

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council on Thursday, 11 February 2016 at 7.00 p.m.
in Wretham Village Hall, Church Road.

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

In the absence of the Council Chairman, the Vice-Chairman assumed the Chair.

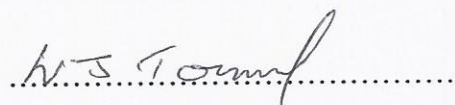
- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the reason for absence given by Councillor Townsend.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None.
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.** County Councillor Ian Monson said that the proposal to be put to a meeting of his full Council on 22 January was for an increase in Council Tax of just under 4%, and he hoped that the bulk of this would be spent on care services. He once again expressed concern that there were no plans for improving broadband in the parish. District Councillor Phil Cowen joined the discussion and expressed his dissatisfaction with the way that BT had carried out the Better Broadband for Norfolk, but neither councillor was able to suggest any reasonably priced alternative. The Clerk pointed out that parishioners were helping to fund the improved speed for other users nationwide through taxation, and in Norfolk and Breckland via Council Tax, but were going to receive no benefit themselves. Councillor Cowen expressed concerns that the straw for the Snetterton power station was only going to be allowed on the site from the A11, which could mean that those coming from the north would use the A1075 or even Illington Road to access the A11. Councillor Cowen said that the increase in the Breckland share of Council Tax would amount to around 6p/week. Finally he mentioned the Breckland Local Plan, and urged the Council and individuals to take part in the consultation process.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 7 January 2016 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [14, Minutes of 14 November 2015] **New notice boards.** The Clerk has now submitted the Awards for All application form applying for a 100% grant of £3,086.84 and received an acknowledgement.
 - 6.2 [6.2 Minutes of 10 December 2015] **Transparency Fund.** The Council's revised bid for £1,838.98 from the Transparency Fund has been successful, and the grant paid into the bank account. The Clerk will now go ahead with purchasing the items and setting up the telephone line and internet connection. The Clerk will contact the Village Hall Committee to ask for their agreement to have this installed in the Hall.
 - 6.3 [4] **Gully in Hilda Raker Close.** The Clerk emailed Norfolk County Council, but it was confirmed that this is not an adopted road, so he emailed Flagship Housing who are responsible for it. He received no reply, so chased and eventually spoke with Sandy Maynard, who manages the properties in the Close. She has advised that a Ground Worker will attend either on or before 18 February.
 - 6.4 [6.2] **Broadband at Stonebridge Camp.** The Clerk managed to speak to Les Béres, who was under the misapprehension that Wretham was going to have its broadband access dramatically improved by the BT roll-out. He was advised this was not the case and said he would look into it.

