

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary Monthly Parish Meeting of Wretham Parish Council** held on Thu 12th Sep 2024 at 7:00pm in Wretham Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Harold Smith (HS) – Chair, Cllr Sharon Ford (SF) – Vice Chair, Cllr Paul Barnard (PB), 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** – Apologies Cllr Jon Ford (JF) work commitments / broken leg.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Item 7.2 - Cllr LS unable to comment on MSG and Item 10.2 Cllrs JF, SF unable to comment.
3. **DISPENSATIONS** - None
4. **MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting held on Thu 11th Jul 24, were agreed by all and signed by the Chair. These will be available to view on the Parish Council website.
5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Billy Constance from Sunnycreeks, Hockham Road to discuss Planning Application 3PL/2023/1107/F. He updated the PC that there is still minimal progress and supposed to receive a decision by 11th Sep 24, still no outcome and dates keep passing. Also reference the contention with the neighbours and compromise suggested by Cllr JF, he has updated the plans and removed all the caravan pitches. It was suggested to remove 1 and he has removed all 5 and hopes this is acceptable to all. Planning Officer is uncontactable which is frustrating, it was suggested that Billy contacts Cllr Phil Cowen and the Clerk gave his email address to see if he can assist.

6. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

- 6.1 District Councillors Report – We were joined by Cllr Phil Cowen (PC) and his report is attached.

He also reported the Government announced today that they are scrapping the devolution deal that was signed up by the previous Government for Norfolk which is disappointing. They have said the Norfolk and the Suffolk deals are not imaginative enough so we have now lost theoretically £600million investment over the next number of years in Norfolk. This means that they will not be able to do some of the things planned across the County. Not quite sure what will happen next, whether they will offer a different type of deal or a combined deal with Suffolk and whether they insist on an agreement where we have a directly elected mayor as opposed to an elected leader for the county. Hopefully by the end of the month more information will be provided.

Also somewhat concerned at Breckland because originally told that Thetford would be given £20million over the next 10 years to help kickstart the area again. Need to know if the money is still coming to Thetford or not as this is a major market town in Norfolk.

- 6.2 County Councillors Report - Cllr Fabian Eagle - none

7. MATTERS ARISING

7.1 OUTSTANDING HIGHWAY MATTERS

ENQ-716436-B6N9B1 - Verges overgrown plus Lechmere Corner – Highways confirmed resolved. However the Clerk report that although the grass was cut, the trees still need to be cut and dangerous and will chase. *Action: Clerk*

The Parish Council have had a local resident. Christopher Plumb offering to maintain Lechmere Corner on a regular basis and the PC discussed. It was agreed that although this is a great idea, however there are concerns about insurance if there was an accident. Everyone agreed that it was a shame we could not take him up on his offer because we can't take the risk of him injuring himself. It was agreed that the Clerk was to chase Highways again. *Action: Clerk*

Sign, "Wretham Camp" damaged – Highways are aware and Clerk to chase. *Action: Clerk*

Trees on Millenium Row – Treecreepers have cut so matter resolved.

7.2 ANY OTHER MATTERS

Mill Stone Green – No response received from Les Beres – Advice sought from Cllr Phil Cowen and together with the Enforcement Team (ET) they are doing what they can to engage the Developer to make good their obligations. Regrettably there is not a lot Breckland can do, the ET engaged and are doing what they can, but there is not a lot that can be done and they do not have the powers to send someone into to do it. They are trying to contact Mr Beres but no reply. MGS are planning to hold a meeting at the Village Hall to discuss a way forward together.

30B/2022/0035/OB – Application to discharge the planning obligation on 30B/2022/0014/OB – completion and transfer of outstanding housing units – This was approved on 30th Jul 24

3PL/2022/0994/VAR – Variation of Conditions 1 & 7 on 3PL/2020/0305/VAR – Replace 'Landscape Masterplan' and also include 'additional plan' – planting details – This was refused on 30th Jul 24 as plans does not provide an acceptable location, amount and type of children play equipment and the proposed landscaping scheme not adequate screening to foul water plan and sub-station. Also design is not of high quality.

8. CORRESPONDENCE – To report on any outstanding correspondence received by the Council

9. FINANCE

9.1 Monthly Financial Report and to approve/sign payments for Sep 24. All agreed payments and signed off Clerk Salary Sep 24, sum £426.42, HMRC PAYE/NI, sum £7 and Treecreeper, sum £540 for cutting Millenium Row trees, balance in account £6,230.77 after all payments made.

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. The Planning Inspectorate is responsible for resolving.

10.2 **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 – Additional information submitted to support SHRA. Also note 5no caravan pitches removed – Decision by 10th Oct 24.

