

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Telephone: 07760 485472

Email: clerk.wrethamparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the **Ordinary Monthly Parish Meeting of Wretham Parish Council** held on Thu 11th July 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 Lorna Soar (LS) and Parish Clerk, Jules Challenor (JC)

One member of the public present, John Kitson reporting on behalf of the Village Newsletter.

1. **APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE** – Cllr Paul Barnard – holiday.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Item 10.2 Cllrs JF and SF unable to comment, although nothing to discuss. Item 7.2 Cllr LS unable to comment.
3. **DISPENSATIONS** – None.
4. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the meeting held on Thu 13th Jun 2024 were agreed by all and signed by the Chair. These will be available to view on the Parish Council website.
5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – This session should not exceed 20 minutes
6. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

- 6.1 District Councillors Report – The Local Plan consultation is underway and local communities are asked to make comments and observations on the proposals. However with the change in government following the general election, we wait with interest to learn how the new administration is going to make changes to national planning policy that may impact our current proposals.

We have delivered a balanced budget for the past year as reported at Council today which shows that we had to contribute £409,000 from the general fund to balance the books as a result of external factors such as a drop off in fees coming into the council and the increase in the need for temporary housing.

Looking forward it is likely that our budgets will come under further pressure in the coming years and as a result we are looking at how and where we can improve the way that we operate and where, if possible, we can make efficiencies. To that end we are currently looking at how we can aid our budgetary position and one of those areas is to address the costs of providing car parking on council owned car parks in the district; this amounts to some £450,000 year on year, a cost that is borne by everyone in the district irrespective of whether the individual uses a car park.

Therefore, we are investigating the options that are available to us and a paper is being presented to cabinet on Monday next week.

Locally we are aware that the Millstone Green development has not delivered the landscape and open space that was anticipated and our enforcement team are doing what they can to engage with the developer to make good their obligations. At the time of writing I am awaiting an update

Chairmans initials



Wretham Parish AGM Council Meeting 11th Jul 24

on progress from our team.

Finally I am pleased to confirm that we have terminated the Capita contract and planners and building control services are now all employed direct by Breckland.

- 6.2** County Councillors Report – Cllr Fabian Eagle emailed to let us know that the dangerous junctions within his division will be cut this week. This is an additional cut to the Highway programme which he has requested and funded from his Highways Budget.

7. MATTERS ARISING

7.1 OUTSTANDING HIGHWAY MATTERS

Hedge rows Woodcock Road – Clerk contact Ian and Jeanette Turtle at Woodcock Farm – Clerk spoke to them both 4th Jul and they agreed to cut back hedges. Matter Closed.

ENQ-663793-G1B6Z3 – Croxton Road potholes – resolved and matter closed.

Illington Road – Damaged sign and sand on the road – reported 26th Jun 24. Reply received, re sign - “we have assessed that the defect does not currently meet our intervention criteria. We will continue to monitor as part of normal scheduled inspections.” Sand on road reported as street cleaning, ref 326994 – matter closed.

ENQ-716436-B6N9B1 Verges / Area location VH sign ENQ-716445-F7H5V9 also 4 Manor Cottages verge – all reported to Highways. VH Sign area / green – Highways they have investigated and will confirm action is required and will resolve the problem. 4 MC – this is with Highways who are going to investigate.

Cllr SF reported sign by layby is flat – *Action: Clerk to investigate.*

Trees on Millenium Row asked by Serco that need cutting and Cllr HS confirmed to contact Treecreeper who manage this on behalf of the PC. *Action: Clerk*

7.2 ANY OTHER MATTERS

Mill Stone Green update – Clerk emailed Mr Beres on 11th Jun no reply received. Advice sought from Phil Cowen – no reply received as at 4th Jul 24. *Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Phil Cowen*

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

9. FINANCE

- 9.1** Monthly Financial Report – Prior to meeting, all payments to be made sent to all Councillors for approval along with financial report showing all bank balances. Clerk salary paid monthly, 30th Jul 24, sum £424.02 - HMRC PAYE/NI, sum £9.40. Clerk salary 30th Aug 24, sum £438.82 - HMRC PAYE/NI, sum £9.60. Mileage May+Jun, sum £21.60, Expenses Apr/May/Jun 24 - Printer + WFH allowance, sum £94.98. Balance in the account, sum £7,297.61 after these payments deducted.

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 - Appeal ongoing & Breckland Council managing – *Action: Clerk to chase again.*

- 10.2** **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 13 May 24 – @ 11 Jul 24 – Status undecided

Chairmans initials



Wretham Parish AGM Council Meeting 11th Jul 24

- 10.3 3PL/2024/0332/F – Larkshall House, Thetford Road - Erection of Farm Shop on existing agricultural land – Decision by 5 Jul 24 – Status Refused – they may need to liaise with Cllr Fabien Eagle to get any advice.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 Memory Support Café – Cllr LS submitted a resource with telephone numbers. Name to tbc. We still need to decide what can be provided for the village. Cllr LS confirmed most GP surgeries have a support system in place.
- 11.2 OCO Technology – Visit to take place, Tue 23rd Jul at 4pm.
- 11.3 Due to holidays, August meeting deferred, next meeting, Thu 12th Sep 24.
- 11.4 Roudham and Larling Parish Council are requesting Wretham Parish Council's support and comment against the preferred option in the new Breckland Local Plan for 1900 new homes on agricultural land in Larling. Currently hamlet of 100. *Action: Clerk to comment that we do not support extra 1900 homes as there is not the infrastructure in place to support, ie school, doctors, electricity, waste etc*

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

2024 - 12th Sep, 10th Oct, 14th Nov, Dec 24 (tba).

2025 - 9th Jan, 13th Feb, 13th Mar, 10th Apr, 8th May, 12th Jun, 10 Jul 2025

Chairmans initials



Wretham Parish AGM Council Meeting 11th Jul 24