

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council held on Thursday, 11 February 2021 at 7.00 p.m. This was a virtual on-line meeting.

Present: Councillors: Harold Smith (Chairman), Paul Barley, Paul Barnard, Sharon Ford.
Clerk: Julian Gibson.

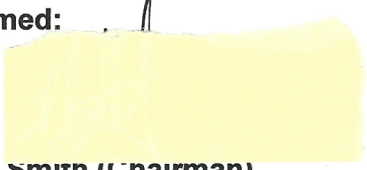
Absent: Councillor: Jon Ford.

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to accept the reason for absence offered by Cllr. Jon Ford.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.** County Cllr. Fabian Eagle spoke about his council's intentions to make speed limit amendments on the A1075 between Wretham and Crowhill (Agenda item 10), and urged the Council to support this. He also said that he has asked for a reduction of the limit between Wretham and Breckles, and asked the Council to consider supporting this proposal too.
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 14 January 2021 were **confirmed**, and **signed** by the Chairman.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [4.1] **Leaking pipe in Church Road.** The Environment Agency has now confirmed that this is only the fourth time that the levels in the aquifer have caused a leak since their records began in 1977. Their contractors are sourcing the necessary parts to carry out a repair, but now that the grips have been cleared for the first time for some years the road has drained. At the Clerk's request, the landowner has agreed to get a trench dug from the pipe to the ditch so that any water goes there rather than on the road.
 - 6.2 [4.2] **Flooding on Illington Road near pig farm.** NCC Highways has sent their standard response to the Clerk's report, saying that the problem "has already been reported and action identified to resolve the issue".
 - 6.3 [4.4] **Flashing lights at Wretham Camp.** Landmarc has confirmed that they do have repaired of the lights in hand, however as they are a specialist light there is a backlog on orders from their supplier, largely due to the pandemic situation.
 - 6.4 [6.2] **Stonebridge Camp fences.** Breckland's Planning Enforcement has responded saying that the "relevant permission does not restrict permitted development in respect of fences, so the fence is permitted development and a further application is not required." Therefore, they will take no action and have closed the case.
- 7 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:
 - 7.1 *Clerks & Council Direct* - January 2021.
 - 7.2 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Business accounts - at a glance* - Your balances on 29 January 2021.
 - 7.3 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account statement* - 1-29 January 2021.
 - 7.4 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account statement* - 1-29 January 2021.
 - 7.5 Norfolk County Council: *Introduction to your new Highways Engineer - Jack Griffiths.*
- 8 **Planning. 3PL/2020/1478/HOU: 1 Roudham Junction, Bridgham.** Single storey side extension and glassed canopy over front door. Planning Permission dated 10 February 2021 was **received**.
- 9 **Dog waste bin.** The Clerk reported a request from a resident that the Council try to have a dog waste bin installed on Church Road, in an attempt to encourage the irresponsible dog owners who do not pick up after their pets to do so, and then to make use of it. The Council felt it would be happy to support this, but was aware that Breckland Council is being more resistant to such requests as it pays for the bins to be emptied. Members also recalled that a previous intention

to place a bin on Church Road had met with some opposition from residents of East Wretham, and so been abandoned. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should see if Breckland might be agreeable to a bin at the north-eastern corner of the road (perhaps sharing a post with the cycle route or the Village Hall signs), and also to ask for an article to be placed in *Wretham Village News* to encourage dog owners to pick up after their pets.

- 10 A1075 Thetford to Dereham - Proposed Amendments to Speed Limit.** The Council considered the NCC proposals. The idea of extending the 50 mph limit southwards from south of Forestry Cottages to south of the junction with Cricket Ground Road was welcomed, as was the extension of the 50 mph limit southwards from south of the B1111 junction, even though this was not in this parish. Feelings regarding the extension of the 50 mph limit northwards from north of Ovington to south of Crowhill were less strong, but the Council did not object. The Council was, though, surprised to learn that it was not proposed to change the 60-mph limit between Stonebridge and Breckles, which had been part of a speed limit proposal for the road in 2015, and the Council felt that this omission should be reconsidered. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should respond accordingly.
- 11 Maintaining the option of virtual meetings.** The Clerk pointed out that the COVID legislation permitting Parish Councils to meet virtually is due to expire at midnight on 6 May 2021. The National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks are known to be lobbying the Government asking for this to be extended, but are understood to be meeting resistance. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to Elizabeth Truss MP asking her to support the Association's proposals that it should be left for Parish Councils to decide what is best for their communities.
- 12 Finance.**
- 12.1 **Clerk's salary.** It was **resolved** that cheques numbered 100794 & 100795 totalling £1,101.58 (salary for 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021 £1,053.78; homeworking allowance £13.50; Mileage Allowance Payment for 3 December 2020 - 4 February 2021 £14.30; Telephone Allowance £20.00) to the Clerk and HM Revenue & Customs be signed. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 112(2)*)
- 12.2 **Clerk's reimbursement.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100792 for £53.07 (Postage & Telephones £29.48; VAT £23.59) to the Clerk be signed, in reimbursement for items paid on behalf of the Council for 3 December 2020 to 4 February 2021. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)
- 12.3 **Other.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100793 for £111.75 (£93.13 + £18.621 VAT) to Mrs Joy Townsend be signed, in reimbursement for her having paid invoice 865897733 to Wix.com Limited, for the Village Website. (*Local Government Act 1972 s.111*)
- 12.4 **Grass cutting.** It was **noted** that cheque no. 100784 for £518.92 to Serco authorised for payment at the meeting on 10 December 2020 appears to have been lost in the post, and so the bank has been instructed to stop payment of this and cheque 100788 has been issued as a duplicate.
- 12.5 **Other.** The following debit was **noted**: Barclays Bank Plc - Stopped cheque commission - £12.50 - 4 February 2021.
- 12.6 **Credits.** Receipt of the following credit was noted: Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council - Deer sign grant - £494.38 – 26 January 2021
- 12.7 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 31 January 2021 was **received**.
- 13 Matters for consideration at next meeting.** None.

14 Next meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday, 11 March 2021**, at **7.00 p.m.** via **video link**.

Confirmed: 

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Harold Smith (Chairman)

11 March 2021

Future Meeting dates:

Thursday, 11 March 2021	Thursday, 12 August 2021	Thursday, 9 December 2021
Thursday, 8 April 2021	Thursday, 9 September 2021	Thursday, 13 January 2022
Thursday, 13 May 2021	Thursday, 14 October 2021	Thursday, 10 February 2022
Thursday, 10 June 2021	Thursday, 11 November 2021	Thursday, 10 March 2022
Thursday, 8 July 2021		