10.3 **3PL/2024/0606/PIP** – Rear Gardens formerly with Stonebridge Cottage & Lantern Cottage, Watton Road – Erection of 2 Self build dwellings – Decision by 11th Sep 24. Refused

- 10.4 3NM/2024/00045/NMA** – 10 Manor Cottages, Church Road, Amendment to 3PL/2022/1135/F – move both plots forward slightly within the site - Status Refused 21st Aug 24.
- 10.5 3PL/2024/0667/VAR** – Manor Cottages, Church Road – Variation of Condition No 2 3PL/2022/1135F – reposition plot 1 3.0m further North and plot 2 2.5m further North – Decision by 17th Oct 24. Clerk to check original comments and confirmed no comment to be made.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1** Memory Support Café – “**History Café**” Clerk has printed off resource provided by Cllr LS and put up on noticeboards. Cllr LS will put her email address out and see if anyone would want to attend a café to discuss the history of the village and to contact her to see if anyone interested, it could be anyone of any age to bring along their history of living in the village. She will be talking to key people in the village, ie church, village hall, craft club to help move this forward. Clerk informed that the Chair of VH, Sharron will be at the Revival so to chat with her. It was suggested that a date be put in place and Cllr LS is considering after December 2024.

Roudham and Larling Parish Council are requesting Wretham parish council's support and comment against the preferred option in the new Breckland Local Plan for 1900 new homes on agricultural land in Larling. Comment sent by Clerk objecting due to no infrastructure made via Breckland Local Plan on Commonplace and also to Breckland Council. Clerk confirmed to Roudham and Larling PC Clerk. It was reported that there was a meeting at Hockham Village Hall. Cllr PC informed that it needs to be noted that is not a planning application. It is just an opportunity that is been given to the planning authority by the land owners to build houses that are required by the Government.

Cllr LS informed that at our Jul meeting, she did not know enough about the Plan to come to a conclusion and now she has studied, she is not against this proposal.

- 11.2** Community Action Norfolk (CAN) are offering energy advice talks to community groups across Norfolk. This is commissioned by Citizens Advice. Are we interested in hosting an awareness session for locals? Clerk to liaise with the Village Hall Chair, Sharron Rushbrook about putting the feelers out within the village as we do not want to book if persons don't attend.
- 11.3** Local resident, Louis Tracy emailed the speed on Croxton Road by the Military Camp. She has experienced a few near misses whilst riding her horse (some military vehicles). Also suggestion to reduce the speed to 30mph. Clerk emailed Highways and they have responded to say that it is with the Highways Team and they will investigate. The speed limit is 60mph and Cllr LS suggested that horses should not be taken down this road. *Action: Clerk to chase highways and if needed, contact camp about speeds.*
- 11.4** PC Dion Philips, Beat Manager Attleborough - next SNAP meeting Tue 19th Nov 24 at 18:30 hrs at Kenninghall Village Hall, NR15 2E

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

2024 - 10th Oct [NB: Apologies Cllr LS holiday], 14th Nov, Dec 24 (tba).

2025 - 9th Jan, 13th Feb, 13th Mar, 10th Apr, 8th May, 12th Jun, 10 Jul, 11 Sep, 9th Oct, 13th Nov and 11th Dec (tba) 2025

District Councillors' report, All Saints and Wayland ward September 2nd 2024

During August, often referred to as the Council recess month, the work of officers and members of Breckland has continued apace albeit with many taking their annual leave. In addition to the day to day functioning of the council we have been engaged on a variety of initiatives, not necessarily of our own making such as:

- District Boundary Review
 - The Boundary Commission advised us that as a result of demographic changes to the existing wards within Breckland (caused by housing growth in certain areas) that a review is to be undertaken. As a consequence we have been working to provide the Boundary Commission with an amended warding pattern that will meet all of their criteria and provide a balance of representation across the district. This proposal is being reviewed by the Boundary Commission and any agreed changes will take place at the next district council elections in 2027
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) document
 - The New government has made much of the failure of local planning authorities to deliver much needed housing growth across the country and announced that they would be consulting on a revised draft of the NPPF that they anticipate will do much to help to unblock schemes. That consultation runs until 24th September and Breckland officers and members have been considering a robust response during August.
- Local Plan
 - The likely changes to the NPPF will have an impact on Breckland's local plan on which officers have been engaged recently. The uncertainty about the outcome of the NPPF and its wider implications on national and local policy has meant that we have had to put on hold our work until we have clarity and can move forward with confidence.
- Budget setting
 - This is the time of year when we commence in earnest our budget setting process for the coming financial year 2025-26. However we are all aware that the new government will be delivering their own Budget at the end of October and there are likely to be nuances in national policies as a result that may have an impact on local decision making. Our team at Breckland are committed to ensuring that we deliver a balanced budget hence we are reviewing our activities to ensure we provide best value at the least cost to residents and businesses.
- Town and Parish Council Engagement Events
 - The leader of the Council and the Chief Executive supported by appropriate officers and members have arranged a number of events across the district in September, the first of which is to be held at Shropham village hall on Monday 9th, to outline subjects for discussion such as
 - **Flytipping:** Efforts and measures in place to tackle this issue.
 - **Breckland Rural Support Officer (Ranger):** Their role and the support they provide.
 - **Inspiring Communities:** Highlights of our work in community engagement and support.
 - **Housing:** Updates and information on housing projects and policies.
 - **Community Safety:** Initiatives to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our residents.

Councillors Sarah Suggitt and Philip Cowen