

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 14th Nov 2024 at 7:00pm in Wretham Village Hall.

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

Two members of the public present, John Kitson reporting on behalf of the Village Newsletter and Natalie Bissessur, who has applied for the role of Councillor.

1. **APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE** – Cllr Harold Smith (6-month sabbatical), Cllr John Ford (work).
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Item 7.2 - Cllr LS unable to comment on MSG and Item 10.2 Cllrs JF, SF unable to comment.
3. **DISPENSATIONS** - None
4. **MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting held on Thu 12th Sep 24, were agreed by all and signed by the Vice-Chair. These will be available to view on the Parish Council website.
5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Cllr Sharon Ford welcomed Natalie Bissessur to the meeting.
6. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**
 - 6.1 District Councillors Report – Cllr Phil Cowen – attached
 - 6.2 County Councillors Report - Cllr Fabian Eagle - none

7. MATTERS ARISING

- 7.1 **OUTSTANDING HIGHWAY MATTERS** – discuss any outstanding issues + report any new issues.

ENQ-716436-B6N9B1 Lechmere Corner Trees – NCC reported as completed! Clerk reports that the trees still urgently need crowning – Reported again with new photos as dangerous - update to ENQ-728516-R8X8C4 – NCC have inspected and will resolve the problem. They have confirmed action is required and will take approx. 6 weeks – Clerk to monitor situation.

Clerk also emailed Highways about the "Wretham Camp" sign is bent towards the A1075 road. Also the verges in Wretham appear to no longer be regularly maintained by Highways and regular incidents of standing water/flooding – drainage on Church Road by St Ethelbert Church.

- 7.2 **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

Mill Stone Green – Cllr Phil Cowen emailed to report, "there has been a development regarding Millstone Green and I understand that the residents have been made aware of the current position, one of their number having a legal background.

It transpires that the Millstone Green developer has ceased trading and whilst a management company was established, the land was not transferred to the management company before the cessation. As a result, the open space land reverts to The Crown who may then transfer it to the Crown Estate. I am advised that in this eventuality it becomes a civil matter for residents to seek to gain ownership from the Crown Estate and establish their own management company to be a custodian of the land in question. Breckland Council will do what it can to support residents but because of the particular circumstances involved is unable to intervene directly."

Chairmans initials SF ,

Wretham Parish AGM Council Meeting 14th Nov 24

8. **CORRESPONDENCE** – All correspondence regularly circulated via email to all councillors. We put out a notice for a Councillor vacancy and we have received two applications. We currently have a vacancy for one member, which could be co-opted on the council.

9. **FINANCE**

9.1 Monthly Financial Report and to approve/sign payments for Oct and Nov 24. All sent to Cllrs via email for consideration prior to meeting. Agreed to pay for removal of 6 moles from War Memorial Area. Clerk pay increase back payment from 1st Apr – 30th Oct 24 to be incl with Nov salary.

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.

10.2 **3PL/2023/1107/F** - Sunnycreeks Hockham Road IP24 1SD - Tourism development to include erection of 2 holiday cabins, service block, stables, manege and paddocks for equestrian use– Revised plans submitted – Decision by 28th Nov 24. Clerk commented on behalf of the PC “asking if 5No caravan pitches removed as per previous revised documents.” **At time of writing minutes**, it was noted that the application had been changed to “Tourism development to include erection of 2 holiday cabins, service block, stables, manege and paddocks for equestrian use.”

10.3 **3PL/2024/0667/VAR** – Manor Cottages, Church Road – Variation of Condition No 2 3PL/2022/1135F – reposition plot 1 3.0m further North and plot 2 2.5m further North – Application Approved – Matter Closed.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

11.1 History Cafe – no response from newsletter advert placed. It was clarified that the Village Hall are fully supportive of the Café, they would not be able to help run but would support, ie reduced cost of hall etc. Cllr SF suggested that a date be published in the newsletter for Jan 25. Cllr LS will probably hold at a weekend, say every 6 weeks and will draft something for the newsletter that is more specific. Cllr LS also offered her services to the VH for social media and also her partner would be happy to help with gardening.

