

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council held on Thursday, 11 October 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall, Church Road.

**Present: Councillors: Sharon Ford (Vice-Chairman), Paul Barclay, Jean Foster.
Clerk: Julian Gibson**

In the absence of Councillor Smith, Chairman of the Council, the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the reasons for absence offered by Councillors Smith and Schofield.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.**
 - 4.1 A member of the public complained about an application the Council had objected to being granted permission by Breckland (although it appears that he did not register any objection himself), that the Council had agreed to pay the Clerk for the time he worked, and about traffic speed.
 - 4.2 A member of the public accused the Council at length of acting illegally at the last meeting by excluding the press and public while it discussed confidential matters concerning the employment of the Clerk, in addition to objecting to the decision taking. The Clerk explained that he was in error, and that section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, existed specifically so that confidential matters could remain confidential. The Clerk also said that he would never allow his Council to act illegally, and he took offence that it had been suggested.
 - 4.3 The Coordinator of the Community Speed Watch apologised, saying that as his employment situation had changed, he was no longer going to be able to continue with this, although he would continue as a volunteer. There were only five volunteers, about the same number since the group was launched. He regretted that, although some people were always complaining about traffic speeds on the A1075 they were not willing to do anything about it, and appealed for somebody to take over as Coordinator and for more to join the volunteers. Nobody at the meeting made any offer.
 - 4.4 Another member of the public expressed concern about the number of trees being cut down for the new development in Thetford and expressed regret that our Ward Representative from Breckland Council had not been able to attend this Council's meetings for some time. The Clerk said he would mention both these things to District Councillor Phil Cowen.
 - 4.5 A member of the public asked about the payment for Broadband access in the Village Hall. The Clerk said that this was funded by grants from the Transparency Code, but that sadly the Hall did not advertise that it was available. He would ask the hall committee whether they really wanted to continue to have it, and bring a proposal to the Council to either cancel the contract or move to a cheaper supplier to a future meeting.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 13 September 2018 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [9] **Speeding.** The Police Safer Neighbourhood Team says that the police spotted carrying out speed checks as reported to the previous meeting must be from another

unit, as it was not them. However, they have in the week ended 20 September been out on four occasions for a total of two hours, working in both marked and unmarked cars from the lay-bys north and south of the A1075 junction with Illington Road. Only one offending vehicle warranted a ticket being issued, but they will continue to give this area attention when they are able to do so, but not as frequently as during this specific week.

6.2 [10] **Millennium Row Tree no. 10.** The Treecreeper arboriculturalist has said he would replace a significant area of soil and plant a species which is tolerant of pollutants and poor soils, like an Alder. The manager of the Stonebridge Green development has offered to supply the topsoil. The Clerk has asked him to proceed.

6.3 [11] **Millennium Row Trees.** The Clerk has accepted a quote £250 + VAT for crown-lifting of the trees along Millennium Row. He has also obtained assurance from Norfolk County Council that weed killing treatment will be applied to the trod by their contractor, and this should be done by mid-October.

7 **Sign on the A1075 opposite Illington Road.** It was **noted** that, having reported the damage to the signs on the A1075 opposite Illington Road to NCC Highways several months ago, the Clerk chased to find out when they were going to be repaired, and found that because of a mix up with other nearby signs also being damaged and these signs only having been repaired a short while before they were again damaged, the work had not even been ordered. He has been assured that this has now been done.

8 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:

8.1 *Clerks & Council Direct* - September 2018.

8.2 Royal Mail: *Scam Mail*.

8.3 Norfolk Constabulary: *Minutes of Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel Meeting* – 6 September 2018.

8.4 Royal British Legion: *Poppy Appeal 2018* - Remembrance Day service at Shropham Church at 10.45 on 11 November.

8.5 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Business accounts - at a glance* - on 28 September 2018.

8.6 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community account* - 1-28 September 2018.

8.7 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver account* - 30 June - 28 September 2018.

9 **Planning.** None.

10 **Welcome Pack.** Councillor Ford apologised that she had not pre-circulated this as promised, but said she would email this to Members.

11 **Finance.**

11.1 **Clerk's salary.** It was **resolved** that cheques numbered 100718 & 100719 totalling £779.85 (1 July 2017 to 30 September 2018 back-pay following increase in hours: £712.35; payment for use of home as an office: £67.50) to the Clerk and HM Revenue & Customs be signed. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 112(2)*)f

11.2 **Telephones and postage.** It was **noted** that on 8 October 2018 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 M031, for provision of broadband services. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)

11.3 **Credits.** Receipt of the following credits was **noted**:

11.3.1 £12.00 for a seat on the STANTA Tour.

11.3.2 Precept £2,700.00 & Revenue Support Grant £19.00, from Breckland Council.

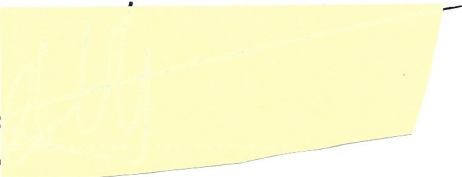


11.4 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 30 September 2018 was received.

12 **Matters for consideration at next meeting.** Budget & Precept.

13 **Next meeting.** The next meeting will be on **Thursday, 8 November 2018**, at **7.00 p.m.** in **Wretham Village Hall.**

Confirmed:



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Harold Smith (Chairman)

6 December 2018

Future Meeting dates:

Thursday, 8 November 2018

Thursday, 14 February 2019

Thursday, 6 December 2018

Thursday, 14 March 2019

Thursday, 10 January 2019