

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the **Ordinary Monthly Parish Meeting of Wretham Parish Council** held on Thu 11th January 2024 at 7:00pm in Wretham Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Harold Smith (HS) – Chair, Cllr Sharon Ford, (SF) – Vice Chair, Cllr Jon Ford (JF), Cllr Lorna Soar (LS) and Parish Clerk, Jules Challenor (JC)

One member of the public present, John Kitson reporting on behalf of the Village Newsletter.

1. **APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE** – Cllr Paul Barnard (PB).
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Item 10.4 on the Agenda – Cllrs JF and SF are unable to comment.
3. **DISPENSATIONS** – None
4. **MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting held on 9th Nov 23 were agreed by all and signed by the Chair. These will be available to view on the Parish Council website and noticeboards.
5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – No one attended.
6. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**
 - 6.1 District Councillors Report – Cllr Phil Cowen unable to attend, report below:-

Firstly, Sarah Suggitt and Phil Cowen wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope that everyone has enjoyed a relaxing festive break.

Flooding

Thankfully whilst there has been excessive rainfall recently there have been no major incidents of flooding that have impacted on the communities within the Ward. Locally, the Lead Flood Authority, Norfolk County Council have responded to some incidents.

Local Plan

The proposed draft Local Plan is on programme the start date will be held between Monday 8th January until Monday 19th February 2024.

The Council has arranged a series of in-person workshops for town and parish councils and are emailing all clerks; we do encourage local councillors to email Breckland to reserve a place.

Public Consultation events will be held as follows:-

Wed 10th Jan, 6.30pm-7.30pm – virtual event via Zoom.

Thu 1st Feb, 10am-1pm – Attleborough Charter Market, Queens Sq, Attleborough

Tue 6th Feb, 10am-1pm – Dereham Market, Market Place, Dereham

Chairmans initials _____

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Draft Budget and Medium Term Plan and Capital Strategy

At Cabinet, Phil Cowen presented the Draft Budget and Medium Term Plan and Capital Strategy and took some questions on the detail. The document was issued for consultation in December and will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee on February 1st then on to Cabinet on 12th February and Full Council on 22nd February. Details can be found here

<https://democracy.breckland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=116&MId=5007&Ver=4>

6.2 County Councillors Report - None

7. MATTERS ARISING

7.1 OUTSTANDING HIGHWAY MATTERS

Highways emailed re ENQ-663793-G1B6Z3 (Croxtan Road) stating potholes resolved. Cllr JF and SF reported the potholes still not fixed satisfactory – Cllr SF to take photos and will email the Clerk.

Clerk chased Highways ENQ-28545 re hedge rows around the junction of the A1075 + Woodcock Road and informed they will be sorted by the end of the month. Clerk to monitor.

Highways emailed reply re A1075 layby – “As for the verge in the rest area, there is very little that can be done to prevent the erosion of the verge. As previously mentioned, bollards would not be acceptable on an A road and funding for the construction of a new kerb line is not available. I also do not believe that any form of verge reconstruction with earth and grass seed would be affective as this would simply be eroded again due to presence of large vehicles.

The verge is predominantly for the use of large vehicles to provide a safe area for drivers to take regular breaks”.

7.2 ANY OTHER MATTERS

7.3.1 Deer/Speed Signs – Resolved and matter closed

8. CORRESPONDENCE – All correspondence regularly sent electronically to all Councillors.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Monthly Financial Report and to approve/sign payments for Jan 24 emailed to Cllrs prior to meeting. One payment – Clerk salary Dec 23 + Jan 24 and backpay 1June-30Nov23, sum £1,022.84, leaving balance £8,301.62 in Lloyds current account.

9.2 Budget / Precept – Draft budget sent to all Cllrs prior to meeting. It was discussed at length and all agreed that the precept would be increased by £300 from £8,246 to £8,546 pa. Clerk to notify Breckland accordingly.

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 - Appeal ongoing & Breckland Council managing.

10.2 TRE/2023/0338/TCA - Jasmine Cottages IP24 1RD – Pruning Trees Various – No Objection

10.3 3PL/2023/0815/HOU - Larkshall House Thetford Road - First floor extension over previously approved single storey extension – **REFUSAL** and an appeal started 14 Dec 23. **APP/F2605/D/23/3333579**

10.4 3PL/2023/1107/F - Sunnycreeks Hockham Road IP24 1SD - Tourism development to include erection of 2 holiday cabins, 5no caravan pitches, service block, stables, manege and paddocks for equestrian use – **Decision by 29 Jan 24**

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 Thetford Road (A1075 just before OCO) site with Dog Training Facility - business planning permission. Clerk to investigate.
- 11.2 Keep Britain Tidy – “Buy Nothing New Month” – Clerk has signed up for notifications as FOC – Clerk to investigate promoting alongside with the Village Hall.
- 11.3 Defibrillator – Clerk confirmed each month an online report is sent via Community Heartbeat to confirm a site check carried out and all working satisfactory. Clerk to send link to Cllr JF.
- 11.4 OCO Technology – Clerk replied to planning submission – matter closed. Cllr SF mentioned that we had not heard about on site meeting (Jan 24) – Clerk to chase.
- 11.5 Contingency planning for role of Parish Clerk – Instruction manual started by Clerk. It will include duties carried out each month, passwords, annual tasks and other administrative duties.

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

Prior to Agenda sent out, we received an email from Chris Garrod, Hockham PC – “Our councillors noticed how well maintained the trod was in Wretham also along the A1075 and just wondered how its maintained so well. Any ideas please that can be shared?” – Clerk to reply that Wretham is maintained via Serco / Tree keeper.

MEETING DATES 2024

The next meeting is to be held on Thu 8th Feb 2024

Rest of 2024 meeting dates – Thu 14th Mar, 11th Apr, 9th May, 13th Jun & 11th Jul 24, Aug (tba), 12th Sep, 10th Oct, 14th Nov, Dec 24 (tba).