

# WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

1 April 2021

**Members of the public are invited to attend** a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council to be held **via video link** on Thursday, 8 April 2021 at 7.00 p.m. for the purpose of transacting the following business. Join the meeting using computer, iPad, mobile phone or the like, via this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81938624287>, or using a land-line telephone, dial 0203 695 0088 and follow the instructions, entering meeting number 819 3862 4287.



Julian Gibson

Clerk to the Council

The Jays, Watton Road, Wretham, Thetford, NORFOLK IP24 1QS (01953 499980)

## Agenda

1. **To consider accepting** the reasons for any apologies for absence.
2. **Declarations of interest** in items on the agenda. Members are no longer required to declare personal or prejudicial interests but are to declare any new Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Interests that are not currently included in the Register of Interests. Members are reminded that under the Code of Conduct they are not to participate in the whole of an agenda item in which they have an Interest. In the interests of transparency, Members may also wish to declare any other interests they have in relation to an agenda item, in support of the seven Nolan Principles, namely Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership.
3. **To consider** any applications made by Members for a dispensation to allow them to participate and vote on an agenda item in spite of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.
4. **Public participation session.** The Council's Standing Orders allow members of the public to make representations, answer questions, and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. This session should not exceed 20 minutes, and members of the public are requested to keep their comments brief. Please note that the Council is unable to make a decision binding in law at this meeting unless the item is already included on the published agenda. It can, though, place the matter on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting.
5. **To confirm** and **sign** the minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 11 March 2021.
6. **To report** matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda: **for information only.**
  - 6.1. [Minutes of 14 January 2021, 8.1] **Deer sign.** The Clerk has now taken delivery of and deployed the Deer sign, initially in Wretham, but it will alternate with locations in Stow Bedon & Breckles on a monthly basis. As there are eight approved locations there is little chance of over-familiarity developing.
  - 6.2. [10] **Fly-tipping on land south of Illington Road.** Unfortunately, nothing has changed, so the Clerk has written to the Director of the company which owns the land at his home address, saying that if this is not cleared there is a risk of it attracting further fly-tippers, and that the Council would have to consider reporting it to Breckland Council Enforcement as an "Untidy site".
7. **To receive** the following correspondence:
  - 7.1. HM Revenue & Customs: *Important information for all employers* - (regarding year-end).

8. **To receive** Planning Applications, planning decisions and correspondence, and **to decide** on comments to be made where necessary.
  - 8.1. **3PL/2021/0369/F: Land a Thorpe Camp, Croxton Road Wretham.** Upgrade to existing refuelling and vehicle wash down facilities. **To note** that, having consulted with Members, the Clerk has responded “No objections” using delegated powers.
  - 8.2. **3PL/2021/0455/F: Land adjacent to Tofts Barns, Church Road, Wretham.** New build eco-house and ancillary garage (self/custom build).
9. **To receive** a message from the Norfolk County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, concerning *1 million Trees for Norfolk* and **to consider** whether the Council should be involved in this.
10. **To receive** notice from Luke Hall MP, Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government stating that the Government has decided not to bring forward emergency legislation to extend the regulations permitting virtual meetings from 7 May 2021. This is despite,
  - 10.1. Coronavirus full page Government newspaper adverts stating, “Every online meeting is making a difference”;
  - 10.2. letters being sent to people previously advised to shield, stating, “It is important that you continue to keep the number of social interactions that you have low”;
  - 10.3. the route-map out of lockdown saying that organised indoor meetings (and therefore the opening of village halls) will not be permitted until 17 May at the earliest;
  - 10.4. Scottish local authorities having had express provision to meet remotely prior to the pandemic, and the Welsh Government having since passed legislation coming into force on 1 May and makes express indefinite provision for Welsh local authorities to meet remotely;
  - 10.5. MPs being able to continue to attend the House of Commons remotely until 21 June; and
  - 10.6. The Speaker having announced that House of Commons Select Committees are to continue meeting virtually until 17 September.
11. **To note** that Local Government lawyers have asked the High Court to rule that, as there is nothing in current legislation that actually debars Councils from meeting virtually, no changes are required and that virtual meetings are legally permitted under existing laws. The Court has agreed that this case will be fast-tracked, and a decision is expected by the end of April.
12. **To consider** (in case it is deemed not to be legal to hold meetings virtually from 7 May onwards) rescheduling the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to a day and time between 1-6 May inclusive. (This meeting must be held on a day in May.)
13. **To consider** (in case it is deemed not to be legal to hold meetings virtually from 7 May onwards, and as it may well be impossible on occasions to, (a) find a suitable place for the Council to meet physically, or (b) to muster a quorum at such a meeting as a result of Coronavirus concerns) delegating all decisions on any matter where delegation is legally possible to the Clerk, and **to agree** any necessary conditions relating to consulting members.
14. **To note** that the Government has issued a 12-week “Call for evidence” relating to virtual meetings, and **to agree** that the Clerk should respond on behalf of the Council asking for Parish Councils to have the power to take this decision in relation to all future meetings, so that this option exists, whether or not the Council at the time decides to make use of it.
15. **Finance**
  - 15.1. **To approve** payment of £113.54 to Norfolk Association of Local Councils, in settlement of their invoice no. 4926, being the membership subscription for 2021-22.
  - 15.2. **To approve** payment of £36.00 to the Campaign to Protect Rural England, being the subscription for the year ended 10 May 2022.

15.3. **To note** that on or around 19 April 2020 the Information Commissioner's Office will collect £35.00 from the Council's account by direct debit, being the data protection fee due under the *Data Protection (Charges and Information) Regulations 2018*.

15.4. **To note** that on 7 April 2021 Barclays Bank Plc will deduct £1.81 from the Council's account, being the overdraft interest due (see item 7.2. of Minutes of 11 March 2021).

15.5. **To receive** the Monthly Financial Report.

16. **To decide** on any matters for consideration at next meeting.

17. **To confirm** the date of the next meeting as Thursday, 13 May 2021 at 7.00 p.m. via video link.

**Future Meeting dates:**

Thursday, 8 April 2021

Thursday, 13 May 2021

Thursday, 10 June 2021

Thursday, 8 July 2021

Thursday, 12 August 2021

Thursday, 9 September 2021

Thursday, 14 October 2021

Thursday, 11 November 2021

Thursday, 9 December 2021

Thursday, 13 January 2022

Thursday, 10 February 2022

Thursday, 10 March 2022