

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council on Thursday, 9 November 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall, Church Road.

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

- 1 Apologies for absence. None.
- 2 Declarations of interest. None.
- 3 Dispensations. None.
- 4 Public participation session. None.
- 5 Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 12 October 2017 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 6 Matters arising.
 - 6.1 [7.6] **BT's refusal to permit Parish Councils to be their customers.** At the request of the Clerk, Elizabeth Truss MP had been continually pressing BT to change their policy and to allow the account with them to be in the name of the Council. Her aide has now forwarded a message from BT saying that her concerns have been passed to their policy team which is looking at making changes to their process. There is no timescale for this, but she has been assured changes will be made. Until then the Council's account with BT remains in the name of the Clerk "T/As" the Parish Council.
 - 6.2 [9] **Children's Play and Outdoor Sports.** The Clerk had a meeting with Mr Thomas-Jones, Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees, and explained he had found that the Council could not apply for a grant from Breckland Council unless any play equipment would be installed on land it owned itself. However, charities were entitled to apply on their own behalf, and Councillor Foster confirmed that Mr Thomas-Jones was submitting an application on behalf of the Hall Trustees. Mr Thomas-Jones had also told the Chairman that he had learned from Breckland Council that none of the other parishes in the cluster group had submitted applications.
 - 6.3 [17, Minutes of 14 September 2017] **General Data Protection Regulation.** The Clerk has attended the training course, which exposed the "nightmare" which these changes involve. Hopefully the National Association of Local Councils will deal with the appointment of the statutory post of Independent Data Protection Officers to cover parish councils, and produce templates detailing what councils need to do.
 - 6.4 [11.1] **2018 Remembrance.** The Clerk advised the meeting that at the recent SLCC Norfolk & Suffolk Autumn Conference The Lord Dannatt had said that plans were underway to commemorate the centenary of Armistice Day with a countrywide installation, *There, but not there*, which originated from one in Pevensy Church in 2016. Life sized Perspex silhouettes, one for each of the names on their War Memorial were seated in the church pews. The film can be viewed at <https://www.therebutnotthere.org.uk/>. Further details will be available in due course, but the Clerk thought this might be something that the Council would be interested in considering.
 - 6.5 [9, Minutes of 10 November 2016] **Broadband.** The Council **noted** that BT Openreach had connected the new cabinet at the end of Cherry Tree Close and that fibre broadband was now available to all users whose phone line comes from that cabinet (although the speed available is dependent on distance from the cabinet).

Parishioners should contact their ISP to ask about upgrading. The Council was surprised that BT Openreach had not informed anybody that this was the case.

- 7 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:
- 7.1 The Pensions Regulator: *By law minimum pension contributions will soon be increasing.*
 - 7.2 CGM Group: *Perfect for your Parish Council - Ground maintenance advertising letter.*
 - 7.3 Barclays Bank Plc: *We're making important changes: updating your terms, and creating our ring-fenced bank.*
 - 7.4 Came & Company: *Council Matters - Autumn 2017.*
 - 7.5 Breckland Council: *Parish Precept Requirement 2018-19.*
 - 7.6 Breckland Council: *Parish Grant Allocation 2018-19 to 2020-21.*
 - 7.7 Breckland Council: *Guidance for setting parish/town precepts 2018/19.*
 - 7.8 Interprint: *Marketing letter.*
 - 7.9 Wicksteed Playgrounds: *Raising funds for your new play area? We'll match it!*
 - 7.10 Clerks & Councils Direct - November 2017.
 - 7.11 Breckland Council: *Brownfield Land Register.*
 - 7.12 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Business accounts at a glance.*
 - 7.13 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account - 30 September - 31 October 2017.*
 - 7.14 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account - 30 September - 31 October 2017.*
 - 7.15 Lt. Col. Tony Powell, Defence Infrastructure Organisation: *Stanford Training Area Tour Programme - 2018.* The Parish has been offered another opportunity to take a party round the STANTA Battle Area, on Wednesday 6 June. The Council **agreed** that this should be taken up, and the Clerk confirmed he was happy to make the arrangements. Full details will be announced in due course, but it is likely that the coach will depart from the Village Hall at 5 p.m., and return at about 9 p.m.
- 8 **Casual Vacancy.** It was **noted** that Councillor Will Townsend had now formally resigned from the Council, and that the process to fill the resulting Casual Vacancy had commenced. A Notice of the Vacancy had been displayed, with the due date for receipt of requests to hold an election being 10 November 2017. After this date, Breckland Council's Democratic & Electoral Services Support Officer will advise whether sufficient requests have been received for an election to be called, and if not, the Council will be in a position to fill the vacancy by cooption. A Parishioner, who had already told the Clerk he would be interested in being co-opted, should the Council be in a position to do so, was present, and the Chairman allowed the Members to ask a few questions. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Townsend, thanking him for his dedicated service as a member of the Council since he was first elected in 2003.
- 9 **STANTA Battle Area.** A letter from Defence Infrastructure Organisation was **received**, and it was **noted** that because of recent incursions onto the Stanford Training Area, with effect from 19:00 hrs on 31 October 2017 Gate 13 at Corkmere Bottom, and Gate 17, Mousehall were being kept permanently locked and monitored by CCTV. The DIO said that the public already had no legal right to use these gates.
- 10 **Planning. 3PL/2017/0929/VAR: Development of Three Dwellings, Church Road, Wretham.** Proposed development of three detached dwellings. 2016/1133 Conditions(s) 2, 3 and 4 - Plots 1 & 2. Planning Permission dated 13 October 2017 was **received**.
- 11 **Meeting dates.** The schedule of meeting dates for 2018/19 was **agreed**.
- 12 **Budget 2018/19.** The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2018/19 which was **approved**. This included provision in the reserves against the possibility of the Council having to pay for contested elections.

13 Precept 2018/19. It was **agreed** to fix the Precept for 2018/19 at £5,400, an increase of £600, largely necessary because of the costs imposed by the Government's Transparency Code, covered for the past three years by a grant from the Transparency Fund, which is no longer available.

14 Finance.

14.1 Training. It was **resolved** that cheque number 100680 for £11.25 (£6.25 + £5.00 VAT) to Norfolk Association of Local Councils be signed, being this Council's share of the cost of the Clerk attending the General Data Protection Regulation training on 1 November 2017. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)

14.2 Telephones. It was **noted** that on 6 November 2017 BT collected payment of £49.08 (£40.90 + £8.18 VAT) from the Council's account by direct debit in settlement of their bill reference M020 UP, for provision of broadband services. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)

14.3 Monthly Financial Report. The report for the month ending 31 October 2017 was received.

15 Matters for consideration at next meeting. None.

16 Next meeting. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, 7 December 2017, at 7.00 p.m.** in **Wretham Village Hall.**

Confirmed:



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Harold Smith (Chairman)

7 December 2017

Future Meeting dates:

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Thursday, 7 December 2017 | Thursday, 14 June 2018 | Thursday, 8 November 2018 |
| Thursday, 11 January 2018 | Thursday, 12 July 2018 | Thursday, 6 December 2018 |
| Thursday, 8 February 2018 | Thursday, 9 August 2018 | Thursday, 10 January 2019 |
| Thursday, 8 March 2018 | Thursday, 13 September 2018 | Thursday, 14 February 2019 |
| Thursday, 12 April 2018 | Thursday, 11 October 2018 | Thursday, 14 March 2019 |
| Thursday, 10 May 2018 | | |

