

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary Monthly Parish Meeting of Wretham Parish Council** held on Thu 8th February 2024 at 7:00pm in Wretham Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Harold Smith (HS) – Chair, Cllr Sharon Ford, (SF) – Vice Chair, Cllr Jon Ford (JF), Cllr Paul Barnard (PB), Cllr Lorna Soar (LS) and Parish Clerk, Jules Challenor (JC)

Four members of the public present, John Kitson reporting on behalf of the Village Newsletter. Also attending Mr Constance from Sunnycreeks Hockham Road and Mr and Mrs Shepherd from Woodland, Hockham Road.

- 1. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE** – None
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Item 10.4 on the Agenda – Cllrs JF and SF are unable to comment.
- 3. DISPENSATIONS** – None
- 4. MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 24 were agreed by all and signed by the Chair. These will be available to view on the Parish Council website and noticeboards.
- 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Mr Constance from Sunnycreeks Hockham Road and Mr and Mrs Shepherd from Woodland, Hockham Road to discuss Planning Application 3PL/2023/1107/F.

Mr Constance put forward his plans re the above. Mr & Mrs Shepherd are still objecting to the location of 5 no caravan pitches placement near to their garden fence. It was discussed at length and it was questioned whether a compromise could be made.

6. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

6.1 District Councillors Report – Cllr Phil Cowen unable to attend, report below:-

LOCAL PLAN

The Local Plan consultation is currently running and closes on 19th Feb. It is being co-ordinated by Filigree and includes Parish/Town Council briefings as well as place-based events within the market towns.

COMMUNITIES

Collaboration Conference: Breckland Council successfully hosted the Collaboration Conference in January, bringing together approximately 60 key professionals from various sectors to discuss impactful early intervention projects.

Breckland Collaboration: Resolved all 11 referred cases this month. Primary concerns involved health issues, with referrals mainly coming from schools and Breckland Council Housing Solutions Team.

Welfare Support: Supported 31 new Welfare referrals, ensuring these vulnerable residents received vital resources and guidance.

Chairmans initials _____

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Mindful Town and Villages: Trained 23 Community Champions in January, bolstering local support networks.

Household Support Fund: The Communities Team facilitated 101 successful referrals, distributing £30,300 in aid.

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Review: The Council's Submission (as agreed at full council on 14 Dec) has been forwarded to the Local Government Boundary Commission; we are expecting a response to our submission in mid-February, confirming the number of Councillors for Breckland from the election in 2027 onwards. A proposed warding pattern will be considered by Council later in the year.

FINANCE

Additional funding for local authorities was announced on 24 January in the form of Rural Services Delivery Grant and Funding Guarantee grant. The methodology for distribution of this funding by LA will be released with the final Settlement.

The final budget will be released for the Cabinet meeting 12 February followed by Full Council. This shows a balanced revenue budget in the short term subject to achieving efficiencies of £965k in year one rising to £1.6m in future years. The budget shows a capital programme that is partly reliant on borrowing (internal for the moment).

The Annual Billing process for Council Tax and Business rates is underway. This year we are introducing the option of PDF bills as email attachments to streamline the customer experience.

6.2 County Councillors Report - None

7. MATTERS ARISING

7.1 OUTSTANDING HIGHWAY MATTERS

Highways emailed re ENQ-663793-G1B6Z3 (Croxtan Road) stating potholes resolved. Cllr JF and SF reported the potholes still not fixed satisfactorily. **Action: Cllr SF to take photos and will email the Clerk.**

Clerk chased Highways ENQ-28545 re hedge rows around the junction of the A1075 + Woodcock Road and informed they will be sorted by the end of the month. As at Thu 8th Feb, it was reported that the hedges had been cut. **Action: Clerk to report all satisfactory.**

Roadsigns /chevrons by Denton / end of the camp – Clerk to liaise with SF exact location and find out progress. **Action: Clerk**

7.2 ANY OTHER MATTERS

8. CORRESPONDENCE – All correspondence regularly sent electronically to all Councillors.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Monthly Financial Report. No payments for Feb 24. Balance in the account £8,562.62.

9.2 Appoint internal auditor for year end 31st Mar 24 – Clerk to ask Michael Corrie, who has previously audited the accounts. **Action: Clerk**

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

10.1 ENF/271/22/PAR – 4 Manor Cottages - Appeal ongoing & Breckland Council managing.

- 10.2 3PL/2023/0815/HOU** - Larkshall House Thetford Road - First floor extension over previously approved single storey extension – **REFUSAL** and an appeal started 14 Dec 23. **APP/F2605/D/23/3333579**
- 10.3 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 – **Decision by 29 Jan 24 @ 8th Feb 24 still undecided.**

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1** Thetford Road (A1075 just before OCO) site with Dog Training Facility - investigate business planning permission. Clerk researched and there would appear to be no dog training facility at the site. Also the sign is no longer on the side of the road. It was decided that matter closed unless anything changes.
- 11.2** OCO Technology – Clerk chased re site visit and we are looking at July 24. **Action: Clerk**

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

- 12.1** Dementia Care Conference – 26th March 24. Clerk received email about course and details were forwarded via email to all Cllrs. Cllr LS said she could attend the course with another member. Chair HS said he could possibly attend course too. Clerk to investigate cost, ie two people for price of one as course, if online. Also Clerk to look at further dates in the year. Cllr JF asked if the Clerk could invite a Dementia friendly village speaker to attend our meeting to discuss further, hopefully at our next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

MEETING DATES 2024

The next meeting is to be held on Thu 14th Mar 24

Rest of 2024 meeting dates – 11th Apr, 9th May, 13th Jun & 11th Jul 24, Aug (tba), 12th Sep, 10th Oct, 14th Nov, Dec 24 (tba).