the increased activity on the site recently, but it appears that approximately seven of the 27 dwellings have yet to be started, with others still waiting to be completed, not to mention the play equipment and site landscaping, so it seems possible that the development will not be finished in the months, in which case it is not clear what Breckland will do other than forget about affordable housing all together.

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

- 7.1 Norfolk County Council: *Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with Town and Parish Councils.*
- 7.2 Norfolk Constabulary: *All Saints & Wayland Newsletter* - June 2019.
- 7.3 Norfolk Constabulary: *Breckland District Community Speedwatch Monthly Returns* - May 2019.
- 7.4 *Clerks & Councils Direct* - July 2019.
- 7.5 Norfolk County Council: *Parish Roadside Tree Inspections.*
- 7.6 Graham Construction/Highways England: *Notification of start of works - A11 - A134 to B1111.*
- 7.7 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Business accounts - at a glance - balances as at 28 June 2019.*
- 7.8 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account statement* - 1-28 June 2019.
- 7.9 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account statement* - 1-28 June 2019.
- 7.10 County Councillor Fabian Eagle: *‘Slow down’ signs.* The Clerk was asked to tell Councillor Eagle that the parish would like to be on the list of those using these signs.
- 7.11 Email from resident: *Re speeding.* The Council once again considered this issue, in particular with reference to the death which occurred over the Easter period. The Clerk was asked to write to NCC Highways expressing shock that the chevron bearing the marks of the collision with the motorcyclist’s helmet had been re-erected in its original position, and to ask that a proper risk assessment be carried out along the full length of the A1075 within the parish with all possible measures being considered.

8 Audit. A note from PKF Littlejohn LLP, External Auditors, notifying that they have received and logged the notification of exempt status for the year ended 31 March 2019 was **received**. It was **noted** that as a result, unless they receive any correspondence from local electors during the period for the exercise for public rights, we will not hear from them again until the planning for the 2019/20 review gets underway.

9 Planning. 3PL/2019/0721/F: The Estate Office. Larkshall, Wretham. Extension to existing pet food warehouse. It was **resolved** that the Council had no objections.

10 Defibrillator. The Clerk said that he received almost weekly emails from businesses selling defibrillators, but suggested using Community Heartbeat Trust, a registered charity with a turnover of nearly £1m, dedicated to providing community defibrillators. They would provide a training session for any number of residents who were interested, and also provide counselling in the event that the device had to be used by somebody. As a guide the cost would be around £2,400 (plus VAT). He said that the defibrillator would remain in the Council’s

ownership and would simply be mounted on the outside of the Hall because the Council does not have any suitable premises of its own it could use. As a result the Council would be able to reclaim the VAT involved. The Council would also have to pay for the connection of the necessary electricity supply to the appropriate position in the Hall, and the Trustees were happy with this. Awards for All frequently provide grants to parish councils for the purchase and installation of cPADs, apparently covering the full cost, although there was an argument that running an appeal would be a good way of getting a sense of community ownership and involvement. It was **agreed** in principle to proceed with this, and the Clerk was asked to produce a proposal for a way forward. The editor of *Wretham Village News* will invite donations towards the cost to be sent to the Council.

11 Finance.

11.1 **Training.** It was **resolved** that cheque numbered 100743 for £9.90 to Norfolk Society of Local Council Clerks be signed, being this Council's share of the cost of the Clerk attending the Norfolk Local Councils 2019 Conference on 12 July 2019. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111*)

11.2 **Training.** It was **resolved** that cheque numbered 100744 for £19.20 (£16.00 + £3.20 VAT) to SLCC Enterprises Limited be signed, being this Council's share of the cost of the Clerk attending the SLCC Regional Training Seminar on 4 September 2019. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111*)

11.3 **Section 137.** In accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, it was **resolved** that cheque number 100745 for £75.00 to Age UK Norfolk be signed as a grant towards the charity's work in support of older people in the community, 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*)

11.4 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 30 June 2019 was received.

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

13 **Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday, 12 September 2019, at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall.**

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Sharon Ford
Harold Smith (Chairman)

12 September 2019

Future Meeting dates:

Thursday, 12 September 2019	Thursday, 9 January 2020
Thursday, 10 October 2019	Thursday, 13 February 2020
Thursday, 14 November 2019	Thursday, 12 March 2020
Thursday, 12 December 2019	