

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council on Thursday, 13 July 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall, Church Road.

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

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the reason for absence offered by Councillor Ford.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** Councillor Townsend said he had a Disclosable pecuniary interest in item 9.1 as it involved a payment to his wife, and that accordingly he did not participate in the discussion or vote on that item.
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.**
 - 4.1 Norfolk County Councillor Fabian Eagle said that his council again needed to make considerable savings in the next four years as a result of the Government's support grant, but that it was not their intention to make cuts in services. It was instead intending to make sure that the assets owned by his council produced a good income. He also drew attention to the *Nelson and Norfolk* Exhibition in Norwich Castle Museum.
 - 4.2 District Councillor Phil Cowen said that the Local Plan had been approved by Cabinet, was due to go to full Council on 27 July, and then go to the Secretary of State who would appoint an Inspector to conduct the six-week public examination. He then said that, in a reversal to an announcement made a few months ago, Breckland no longer had a 5 year land supply, and as a result will not be able to refused planning permission simply because a proposal is not within a settlement boundary.
 - 4.3 **Manor Farm.** A member of the public voiced his objections about a planning application to make changes to the existing Permission to develop the old barn. The Clerk explained that this application had not arrived in time to appear on the agenda for this meeting, and that, as the deadline for a response was well before the next scheduled Council meeting, he would be responding under his delegated powers after consultation with Council members. The meeting was adjourned for this to take place. Members said they felt that the revisions were of such a scale that this should have been submitted as a new application rather than under the guise of a variation of existing conditions. They said that the proposal to clad the barn with weathered timber and replace the roof with black fibre cement sheeting would change the form of the building, thus loosing the very character of the barn which the original application sought to maintain and be inappropriate for a conservation area. The additional windows in the roof would destroy the idea of it being a barn. The steel chimney adds to the modern and contemporary feeling. Councillor Cowen said he would also put these points to the planning officers. He added that, should the officers be inclined to grant permission, he would seek to have the matter called in for decision by Breckland Planning Committee, and then put the parish views against it.
 - 4.4 A member of the public expressed concern that the Council was asking Norfolk County Council about the possibility of a ban on motor vehicles on a section of Peddars Way. The Clerk said that he had responded to an email on this matter (which unfortunately the member of the public had not yet been able to read), and pointed out that such a ban, were NCC to agree, would be "except for access", which allayed his concerns. The Clerk said that his letter to Highways had been passed on to the Rights

of Way Team, but he had not yet received any response. Councillor Eagle had said that, should this not be acceptable, he might be able to arrange for suitable warning signs to be funded from the budget under his control, but that would need to be investigated.

4.5 A member of the public said that he feared that the development of Stonebridge Camp would worsen the already poor broadband in the area. The Chairman asked the developer, Mr Berés, who was present, if he had made any representations on the matter, and he said he would investigate.

5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 15 June 2017 were **confirmed** and **signed**.

6 **Matters arising.** [8.2] **3PL/2016/0939/VAR: Stonebridge Camp, Thetford Road, Stonebridge Camp.** The Clerk reported that this had been scheduled to go to Planning Committee again on 3 July (even though the Officer's Report admitted that the response from Highways was still awaited), but in the event was once again pulled from the meeting because Highways had concerns. The Clerk said he has continued to ask for an explanation as to how the plans original plan approved in 2008 came to be changed as part of an application which sought to simply extend the time limit without the Planning Officer even noticing that this had happened, but again without success. He has now been told that the Officers are trying to get the application approved at Planning Committee on 31 July. He said that, after sending out the agenda for this meeting he had received notification of further changes, but looking online, could only find revised planting details, which were far too small in scale to be easily reviewed. Mr Berés had told him that he too had looked on-line and found that the revised actual site plan had not been unloaded, and as a result of his protests, this had now been done and the Clerk sent a copy. The Members therefore reviewed this plan (version K). This shows that the applicant has tried to take in some of the Council's previous comments, in that some additional parking spaces had been included, including a "lay-by" on the access road. Additionally, this plan shows a pedestrian crossing point on the A1075, and the removal of part of the Trod and its replacement by a more formal footway which would run in a straight line across the front of the site, and therefore be further set back from the road. Members began to discuss these, but expressed regret that the 1500m walls were still on the plans. Mr Berés said that this was clearly not the latest version of the plan after all, as had agreed to replace the walls with beech hedge. He also confirmed that there would be posts around the open space to prevent cars being parked on it (although this does not appear on plans). Members welcomed the additional parking spaces, including the "lay-by" but asked whether two would be possible. While welcoming the improved visibility when crossing the road provided by the moving of the Trod, it was said that a formal footway would strengthen the urban feel. The footway crossing caused concern unless other safety features were provided, like a central refuge. The Clerk said he would respond to Breckland making these points, but retaining the other specific objections made.

