

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie (Jules) Challenor, Tofts Barn, Church Road, Wretham, IP24 1RL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary Monthly Parish Meeting of Wretham Parish Council** held on Thu 12th Jun 2025 at 7:00pm in Wretham Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Sharon Ford (**SF**) – Chair, Cllr Paul Barnard (**PB**) – Vice Chair, Cllr Jon Ford (**JF**), Cllr Natalie Bissessur (**NB**) and Parish Clerk, Jules Challenor (**JC**)

1. **APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE** – Cllr Christopher Plumb (**CP**)

2. **DECARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS** - None

3. **DISPENSATIONS** - None

4. **MINUTES** – The minutes of the AGM meeting held on Thu 8th May 2025 were agreed by all and signed by the Chair (**SF**). These will be available to view on the Parish Council website.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – No one attended

6. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

6.1 District Councillors Report – Cllr Phil Cowen – no report

6.2 County Councillors Report - Cllr Fabian Eagle - received email re Community Fund Grant and this was discussed at length. Clerk to compile a reply for Cllrs to approve.

7. **MATTERS ARISING**

7.1 **OUTSTANDING HIGHWAY MATTERS** – Strong smell of effluent from pipe that drains into the stream between Peter Denty's House and the Brecks. Clerk reported as an Environmental Health issue to Breckland Council and they have replied they are not responsible for drainage or sewerage works, they only deal with watercourses and streams. Clerk informed that need to liaise with government agency and also inform Anglian Water – ongoing with Clerk.

7.2 **ANY OTHER MATTERS** - Sign on left hand side into Church Road - Chair / Clerk ongoing.

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

9. **FINANCE**

9.1 Monthly Financial Report – approved payments to Zurich Insurance, sum £264 (reduced by £63 from previous year), Speednames website domain renewal, sum £42.11, Clerk salary Jun 25 sum £459.94, HMRC PAYE/NI, sum £15.40, Lloyds have introduced a Service Charge sum £4.25 taken by DD, and Auditor sum £50.

9.2 Year End 31 Mar 25 AGAR Forms – all sent to PKF – complete

9.3 VAT YE 31 Mar 25 – applied for refund, sum £281.45

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 – Enforcement Notice Appeal – Clerk emailed Cllr Phil Cowen asking, was the Enforcement Notice badly written for it to be voided and that there is some incompetence for this to happen. He replied stating that he has asked for an update and will reply when he receives a response.

Chair Initials : SF.

17 Jul 25

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 History/Memory Cafe – email sent and no reply from Lorna Soar. The Clerk did see LS, it was briefly discussed and LS is currently very busy and may look at in the future. Cllr SF has said she will investigate a one off at some point.
- 11.2 List of all trees in village with protection orders to be obtained - ongoing – Cllr SF informed that a resident has a map illustrating trees within the area where they live and the resident will get a copy for us.
- 11.3 Map of Village of who owns what land, ie what fields if there was an issue, who to contact – ongoing
- 11.4 Road safety sign (deer) shared with Stow Bedon & Breckles Parish Council – Jackie Preston Clerk confirmed that supplies purchased and has liaised with Cllr PB. The deer sign is currently at Stow Bedon end Cllr Lee Pilkington is going to collect a set of keys from Cllr PB and set up the sign.
- 11.5 Wretham Camp – parcels incorrectly addressed to the camp – Clerk emailed Newsletter asking all residents that as and when they receive parcels that should have been delivered to the camp to clerk.wrethamparishcouncil@gmail.com with parcel details etc so that data can be collated and investigated.
- 11.6 Church Road – current roadworks. Resident has raised concern that the road has not been restored to its original width. Clerk liaised with resident and Highways informed that the road was narrower but they were unable to do anything about it at this time. The day after this meeting, Fri 13th Jun, email received from resident, stating that they had experienced a fire and two fire crews attended. Unfortunately the fire engine was unable to gain access due to the road being too narrow and the verge too high impeding the fire engines turning circle. The resident has taken it back up with Norfolk Council Highway to request the road is restored to its original condition.
- 11.7 Website domain - ongoing

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

2025 - 17th JULY, Aug no meeting, 11th Sep, 9th Oct, 13th Nov & Dec no meeting.

2026 – 8th Jan, 12th Feb, 12th Mar, 9th Apr, AGM 14th May, 11th Jun, 9th Jul 2026

Agenda Items as follows:-

- Country Broadband sign needs to be removed.
- Clerk raised Village Hall grounds – safety sign for equipment – vandalised – need to check CCTV
- Clerk raised Village Hall – play equipment report received and urgent remedial works needed. Clerk had discussed with Cllr Christopher Plumb and he is willing to look at the report and the remedials needed. Clerk has also asked for the newsletter to enquire about any willing volunteers.
- Clerk raised Lechmere Corner (area where the Village Hall sign is located) – highways have cut the grass cut, however area around trees left due to the fact the trees still need crowing. Cllr CP has put himself forward again to carry out remedial work – to be discussed at the next meeting.

Chair Initials :

SF.

17 Jul 25

District Councillor report June 2025

Breckland continues to lead the response to the government's call for proposals for unitary authority status in Norfolk on behalf of 6 authorities, Breckland, Broadland, Great Yarmouth, Kings Lynn, North Norfolk and Norwich City. The proposal being developed would see three Unitary Authorities established for Norfolk centred on the three largest settlements, Kings Lynn in the West, Great Yarmouth in the East and Norwich in the centre.

This approach would establish a more manageable grouping in both population size and geography with, perhaps more importantly, more localised representation and knowledge of the 'patch' compared with the alternatives of a single or two Unitary model.

Whilst this work is undertaken in readiness for submission to the Minister in September, Breckland continues with business as usual; we are still mandated to provide all of the statutory services and by choice those more discretionary services to individuals, communities and businesses until the Minister advises that with the impending change and, significantly, the election of the new Mayor in May 2026 some of the duties and responsibilities are passed onwards to alternative service providers.

Breckland is ahead of the game with regard to domestic food collection; vehicles are on order as are the requisite containers for residents to collect food waste. This is a service yet to commence although our commercial food waste collection is already underway.

At Cabinet today we reported that the year end figures for 2024-2025 showed a surplus despite challenging areas within the organisation such as a significant reduction in planning and building control income and higher costs associated with temporary accommodation and housing.

The local plan process continues apace with local communities being involved in the process so that we can draw on a bottom up approach to delivering the 903 houses that the minister requires us to provide year on year through the next local plan period.

Cllrs Sarah Suggitt and Phil Cowen

June 2025

Chair Initials : SF -