

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council held on Thursday, 13th April 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall, Church Road.

Present: Councillors: Harold Smith (Chairman), Paul Barley, Paul Barnard, Sharon Ford. *District Cllr Phil Cowen arrived at the meeting at 7.25*
Interim Clerk: Mrs Pauline Angus

There was 8 members of the public

1. **Apologies of absence**

Parish Cllr Jonathan Ford.

2. **Declarations of interest**

None

3. **To consider** any applications made by Members for a dispensation to allow them to participate and vote on an agenda item in spite of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

None

4. **Resignation of our Parish Clerk Julian Gibson** – to note and thank Julian for his valued service.

Julian has had to resign due to ill health, send a letter to Julian/Joy saying he will be sorely missed – been with us since 2009.

5. **District and County Councillors Report**

5.1 **District Councillors Report**

District Cllr P Cowen apologised for arriving late. 5th May

With regard to the enforcement notice for the Land known as 4 Manor Cottages, the owners have until the 5th May to appeal.

Mill Stone Green – Cllr Cowen said that the environmental health department could become involved with the current problems that they are having with the developer.

5.2 **County Councillors Report**

6. **Public participation session.**

There were 7 residents present who were there to raise their concerns about the state of the landscaping on the Mill Stone Green development in which there is an ongoing dispute with the developer.

The following are details that was sent to the clerk by email

As discussed, the main areas of concern around Mill Stone Green relate to the following:

1. Sewage Treatment Plant, although no planning consent was required for the Treatment Plant, there have been numerous issues with the plant that have been raised with the developer and Environmental Protection (Sue Hammond, Senior Environmental Protection Officer). We (and our drainage consultants) have asked Beres Developments for all paperwork, details of manufacturer/installer etc but nothing forthcoming, so we have concerns not just about the potential

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costs required to fix any issues but the impact this may have on the environment both on the green and any discharge into the waterway.

2. Mill Stone Green, the main areas of concern are that the landscaping as it stands is no way represents the specification that was submitted as part of the original planning permission, or even the revised submission that Les Beres made last year. I could go into a lot more detail, but in summary the ground has been poorly prepared and where materials, vehicles etc have been driven over the green, the ground is heavily compacted, this means that anything planted will struggle to grow and the ground, due to poor drainage, will continue to deteriorate. There should be tonnes of topsoil on the green on top of well-prepared ground to ensure that any planting, grass will thrive leaving a nice area for the residents of Mill Stone Green and Wretham as a whole to enjoy. The hedging and planting to the green at the front of Mill Stone Green, should be maturing and yet as large parts of it are dead/stunted, it will be at least two years behind where it should be when/if it gets replaced.

3. Road/Groundworks, there is an inconsistency in the type/size of edging stones around the roadway including a number which are cracked/broken. Also parts of the road (in particular leading to houses 24,25) have lifted in the cold weather due to land heave. Not only does this raise concerns that the council will not adopt these areas, but concerns that children may fall where the roadway is lifted by as much as 4 cm causing a lip between driveways and roadway. There is also no drainage for rainwater runoff on houses 21-27, so all runoff goes straight onto the road.

The Chair confirmed that the residents have the Parish councils support regarding this matter and it was agreed that the Clerk will write a letter to Simon Wood in Breckland Planning department and copies will go to Chris Hobson (planning) and District Cllr P. Cowen

7. **To confirm** and **sign** the minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 9th March 2023

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 9th March 2023 were accepted by all who were in attendance as a true record of that meeting and the Chair signed the minutes. These will be available to view on the Parish noticeboard and website.

8. **To confirm** and **sign** the minutes held on the 10th November (these were not signed and minuted in previous meetings held since the November meeting)

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 10th November 2023 were accepted by all who were in attendance as a true record of that meeting and the Chair signed the minutes. These will be available to view on the Parish noticeboard and website.

9. **To report** matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda: **for information only**.

None

10. **To receive** the following correspondence (available at the meeting, *distributed by email):

None

11. **To receive** Planning Applications, planning decisions and correspondence, and **to decide** on comments to be made where necessary.

11.1. **3CM/2023/0002/CM Larkshall Mill Thetford Road** FUL/2022/0071 Temporary permission for Carbon Pilot Project involving direct air capture for a period of 2 years: **Approved**

11.2. **3PL/2023/0303/HOU Staddles Cottage Peddars Way** Proposed Garage Extension to provide covered and secure parking – **Withdrawn 11th April 2023**

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- 11.3. Enforcement noticed **Land known as 4 Manor Cottages, Church Road, Wretham, IP24 1RL** Breach of planning control – for information only

12. **Hand-over** – progress on handover of financial records to the interim Clerk

The Clerk has now been able to access the financial spread sheets and has updated them, although she has not been able to reconcile the figures with the bank statements as these were still with the previous Clerk. The Chair has now obtained the statements and gave them to the Clerk before tonight's meeting.

The Clerk has contacted HMRC regarding PAYE passwords and user names that she will need to access the Parishes records, they have contacted the Chair for confirmation of his and the Clerks details and hopefully by the next meeting this should all be in hand.

13. **Parish Notice Board in Illington** -this has been re-affixed by the Chair and Cllr Barley

14. **Defibrillator check** – The Chair has been in contact with The Community Heartbeat Trust and is now able to check the defibrillator located at the village hall.

15. **County Broadband** – Progress – County Broadband have sent letters to all residents to say that this will all be completed by the spring.

16. **Finance**

16.1. **To approve** the payments for this month's invoices .

The following payments for April 2023 were approved and the cheques were signed by The Chair and Cllr Sharon Ford

Details of Payment	DD/Cheque	Total
Data Protection Fee	DD	35.00
Web Site fee	100851	158.40
Bailiwick IT Ltd	100852	131.26
Previous Clerks - Pay replaces lost cheque 100844	100853	1,105.00

Totals **£1429.66**

16.2. **To receive the** Monthly Financial Report

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the figures to the Cllrs by email

Balance in accounts for April 2023 is a total £11,301.09 – This has not been reconciled with the bank statements as they were not available at the time

16.3. **To appoint** internal auditor for year-end audit

It was agreed that Mr Michael Corrie would be appointed to carry out the internal audit for the Council for the year end 2022-2023

17. **To decide** on any matters for consideration at next meeting.

None

18. **To consider** excluding the press and public from the meeting for the next item as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Done

19. **To consider** Interim Clerk's temporary contract

The Chair and the Clerk signed the contract for the interim Clerk – Pauline Angus, she will act as interim clerk until the end of May 2023.

20. **To consider** Application from a resident in the Village for the position of Parish Clerk

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It was agreed by all that Julie Challenor would be appointed as Parish Clerk and would take up the position from 1st June 2023.

21. **To confirm** the date of the next meeting as Thursday, 11th May at 7.00 p.m. in Wretham Village Hall, this will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting

Scheduled future meeting dates:

Thursday 11th May Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 8th June – Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

With nothing more to discuss the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed Chairman:- _____ Date:- _____

DRAFT