

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council on Thursday, 10 November 2016 at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall, Church Road.

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

- 1 **Election of Chairman.** Councillor Smith was **elected** Chairman of the Council.
- 2 **Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.** Councillor Smith signed the declaration, which was **received**.
- 3 **Election of Vice Chairman.** Councillor Ford was **elected** Vice-Chairman in succession to Councillor Smith.
- 4 **Apologies for absence.** None.
- 5 **Declarations of interest.** None.
- 6 **Dispensations.** None.
- 7 **Public participation session.** County Councillor Ian Monson spoke about the recent County Council meeting discussing devolution, which had been well reported in the press. He said that a decision was due to be taken at their meeting on 21 November, but that none of his 25 parishes had any enthusiasm for the Government's proposals. His Council is now working on the budget for 2017/18, and he expected this would involve an increase in Council Tax of 3.5%, 2% of which would be ring-fenced for social care.
- 8 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 6 October 2016 were **confirmed** and **signed**.
- 9 **Matters arising.** [4.5 Minutes of 8 September 2016] **Broadband.** The Clerk has been assured by Rachael Line, Highway Network Co-ordinator (Better Broadband for Norfolk), that there is no intention to position a new cabinet near the A1075/Peddars Way junction, but it may be that another "box" (underground) may be put there, which should still allow access by the parishioner's mower. The Clerk has also been advised that the new cabinet which will serve Wretham (reference Great Hockham 2) would be installed by the part of the Trod just south of Illington Road, and this has now been done. When installation is complete (which involves the necessary cabling) people can check to see which cabinet they are served from and the available speeds by going to <https://www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/adsl.htm>.
- 10 **Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:
 - 10.1 Mrs H Andrews-Harris: *Copy of letter to Breckland Planning re. Application ref: 3PL/2016/1133/F.* The Council asked the Clerk to write to Breckland Planning Department expressing support for this and other objections to the revised scheme submitted by local residents.
 - 10.2 Barclays Bank Plc: *Letter re statements.*
 - 10.3 *Clerks & Councils Direct* - November 2016.
 - 10.4 Norfolk County Council: *Highway and Community Ranger Visit* - w/c 5 December 2016.
 - 10.5 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account statement* - 1-31 October 2016.
 - 10.6 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account statement* - 1-31 October 2016.
- 11 **Planning.** 3PL/2016/1204/HOU: **Peddars, Keepers Corner, Wretham.** Application for Erection of single storey extension following demolition of existing outbuildings. It was **resolved** that the Council objected on the grounds of the scale of the extension, and the proposed materials.

- 12 **Theft of Vehicle Activated Sign (Speed Awareness Message - SAM2).** The Clerk reported that this sign was stolen from its post north of the A1075 junction with Peddars Way some time before 16 October. He has reported the theft to the police and submitted a claim under the insurance policy. A replacement will cost £3,050, and the Council will have to pay the £250 excess on the policy. The Council agreed that the Clerk should go ahead with ordering a replacement when the claim is settled.
- 13 **Speeding past Hilda Raker Close.** Following the last meeting, the Clerk contacted PC Amy Lucas, Community Engagement Officer, who arranged for the Traffic Management Officer to look at the exit from Hilda Raker Close onto the A1075. He has recommended various measures (SLOW markings and Roundels on the road), and also provided data from the speed monitoring carried out in Stonebridge in autumn 2015. The Clerk has asked whether his recommendations will be implemented, or whether the Council needs to do anything else, and a response is awaited.

Councillor Foster declared a non-pecuniary interest in the next item, as a member of the Wretham Parochial Church Council, and took no part in the discussion or decision.

- 14 **Burial Grounds maintenance.** A letter from the Secretary of Wretham Parochial Church Council was **received**, advising that the additional £350 grant given by the Council in July 2016 to pay for grass cutting in Illington churchyard was not after all going to be used, as a parishioner had offered to do it without charge. He asked whether the PCC should return this grant, but also made an application for a grant towards the cost of maintenance of the Wretham churchyard in 2016, which so far had cost over £600. It was **agreed** to make a grant of £350 for this year, and that therefore the PCC did not need to refund the earlier grant.
- 15 **Grass cutting on Millennium Row.** It was **agreed** to accept a quotation from Serco for a two year agreement for cutting the grass on Millennium Row. This is for £411.83 p.a. The Clerk will advise them accordingly, and sign the Agreement form.
- 16 **Budget 2017/18.** The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2017/18 which was **approved**. This included provision in the reserves against the possibility of the Council having to pay for contested elections.
- 17 **Precept 2017/18.** It was **agreed** to fix the Precept for 2017/18 at £4,800, a rise of 3%. However the Clerk pointed out that the number of Band D equivalents in the parish had risen so parishioners should eventually see a small reduction in the Parish Council part of their Council Tax bills.
- 18 **Finance.**
- 18.1 **Section 137.** The Clerk reported that cheque number 100639 issued at the September meeting payable to the Royal British Legion had been returned as the Appeal Organised had advised that it should now be made payable to The Poppy Appeal. It was therefore **agreed** to sign cheque no. 100644 for £75.00 in substitution. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 137*)
- 18.2 **Grass cutting** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100645 for £482.15 (£401.79 + £80.36 VAT) to Serco be signed, in settlement of invoice no. 91315122 for grass cutting on Millennium Row during 2016. (*Public Health Act 1875 s.164*)
- 18.3 **Telephones.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100646 for £49.08 (£40.90 + £8.18 VAT) to BT be signed, in settlement of invoice no. M007 BN for provision of Broadband internet access in Wretham Village Hall. The Clerk reported that, as he had managed to obtain a £250+ credit on a previous bill because BT had failed to keep an appointment resulting in his waiting in the Hall all afternoon, he would add the time involved to his next salary claim. He also said that BT was still refusing to acknowledge the existence of Parish Councils as legal entities. The Council **agreed** that he should write to Miss Truss MP to enlist her support.

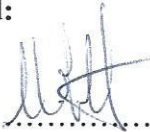
18.4 **Direct Debit.** In spite of the above, it was **agreed** to sign a direct debit authority to BT to cover future bills relating to the provision of Broadband internet access in Wretham Village Hall.

18.5 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 31 October 2016 was received.

19 **Matters for consideration at next meeting.** None.

20 **Next meeting.** The next meeting will be on **Thursday, 8 December 2016**, at **7.00 p.m.** in **Wretham Village Hall.**

Confirmed:



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Harold Smith (Chairman)

8 December 2016

Future Meeting dates:

Thursday, 8 December 2016

Thursday, 9 February 2017

Thursday, 12 January 2017

Thursday, 9 March 2017