11.2 Community Action Norfolk (CAN) offering energy advice talks to community groups – Clerk needs to liaise with Village Hall. It was suggested we put a date in for January 25 and liaise with newsletter.

11.3 High speeds by vehicles on Croxton Road by Military Camp – no update received from NCC

11.4 REMINDER PC Dion Philips, Beat Manager Attleborough informs next SNAP meeting Tue 19th Nov 24 at 18:30 hrs at Kenninghall Village Hall, NR15 2E

11.5 OCO Technology – Cllr PB reported that they have donated 25,000 of bulbs! We need a planting sessions. Clerk to liaise with Rachel Heather and see if she can start planting some? It was suggested that it would be good to plant some around the Millenium Trees and the trod? Cllr LS to ask her partner, Darren to see if he will put some bulbs in the Millenium Row area.

11.6 Keep Britian Tidy – resources downloaded and Clerk to put on noticeboards. **Bottle bank – need to ensure residents are aware to fill with their empty bottles etc, as the PC do receive monies from recycling the glass and also the clothing bank.**

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

2024 - 12th Dec 24 – postpone and next meeting 9th JANUARY 2025.

2025 - 9th Jan, 13th Feb, 13th Mar, 10th Apr, 8th May, 12th Jun, 10th Jul, Aug tba, 11 Sep, 9th Oct, 13th Nov & Dec tba

Chairmans initials SF.

Wretham Parish AGM Council Meeting 14th Nov 24

November 2024 District Councillors' report

As autumn unfolds Breckland Council has commenced the budget setting process for the year 2025-26 and this time we are facing unprecedented financial pressures. At the last Cabinet meeting we learned that the 2024 Quarter 1 figures showed a potential year end overspend of £826,000. Cabinet next week will learn that in Quarter 2 this overspend has reduced to £481,000 helped in no small measure by the income we receive from investments and cash generated through loans, but the underlying trend is for costs, over which we have no control, rising. These factors outside of the council's control include:

- a significant fall off in planning income (£417k)
- increased costs around housing and temporary accommodation (£500+k)
- increased costs from NCC closing Shipdham waste transfer site and additional recycling costs (£600k)

However, we are able to mitigate for this year some of these cost pressures by redirecting cash from the general fund, but this still leaves the remainder of the year with uncertainty around such costs and income and we must maintain a balance in the general fund sufficient to meet unknown demands.

In addition, the budget announcements will have an impact on us at District Council level and we are awaiting the detail behind some of the headline announcements specifically around what the financial settlement will be, what proportion of some of the additional monies announced, for example, for disabled facilities grants and homelessness will fall to us at district level.

It is against this background that Breckland Council is looking at both income and expenditure streams within the council to ensure that our core priorities for the provision of both statutory and discretionary services can be maintained, particularly for those who are most vulnerable in our society. In the meantime, we are reviewing our budget proposals that will be sent out for consultation in December 2024.

We have today published our public consultation questionnaire that is available by following the banner and links at <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/>

Year on year our car parks cost the council some £450,000 to run and maintain and that cost is met by every council tax payer irrespective of whether they are a user of our car parks or not. Views of residents and businesses alike are being sought to assist us in making an informed decision on for example, the most appropriate charging regime. This will assist us in directing resources and funding to support those vital non statutory services that are essential for so many of our residents and communities.

Much has been discussed around the local plan review that was on track to meet the project programme but the government has introduced a revised National Planning Policy Framework that was consulted upon through August and September. The implications of the proposals contained therein coupled with the new policy of mandatory and increased housing targets (in Breckland an increase of 39%, or from 661 to 918 houses per year) has meant that most of the evidence used to formulate the local plan thus far is no longer valid. Consequently, Cabinet agreed to pause the process and await clarity from Westminster. We are advised that the result of the NPPF consultation will be available by the end of the calendar year and that legislation will follow during the first quarter of 2025. Until such time as there is clarity regarding the legislative framework and the NPPF we are unable to rely on our current local plan.

Councillors Sarah Suggitt and Philip Cowen

Chairmans initials SF .

Wretham Parish AGM Council Meeting 14th Nov 24