

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council held on Thursday, 10 November 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall, Church Road.

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

Absent: Councillors: Jonathan Ford.

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** It was **resolved** to approve and accept the reason for submitting apologies for absence by Cllr. Jonathan Ford.
- 2 **Declarations of interest.** None
- 3 **Dispensations.** None.
- 4 **Public participation session.**
 - 4.1 A member of the public raised concerns about the planning application which appeared as Agenda Item 8.3, saying that there were several inaccuracies in the plans submitted with the application. There was also concern that the application form stated that there were no trees or hedges on the site, when these were shown on the submitted plans, and although the applicant had undertaken a major exercise to fell and burn many, some remained. Concerns were also expressed about Agenda Item 8.1, and the impact on the roots of the trees on the adjacent site. In the opinion of the speaker constructing two 4-bed detached dwellings amounted to over-development.
 - 4.2 District Cllr. Phil Cowen gave an update on the steps his Council was taking in relation to both 4 Manor Cottages and Stonebridge Camp/Mill Stone Green, saying that the Enforcement team were “on the case” with the former, and “standing by” and ready to act if necessary in the latter. He then updated the meeting on the Nutrient Neutrality issue, which was causing delays to some 700 applications. With regard to the new Local Plan process, the Call for Sites had so far produced details of land being offered for possible development which would, if ever approved, produce some 22,000 new dwellings. He stressed that at this stage Breckland is obliged to publish the raw data about what sites have been put forward, and that absolutely no assessment of suitability has even been considered. That will follow later in the Plan’s development, and be subject to further consultations. Finally, he said his council was looking at the budget for next year, and this should go to the full council in February,
- 5 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 13 October 2022 were **confirmed**, and **signed** by the Chairman.
- 6 **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 [4.3] **4 Manor Cottages fence on highway land.** The NCC Highway Engineer has confirmed that a Notice has been sent and that he has met the owner, who said he would remove the laurel hedge and fencing to comply with the Notice to restore the Highway boundary within three months. The Engineer has confirmed that this is not a matter that can be ignored with impunity.
 - 6.2 [4.5] **Relocation of dog waste bin.** Breckland Council has agreed to the bin being relocated to a position in Church Road opposite the entrance to the Village Hall. The Clerk is waiting to hear back from NCC as it will be on highways land.
 - 6.3 [6.5. Minutes of 14 April 2022] **HM The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.** Members agreed that this tree has not survived the dry summer, and so the Clerk was asked to obtain a replacement.
 - 6.4 [8] **Stonebridge Camp/Mill Stone Green.** The Clerk reported that some additional topsoil had been delivered to the Green Public Space, and today this had been spread about, more or less at random. The contractor had told residents that this would eventually be

seeded, and that his advice that a membrane should have been laid first was dismissed as being “too expensive”. This has all been reported to the Breckland planning officer.

7 Correspondence. The following correspondence was **received**: None.

8 Planning.

8.1 **3PL/2022/1135/F: Land adjacent to 10 Manor Cottages, Church Road.** Amendment to approved application (3PL/2018/1498/F) to be two detached properties. It was **resolved** that the Council objected on the grounds that this was over-development of the site, and impacted the amenity of neighbouring properties. In addition, when the original permission was given Breckland did not have a 5-year land supply. That is not the case now, so policy HOU 05 should come into play.

8.2 **3PL/2022/1168/HOU: 4 Mill Stone Green.** Single storey rear extension to enlarge kitchen. Conversion of roof space to Bedroom and ensuite facilities with Velux rooflights. It was **resolved** that the Council had no objections.

8.3 **3PL/2022/1177/F: 4 Manor Cottages, Church Road.** Retrospective planning application relating to the relocation of stable buildings, improvements to the access and associated works. It was **resolved** that the Council objected to the application on the grounds that the forms and plans submitted were riddled with so many errors, inaccuracies, omissions, and uncertainties, that refusal was the only option available.

8.4 **3PL/2022/1212/HOU: 4 Manor Cottages, Church Road.** Proposed single storey extension to create a kitchen with balcony over and associated works. It was **resolved** that while the Council did not object to the principle of the proposed development, once again the exact site plan was unknown, in that it differs to a considerable extent to that which was provided for application 3PL/2022/1212/HOU. Furthermore, this application claims that the dwelling is on mains drainage, and the Parish Council is concerned that it has received no advice of any plans to bring mains drainage to the parish.

8.5 **3PL/2022/1064/LU: Stoneacre, Hockham Road.** Single storey lean-to extension to rear of existing dwelling with Velux windows to sloping roof - Certificate of Lawfulness (Proposed). It was **noted** that this application has been refused by Breckland Council because Permitted Development rights have previously been removed from the property under planning permission 3PL/2002/0553/D.

8.6 **3PL/2022/1082/HOU: Long Coggles, The Park.** Replacement timber door and window joinery, internal perimeter wall insulation, new door and window openings and general internal alterations and improvements to the existing mid-terrace thatched dwelling. It was **resolved** that the Council had no objections.

8.7 **3PL/2022/1083/LB: Long Coggles, The Park.** Replacement timber door and window joinery, internal perimeter wall insulation, new door and window openings and general internal alterations and improvements to the existing mid-terrace thatched dwelling. It was **resolved** that the Council had no objections.

9 Clerk's salary. An advice note from the National Association of Local Councils was **received** which confirms that the 2022-23 National Salary Award has been agreed at a flat rate of an additional £1.00/hour across all grades. This means that the Clerk's salary will rise to £14.75/hour, or £4,602 p.a. The Clerk pointed out that the agreement also included award of an additional day's leave, bringing the total to 26 (pro rata). In 2016, when the Council last assessed the number of hours needed to do the Clerk's job, the holiday allowance was only 21 days. It was accepted that the Council therefore needed to increase the hours it paid to ensure that the correct number could be taken as paid leave in accordance with the contract. The Clerk will make the calculation and bring a proposal to a future meeting.

10 Finance.

10.1 **Grass cutting.** It was **resolved** that cheque numbered 100843 for £389.18 (£324.32 + £64.86 VAT) to Serco be signed, for grass cutting during 2022. (Note: this has been reduced as only six cuts took place during the year.). (*Public Health Act 1875 s.164*)

10.2 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 31 October 2022 was received.

11 **Matters for consideration at next meeting.** Budget & Precept 2023-24.

12 **Next meeting.** The next meeting, of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 8 December 2022, at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall.

Confirmed:

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Harold Smith (Chairman)

8 December 2022

Future Meeting dates:

Thursday, 8 December 2022

Thursday, 12 January 2023

Thursday, 9 February 2023

Thursday, 9 March 2023