- 6.5 [6.4] **Community Speedwatch Area sign.** The Clerk obtained a replacement sign from the Community Speedwatch Administrator, and this has been put up.
- 6.6 [11] **Clean for the Queen.** A litter-picking has been booked for Saturday 12 March, starting at the Village Hall at 9.30 a.m. Councillor Ford has kindly invited all who participate to refreshments at Station House after the event. The Clerk has written a piece for *Wretham Village News* appealing for volunteers.
- 7 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:
- 7.1 *Clerks & Council Direct* - January 2016.
- 7.2 Norfolk County Council: *Wretham - Highways and Community Ranger Visit* - w/c 29 February 2016.
- 7.3 St Ethelbert's Church, Wretham, Parochial Church Council: *Letter of thanks for grant.*
- 7.4 Norfolk County Council: *Youth Parliament - Making our Mark.*
- 7.5 Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited: *External Audit for Smaller Authorities.*
- 7.6 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account statement* - 1-29 January 2016.
- 7.7 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account statement* - 1-29 January 2016.
- 7.8 Breckland Council: *Planning Application documentation.* The Clerk will respond saying that paper copies of Applications are essential unless Breckland is intending to fund the provision of projection equipment and a screen.
- 8 **Planning. 3AG/2016/0001/AG: Mere Farm, Larkshall.** Application under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 for the Erection of an agricultural shed (1 of 4). It was **noted** that, given that the details of the application submitted were as seen at the previous meeting (other than the change to an agricultural application), the Clerk has, as agreed, used his delegated authority to respond 'No objection'
- 9 **Broadband.** The Clerk had learned that a parishioner had, on his own behalf, been lobbying Norfolk County Council and Elizabeth Truss, MP. Ms Truss had obtained a letter from John Whittingdale, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, as a result, but this did not offer any new information. It would appear that BT has no intention of installing fibre cable to Cabinet 2 at the south end of Millennium Row (their website says 'we don't have any plan for your area yet', but the published plan seems to cover all they are going to do), the satellite voucher scheme would only be available to houses where the current speed is under 2Mb/s (and the voucher would only cover up to £400 of the full installation and first year's costs), and that the G4 mobile phone network does not cover most of the parish. BT might be prepared to consider co-funding fibre access if the parishioners were prepared to join together and pay the difference between the total cost and BT's commercial model. However, given the relatively small population, the fact that not all the parish is served by Cabinet 2, and the distance many residents are from the cabinet (a bandwidth of 80 Mb/s at the cabinet falls to 24 Mb/s at a range of approximately 1.2 km), the cost may well be prohibitive.
- 10 **Millennium Row.** The Clerk explained that the arboriculturalist had found that tree no. 10 from Illington Road was virtually dead, and had to cut it back to ground level before there was any sign of life, so recommended it be replaced. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should consult with the expert as to a suitable type, and purchase a replacement on behalf of the Council.
- 11 **Breckland Local Plan Preferred Directions Consultation.** The consultation documents were **received**. The Council **agreed** it had concerns about the meaning of the part of Preferred Policy Direction - PD 05 Rural Areas where it says that in Smaller Villages and Hamlets without Settlement Boundaries (i.e. Wretham) development would be allowed where it 'does not increase the size of a settlement by more than 10% of its existing size'. It is unclear what this means. The Council discussed the only Wretham site in the *Emerging Site*

Options, a 3.1 hectare plot stretching south of Sunnycreeks behind various existing dwellings to Tudor Lodge. It was **agreed** that this was unsuitable because it would at least double the size of Stonebridge, and the access would be on a dangerous part of the A1075. The Clerk was instructed to respond accordingly.

- 12 **Financial Regulations.** The Council's Financial Regulations were reviewed, and **approved**.
- 13 **Asset Register.** The Asset Register was **reviewed** and the valuations for insurance purposes **agreed**.
- 14 **Risk Assessment.** The Council's Risk assessment was **reviewed** and amendments **agreed**.
- 15 **System of Internal Control.** The Council **reviewed** its system of internal control.
- 16 **Finance.**
 - 16.1 **Clerk's salary.** It was **resolved** that cheques numbered 100612 & 100613 totalling £1,178.79 (salary for 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016: £671.40; payment for additional work relating to Transparency Code implementation, funded by grant from the Transparency Fund: £458.79; Mileage Allowance Payment for 3 December 2015 - 4 February 2016: £28.60 (of which £1.25 is the VAT element); Telephone Allowance: £20.00) to the Clerk and HM Revenue & Customs be signed. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 112(2)*)
 - 16.2 **Stationery.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100614 for £55.63 (£46.36 + £9.27 VAT) to Viking be signed, in settlement of invoice no. 729964 for stationery supplied. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)
 - 16.3 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 31 January 2016 was **received**.
- 17 **Matters for consideration at next meeting.**
- 18 **Next meeting.** The next meeting will be on **Thursday, 10 March 2016, at 7.00 p.m.** in **Wretham Village Hall**.

Confirmed:



Will Townsend (Chairman)

10 March 2016

Future Meeting dates:

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

* Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Meeting of the Parish Council