

# WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie (Jules) Challenor, Tofts Barn, Church Road, Wretham, IP24 1RL

Telephone: 07760 485472

Email: [clerk.wrethamparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.wrethamparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Minutes of the **Ordinary Monthly Parish Meeting of Wretham Parish Council** held on Thu 10<sup>th</sup> Apr 2025 at 7:00pm in Wretham Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr Sharon Ford (SF) – Vice Chair, Cllr Paul Barnard, Cllr Jon Ford, Cllr Natalie Bissessur (NB) and Parish Clerk, Jules Challenor (JC)

1. **APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE** – We have received notification that Cllr Harold Smith is resigning as Chairperson.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None
3. **DISPENSATIONS** - None
4. **MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting held on Thu 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 25, were agreed by all and signed by the Vice-Chair. These will be available to view on the Parish Council website. The March meeting was cancelled due to Clerk and Cllr SF unable to attend.
5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - John Kitson on behalf of the Wretham Village Newsletter. Moving forward, Cllr Jon Ford volunteered to ensure that a report was provided for the newsletter.
6. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

- 6.1 District Councillors Report – Cllr Phil Cowen attended meeting and submitted report, attached.

County Councillors Report - Cllr Fabian Eagle attended and reported during the year, there will be an increase for verge cutting and on safety where there are dangerous junctions. Also there is to be extra weed killer spraying on roads.

There is extra hazardous waste collection at local waste disposal units - it is a pre booking system.

Secured £250,000 for High Street Matters Fund and going to complete works in the High Street to support businesses and improve the town centre.

Due to collaboration with other councils to support Ukraine, 15 volunteer fire fighters have left to go to Ukraine with redundant fire fighting equipment.

The County Council are giving extra money for potholes, and Director of Highways is carrying out more extensive repairs to badly affected areas of the highway. The Public can suggest areas to the CC where they feel the worse stretch of road within the Brecks Division where there is a persistent pothole(s).

Norfolk Records Office have submitted a bid to Lottery Funding to make a study of country estates that have disappeared in the county for public exhibition.

## 7. MATTERS ARISING

- 7.1 **OUTSTANDING HIGHWAY MATTERS** – discuss any outstanding issues + report any new issues.

Chairmans initials SF.

Wretham Parish AGM Council Meeting 10Apr 25

A member of the village has made the PC aware of a strong smell of effluent on occasion from the pipe that drains into the stream between Mr P Denty's House and the Brecks. This smell continues down the stream alongside the Wretham Circular Walk. This has only been evident since Millstone Green was built. Could this be investigated to prevent any contamination of the stream. **Action: Clerk**

- 7.2 **ANY OTHER MATTERS** - Cllr SF reported - Left hand turn into Church Road - sign still knocked down. Cllr SF to send photo to JC. **Action: Cllr SF Clerk**

8. **CORRESPONDENCE** – All correspondence regularly circulated via email to all councillors.

## 9. FINANCE

- 9.1 Monthly Financial Report - to sign payments for Mar and Apr 25. All sent to Cllrs via email for consideration prior to meeting and approval. First precept received, sum £4,273. Clerk salary, sum £449.74, PAYE/NI sum £12.80. Balance in saver+current, sum £10,200.25. Lloyds have moved the account to a community account, designed for not for profit organisations and we are now charged a maintenance fee of £4.25. Clerk to investigate an account with no charges. **Action: Clerk**

10. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** – new planning applications, planning decisions and correspondence, and to decide on comments to be made where necessary.

- 10.1 **ENF/271/22/PAR** – 4 Manor Cottages – Enforcement Notice Appeal – Decision made – the requirements of the notice too uncertain and ambiguous, therefore the enforcement notice is void.
- 10.2 **FUL/2025/003** – Larkshall Mill, Thetford Rod, IP24 1QY: Replacement of aggregates shed with larger shed within the site – comments to be received within 21 days.

