

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council held on Thursday, 9 December 2021 at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall, Church Road.

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

Absent: Cllr. Jonathan Ford.

The meeting scheduled for 11 November 2021 did not take place.

Before the start of the Meeting, Melinda Raker, Deputy Lieutenant, presented the Council Chairman (as representative of the whole parish community) with a specially commissioned memorial plaque. These plaques have been produced at the request of HM Lord-Lieutenant, Lady Dannatt, to commemorate the resilience of communities during the recent time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the reason for the apology for absence offered by Cllr. Jonathan Ford.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.** A member of the public asked whether the section of the northern end trod, now rendered redundant by the new section created as part of the Stonebridge Camp development, would be removed, and whether the area between the new trod and the road would be grassed over. The Clerk said that the plans approved by NCC showed that this would be the case, and also that the remaining section of the old road from the edge of Windmill Lane would be joined to the new dropped kerb crossing, which was not yet the case. He said he would check this out with NCC and also ask the developer.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 14 October 2021 were **confirmed**, and **signed** by the Chairman.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [6.1] **Trod outside Stonebridge Camp/Mill Stone Green.** The new path has now been installed. This takes the pedestrians well away from the road and also at a higher level, and so should avoid the flooding which was an issue with that section of the old Trod.
 - 6.2 [6.2] **Defibrillator Awareness.** The training session on 9 November 2021 was attended by some 25 residents from this and Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish, and very worthwhile. At that meeting some residents asked whether the Council would consider trying to set up a Volunteer Emergency Telephone System, so that, if an emergency occurred and the person with the patent was unable to fetch the defibrillator, a volunteer could automatically be contacted to fetch it for them. This was considered and rejected when the decision to purchase the defibrillator was made, and there was concern that it might not be possible to recruit a sufficient number of volunteers, but it was agreed to put a piece in *Wretham Village News* to see how many might be willing to volunteer.
 - 6.3 [11 & 13] **Trees.** Treecreeper Arboriculture has now carried out the crown lifting on the Millennium Row trees and confirmed that they will obtain and plant a new tree for the Jubilee, and also replace the one on the Row which had died.
 - 6.4 **Covid.** The Prime Minister has now announced some reversion to Covid restriction measures, but the Government has still not done anything about making virtual meetings possible. The Clerk was asked to write to Liz Truss, MP, and also to Kemi Badenoch, Minister for Levelling Up Communities, urging them to implement emergency measures again to allow Councils to meet virtually for the safety of Councillors, staff and public.
- 7 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:
 - 7.1 Roger Atterwill, Swanton Morley Parish Council: *Breckland Local Plan Review Response for Breckland Meeting 28-10-2021.*

- 7.2 Barclays Bank Plc.: *Your Business accounts - at a glance* - Your balances on 29 October 2021.
- 7.3 Barclays Bank Plc.: *Your Community Account* - 1-29 October 2021.
- 7.4 Barclays Bank Plc.: *Your Active Saver Account* - 1 September - 29 October 2021.
- 7.5 War Memorials Trust: *Bulletin* - November 2021.
- 7.6 Breckland Council: *Local Plan letter to all Parish and Town Councils*.
- 7.7 Norfolk County Council: *Budget Consultation for 2022/23*.
- 7.8 Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator, Royal British Legion: *Letter of thanks for donation*.
- 7.9 Campaign to Protect Rural England: *Countryside Voices* - Winter 2021.
- 7.10 Campaign to Protect Rural England - *Fieldwork*. Winter 2021.

8 Planning.

- 8.1 **3PL/2021/1228/HOU: Larkshall House, Thetford Road:** Demolition of existing garage and Erection of Double Storey Side Extension (annexe) & Rear Extension (with 1No. External balcony and 2No. Juliet balcony) & New Single Storey Side Infill Extension (Side annexe development), Change of use of the land to curtilage. Planning Permission dated 6 December 2021 was **received**.

- 9 **Village sign.** Cllr. Barnard reported that he had dealt with the few areas on this sign which had suffered from some corrosion, cleaning them carefully and applying primer and paint, working from a picture showing how the sign looked when it was first erected in 1978.

- 10 **Unauthorised development at 4 Manor Cottages, Church Road.** The Clerk reported that he had been told by District Cllr. Phil Cowen that Breckland had received a Planning Application (reference 3PL/2021/1510/F) but this had not yet been accepted as there was some dispute over the fee.

- 11 **Larkshall Mill.** It was **noted** that, on 11 November all the Councillors, plus some members of the public, attended a presentation made by OCO Technology, explaining their plans to move their carbon capture business from a site in Brandon to the Larkshall Waste Mill. They were hoping to submit their planning application to Norfolk County Council by early December.

- 12 **Peddars Way.** The Clerk provided an update he had received from Russell Wilson, Trails Officer, regarding NCC work on Peddars Way. They will be carrying out a cut back of vegetation between the A1075 and Illington Road during winter to be outside of bird nesting season, which will help with establishing the width of the path. Later they intend to insert a French drain and aqua cells to dry off the section at the bridge piers, topped off with an improved surface material.

- 13 **War Memorial.** The Council agreed to take over responsibility for preparing the War Memorial for the Remembrance events in November.

- 14 **Mud on the road outside the church.** It was **noted** that, following complaints from a resident about the state of the western end of Church Road, the Clerk has contacted Breckland Council, which will arrange for the Serco road-sweeper to visit. He has also reported the blocked gullies to NCC Highways

- 15 **Budget 2022/23** The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2022/23 which was **approved**.

- 16 **Precept 2022/23.** It was **agreed** to fix the Precept for 2022/23 at £7,840. This represents an increase of £190, however, as the number of Band D equivalents has again risen (meaning that the precept is spread across more payers) there will be only minimal change to the parish council part of their total Council Tax.

17 Finance.

- 17.1 **Clerk's salary.** It was **resolved** that cheques numbered 100811 & 100812 totalling £1,088.73 (salary for 1 October 2021 to 31 December 2021 £1,053.78; homeworking allowance £13.50; Mileage Allowance Payment for 6 October 2021 - 27 November 2021 £21.45). be signed. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 112(2)*)

- 17.2 **Loan repayment.** It was **noted** that on 14 December 2021 the United Kingdom Debt Management Office PWLB lending facility will deduct £220.44 from the Council's account

by direct debit, being the repayment due on the Council's loan. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)

17.3 **Other.** It was **resolved** that cheque numbered 100813 for £462.00 (£385.00 + £77.00 VAT) to Tom West (Trecreeper Arboriculture) be signed, for work on the trees on Millennium Row. (*Public Health Act 1875 s. 164 & Local Government Act 1972 Sch. 14 para. 27*)

17.4 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 30 November 2021 was received.

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

19 **Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 13 January 2022, at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall.

Confirmed

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Harold Smith (Chairman)

10 February 2022

Future Meeting dates:

Thursday, 13 January 2022

Thursday, 10 February 2022

Thursday, 10 March 2022