

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council on Thursday, 6 October 2016 at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall, Church Road.

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

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** None.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None.
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.** A member of the public again raised concerns about speeding vehicles through the village, especially HGVs, and especially at the southern end where the limit was 50 mph. Every person present then spoke of a dangerous situation that they had personally been involved with in recent weeks. The Chairman said he had attended a meeting of Speedwatch Coordinators at which he had met PC Amy Lucas, the newly appointed Community Engagement Officer, and the Clerk said he would contact her to see if there was any way she could help to arrange for some enforcement.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 14 September 2016 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [6.4] **Robert Vincent Beaupre Memorial Seat.** Mr Foster has now secured the bench with chains and padlocks, to which the Clerk has keys.
 - 6.2 [8.2] **Stonebridge Camp, Thetford Road, Stonebridge.** District Councillor Phil Cowen has confirmed that this matter will go before Breckland Planning Committee, and not be determined by the officers.
 - 6.3 [12.4] **Remembrance events.** The Clerk reported that the Royal Air Force Association service to commemorate the Czech and Polish airmen who are buried in the churchyard will take place on Wednesday 9 November at 10:30 a.m., and the joint Royal British Legion service would this year be held at St Ethelbert's Church, Wretham, on Sunday 13 November, also at 10.30 a.m. The Chairman will lay the wreath on behalf of the parish at each event.
- 7 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:
 - 7.1 CPRE Norfolk: *URGENT - Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Consultation.*
 - 7.2 Norfolk Citizen's Advice: *Appeal letter.*
 - 7.3 *Clerks & Councils Direct - September 2016.*
 - 7.4 Norfolk Constabulary - Attleborough Safer Neighbourhood Team: *Minutes of the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) Meeting - 7 September 2016.*
 - 7.5 Gavin Barwell MP, Minister for Housing and Planning: *Neighbourhood Planning Bill.*
 - 7.6 Breckland Council: *Payment remittance.*
 - 7.7 Barclays Bank Plc: *Savings interest rates are reducing.*
 - 7.8 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account statement - 1-30 September 2016.*
 - 7.9 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account statement - 30 July - 30 September 2016.*
- 8 **Planning.** 3PL/2016/1133/F: **Manor Farm, Church Road, Wretham.** Application for Proposed Development of three detached dwellings. (Revised scheme). It was **resolved** that the Council objected on the grounds that the street scene is typically relatively small houses

on relatively large plots. This plot was originally agreed for a terrace of three affordable houses, and the “revised scheme” is completely different, seeking to shoehorn three large detached houses with garages into small plots, thus creating a “housing estate” feel which is completely alien to East Wretham.

- 9 **Breckland Local Plan Preferred Sites and Settlement Boundaries Consultation.** After some consideration, the Council was content with the proposals which would apply to the Parish (being subject to Policy PD05B), and so **agreed** not to make any comment.
- 10 **CPRE Norfolk Campaign.** A letter from CPRE Norfolk headed *Join us in opposing damaging new housing targets* was **received**, and it was **agreed** to give support to the campaign to ensure that no new sites are allocated for house building in revised local plans to 2036 until all existing allocations in current core strategies have been developed. The Clerk will sign and return the pledge letter to CPRE.
- 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**. The Clerk said that he had already submitted a Freedom of Information request to the Department for Communities and Local Government asking how many residents of the Parish of Wretham had expressed concern about excessive (i.e. over 2%) increases in the Precept and requested the Government to impose mandatory referendums. 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 **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.
- 13 **Finance.**
- 13.1 **Training.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100642 for £60.60 to Mr Philip Foster be signed, in reimbursement of his costs in securing the Robert Vincent Beaupre Memorial Seat to the ground. (*Public Health Act 1875 s.164*)
- 13.2 **Telephone.** The Clerk was able to report that it was no longer necessary to make this payment to BT. He had received a bill for a total of £121.24, but this included £32.16 overcharges on previous bills and in compensation for the various errors, BT had now agreed to waive all outstanding charges. He had now received an additional bill showing a nil balance. He is still awaiting a direct debit authority form which the Council **agreed** would be signed in order to avoid any delays in future payments and the penalty which would be involved. The Clerk pointed out that should BT pass any incorrect charges a refund would always be provided by the bank, under the Direct Debit Guarantee Scheme.
- 13.3 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 30 September 2016 was **received**.
- 14 **Matters for consideration at next meeting.**
- 14.1 Grant to Wretham PCC towards the cost of maintaining the Wretham Churchyard, and possible return of unused grant paid for the maintenance of the Illington Churchyard.

14.2 Councillor Townsend passed the Clerk a letter of resignation from the post of Chairman, saying that he had other commitments which would prevent him being available for number of future meetings, and that he did not feel it would be appropriate for him to miss meetings while holding the position. The Election of a new Chairman of the Council will therefore be the first item of business on the agenda of the next meeting.

15 **Next meeting.** The next meeting will be on **Thursday, 10 November 2016**, at **7.00 p.m.** in **Wretham Village Hall.**

Confirmed:

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..... (Chairman)
10 November 2016

Future Meeting dates:

Thursday, 10 November 2016 Thursday, 9 February 2017
Thursday, 8 December 2016 Thursday, 9 March 2017
Thursday, 12 January 2017