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 History/Memory Cafe - Cllrs and village newsletter would love to hear about local news. Liaise with Lorna Soar. **Action: Clerk**
- 11.2 Community Action Norfolk (CAN) offering energy advice talks to all residents at Wretham Village Hall on Thu 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm. At time of writing the minutes, only 4 persons attended, Cllr SF, Cllr JF, Clerk and one member of the village. Cllr SF to provide a report for the village newsletter.
- 11.3 **SNAP Meetings** – new dates SNAP Meeting(s) PC Dion Philips, Beat Manager Attleborough informs meeting dates for 2025.  
Thu 10th Jul 2025 at 18:30hrs held at Harling Old School Village Hall School Lane, East Harling, Norfolk, NR16 2LU  
Fri 17th Oct 2025 at 18:30hrs held at Attleborough Town Hall
- 11.4 Defibrillator update – Clerk checked and pads expire Dec 25. Matter closed
- 11.5 List of Trees in village with protection orders – Clerk is researching – ongoing
- 11.6 Map of Village of who owns what land – Clerk is investigating – ongoing
- 11.7 Road Safety Sign (Deer) share with Stow Bedon & Breckles PC – sharing agreement update – SB&BPC have a meeting in March and will get back to us. We agreed that the responsibility of the sign needs to be shared between the two parishes, ie the moving of the sign rather than just Wretham PC managing.
- Cllr PB reported charger not working, tried on 2 batteries We own 3 batteries one in speed sign and 2 others for deer sign. Agreement/replacement cost needs to be shared. **Action: Clerk**
- 11.8 Wretham Camp – some residents receiving parcels addressed to the camp. Clerk has liaised with the camp, they suggested that residents deliver unwanted parcels to our village hall and once a fortnight the camp collects. Cllrs discussed and not sure this is a viable solution, an option is that residents refuse delivery? Needs to be investigated further. **Action: Clerk**



**11.9** Church Road, Wretham Manor reported that the road is now narrower due to current roadworks where a new water pipe was installed by Anglian Water opposite their property. This means that vehicles will struggle trying to turn into their property. They would like it restored to its original width. The resident and Clerk have contacted Highways to get this resolved – Clerk to monitor. **Action: Clerk**

**11.10** Raise the flag – VE Day 8<sup>th</sup> May 25 – nothing to report.

## **12. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING(S)**

**2025 - AGM 8th May**, 12th Jun, 10th Jul, Aug tba, 11 Sep, 9th Oct, 13th Nov & Dec tba

Item for next Agenda - Website – discuss modernisation to include change to .gov.uk domain with Norfolk ALC.  
Email from Kevin Bacon at RLS Computers sent to Cllrs for discussion at the next meeting. We have just paid the annual Wix domain – so need investigate refund if we move?

## **District Councillors' report April 2025 - Councillors Sarah Suggitt and Philip Cowen**

**Budget Setting** – The 2025-26 budget has been successfully set and balanced, ensuring financial sustainability for the coming year. Government funding reform & business rates re-set (expected in summer) is predicted to negatively impact the council's finances from 2026-27 onwards. The government has indicated that transitional funding ("damping") will be provided to offset losses, but the extent of support remains unclear. The council will continue to closely monitor policy developments and assess financial implications as further details emerge.

**Payment system upgrade** – The council is transitioning to a new payment provider, Global Pay, for customer card payments. The cost per transaction is significantly lower than our current provider, so we expect to make savings while maintaining secure and efficient payment processing.

**Council Tax Civil Penalties** – Implementation of Council Tax Civil Penalties has also commenced, with this also going live from April 2025. This will see the ARP Fraud and Compliance Team administering penalties in cases of Single Person Discount fraud, where criteria have been met. As part of the roll-out, a communication strategy will be created ensuring that consistent messaging is shared by all ARP partners to achieve the required preventative outcomes.

### **Local Plan**

As reported previously, Breckland is mandated by government to deliver 903 houses year on year and this represents a 40% uplift on previous advisory requirements. As a result we are arranging discussions with all parishes to ascertain how and where these additional numbers can be accommodated. Parishes will be grouped for the purpose of these discussions and all are encouraged to attend when the sessions are identified.

### **Car Parks & Streetlights**

Car Park Strategy Project – Paused in light of LGR announcement. Deputy Leader has written to all Town Council Clerks offering a conditional leasehold interest in their car parks.

### **Property**

Barnham Broom – completed disposal on 13 March 2025.

Commercial property occupancy is 98% let (target 98%).

### **Local Government Review / Devolution**

We have been working closely with authorities across Norfolk (and Suffolk) on plans and a response to the Government on LGR, this has been supported substantially by independent advice and evidence from Deloitte. This has resulted in a submission to MHCLG that supports a three Unitary proposal for Norfolk.

This proposal has been endorsed by all the district councils in Norfolk except South Norfolk and key points relating to the three Unitary proposal include:

- The importance of local place identity, and keeping local services local
- The opportunities for service delivery by better joining work together, and focusing on prevention and early intervention
- The independently assessed "best" way forward for Norfolk, based on three new unitary councils replacing the existing seven district council and county council
- The risks of a large "single" unitary council in Norfolk, particularly around its remoteness and risks to service delivery

The next published LGR deadline is submission of a detailed plan for Norfolk by 26th September, however it is anticipated that there will be substantial local engagement and work over the next few months to inform this. Despite the added burden relating to the Council, all officers are focussed on delivering the range of statutory and discretionary services that Breckland provides to its residents and businesses.

In order to get maximum traction behind these proposals and to elicit views we encourage parishes, individuals and business to take part in the survey that has been set up at <https://www.future-east.co.uk>

Chairmans initials SF.

Wretham Parish AGM Council Meeting 10Apr 25