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

7.1 Norfolk Constabulary: *Attleborough Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel Minutes* - 16 March 2017.

7.2 Norfolk Constabulary: *Thetford & Attleborough Parish Newsletter* - May 2017.

7.3 Norfolk Constabulary: *Attleborough Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel Meeting minutes* - 16 June 2017.

7.4 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your complaint - Inaccurate Statement*. Note: Members will have noticed that the Barclays Community Account statement appeared to show that the account went into an intra-day overdraft on 7 April 2017. The Clerk took this up with the bank which has now confirmed that it does not post transactions credits first as used to be the case, nor in chronological order, which would have shown the credit from Breckland Council before the transfer to the Instant Access Account. It has been

- confirmed that the account did not go overdrawn (despite the negative figure shown in the balance column on the statement, and that no charges have been levied as a result.
- 7.5 Norfolk County Council: *Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with Town and Parish Councils.*
 - 7.6 Fiona Walker, Chief of Staff to Elizabeth Truss MP: *Copy email to Jackie Boyle, BT, concerning refusal to operate account in the name of the Parish Council.*
 - 7.7 *Clerks & Councils Direct* - July 2017.
 - 7.8 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account Statement* - 1-30 June 2017.
 - 7.9 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account Statement* - 1-30 June 2017.
 - 7.10 Breckland Council: *Revised Street Naming and Numbering Policy.*
 - 7.11 Breckland Council: *SNN Policy.*
 - 7.12 Breckland Council: *Street Naming & Numbering Guidance for Town/Parish Councils and Developers.*
 - 7.13 Breckland Council: *Street Naming & Numbering - Postal Towns.*

8 Planning.

- 8.1 **3PL/2017/0506/VAR: Manor Farm, Church Road.** Revision of 3PL/2014/0686/F Condition 1 - Amended house design (Plot 4). Planning Permission dated 23 June 2017 was **received**.
- 8.2 **3PL/2017/0750/HOU: Hilton House, Hockham Road, Wretham.** Application for Single storey rear and side extension, and removal of a tree. It was **resolved** that the Council had no objection.
- 8.3 **3PL/2017/0857/VAR: Development of Three Dwellings, Manor Farm, Church Road, Wretham.** Variation of condition 2 on 3PL/2016/1133 (Proposed development of three detached dwellings), changes to plot 3 & discharge of conditions 3 & 5. It was **resolved** that the Council had no objection.
- 8.4 **3PL/2017/0827/HOU: Jasmine Cottage, Keepers Corner, Wretham.** Application for Extension of outbuildings to provide garage & wild bird and deer viewing room. It was **resolved** that the Council had no objection.

9 Finance.

- 9.1 **Other.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100671 for £204.00 to Joy Townsend be signed, in settlement of her invoice dated 11 June 2017, for the time spent uploading monthly and annual documents for 2016/17 to the Village Website, in order for the Council to comply with the Transparency Code. **Note:** This was funded by the grant received last year from the Government's Transparency Fund. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)
- 9.2 **Telephones.** It was **noted** that on 7 July 2017 BT collected £49.08 (£40.90 + £8.18 VAT) from the Council's account by direct debit in settlement of their bill reference M016 CQ, for provision of broadband services. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)
- 9.3 **Budgets.** It was **agreed** to increase the nominal amount of the Other budget line from £300.00 to £650.00 to take account of the payments for the upkeep of the Village Website for Transparency Code compliance which was not invoiced (and so not paid) last year, and the cost of replacement of the SAM2 bracket.
- 9.4 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 30 June 2017 was **received**.

10 Matters for consideration at next meeting. None.

11 **Next meeting.** The next meeting will be on **Thursday, 10 August 2017, at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall.**

Confirmed:



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Harold Smith (Chairman)

14 September 2017

Future Meeting dates:

Thursday, 10 August 2017

Thursday, 9 November 2017

Thursday, 8 February 2018

Thursday, 14 September 2017

Thursday, 7 December 2017

Thursday, 8 March 2018

Thursday, 12 October 2017

Thursday, 11 January 2018