

# WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Wretham Parish Council held on Thursday, 8 October 2020 at 7.00 p.m. This was a virtual on-line meeting.**

**Present: Councillors: Harold Smith (Chairman), Paul Barley, Paul Barnard, Jon Ford, Sharon Ford.**

**Clerk: Julian Gibson**

**1 Apologies for absence.** None.

**2 Declarations of interest.** None

**3 Dispensations.** None.

**4 Public participation session.**

4.1 Mr. Ross Thomas-Jones, Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees, said that he had been told by the Clerk that Breckland Council had issued an invoice to the developer of the Stonebridge Camp site for the s.106 agreement Village Hall contribution, which is understood to be in excess of £94,000. The Trustees had not received any contact from Breckland regarding this, and the Clerk had said that it appeared that they were under the misapprehension that the Parish Council was responsible for the Village Hall, despite his having said on many occasions that this was not the case. Mr Thomas-Jones confirmed that he had now been in touch with Breckland and explained the situation, and the Clerk said that he too would confirm this to them. **Post-meeting note:** The Breckland Council s106 officer has now advised Mr. Thomas-Jones and the Clerk that the Agreement does not specify what the money should be spent on other than it must be for the Village Hall. The invoice to the developer is for £95,752.64, and Breckland will advise when it has been received. The Trustees will then have 5 years to apply to them for it, either in one or a number of tranches. Any unutilised at the end of that period will be returned to the developer.

4.2 County Councillor Fabian Eagle mentioned the Boundary Commission review (agenda item 13), saying that this revised proposal was better from his point of view. The Chairman questioned the inclusion of Croxton, essentially a rural parish, with urban Thetford West Division, but Cllr. Eagle said that the aim was that after the Divisions have been re-structured there would be a review of the Parish boundaries, which might well end up with the more urban part of Croxton being transferred into Thetford Parish. Finally, he said that NCC was planning to increase its share of the Council Tax by 3.99% next year.

**5 Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 10 September 2020 were **confirmed** and **signed** by the Chairman, who also **signed** the minutes of the Meetings held on 12 March, 9 April, 28 May, and 11 June 2020, each of which had been approved at previous meetings.

**6 Matters arising.** None.

**7 Correspondence.** The following correspondence was **received**:

7.1 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeals Co-ordinator: *Poppy Appeal 2020*. Cllr. Mrs Ford said that, although the R.A.F.A. service on 4 November had been cancelled, the organiser was intending to simply lay a wreath on that day, and Cllr. Barnard agreed to join him to lay the wreath on behalf of the Council and the Parish, meeting at 10.30 am. Similarly, on Remembrance Sunday, 8 November 2020 the Chairman would lay the wreath, again in a very simple short ceremony meeting at 10.45. Both these will be at the Wretham Memorial. A Coffee Morning / Poppy Shop will be held at Wretham Village Hall at 9 am on 24 October.

7.2 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Business accounts - at a glance* - Your balances on 30 September 2020.

7.3 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Community Account* - 29 August - 30 September 2020.

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7.4 Barclays Bank Plc: *Your Active Saver Account* - 1 July - 30 September 2020.

7.5 Norfolk Association of Local Councils: *Norfolk ALC becomes a cooperative*.

### 8 Planning.

8.1 **3OB/2020/0031/OB: Stonebridge Camp, Thetford Road.** Discharge of Planning Obligation on 3TL/2011/0030/TL Approval of open space works details and specification, as per accompanying plans. The Clerk explained that he had now learned that the Breckland officers were recommending that the two previous applications which were awaiting determination (3OB/2020/0014/OB and 3PL/2020/0305/VAR) be approved. This would mean that the affordable housing obligation would again be “deferred” (meaning that providing the development was fully completed within 18 months no affordable housing or equivalent payment would be required, but the requirement for the provision of play equipment would be retained, and revised plans for this have been submitted within application 3PL/2020/0305/VAR. Application 3OB/2020/0031/OB had been submitted to ensure that all other planning obligations are enforced, and this includes the Open Space Specification. It was **agreed** that, although the Council had no objections to the details of the Open Space Specification, it had great concerns about the proposed location of the play equipment (proposed in 3PL/2020/0305/VAR and repeated in this application). The play equipment now proposed is clearly designed for younger children, and does not include fencing, but is located very close to the A1075.

8.2 **3AG/2020/0018/AG: Land off Cricket Ground Road just north of the farm sheds.** A new Irrigation Reservoir. Notice that this application has been withdrawn was **received**.

- 9 **Defibrillator.** The Clerk reported that he had now received only about 30 indications of support from residents for this project. He suggested making another application regardless, saying that if it failed, the Council probably could manage to pay for the installation from its reserves, although it would then need to look to increasing the Precept to rebuild these. However, members thought that it was worth making one further appeal for expressions of support, and it was **agreed** to take up a suggestion made by Mr. Ross-Jones, who offered to put a sort of “poll” form on the Village Hall website, and place an “advert” in the *Wretham News* to direct residents to this site.
- 10 **County Broadband.** County Broadband had proposed that the Council should prepare a letter recommending that residents take up their offer to provide full fibre to the parish which they would post out. The Clerk advised against this, as the Council cannot be fully aware of the precise circumstances of any residents, and it is not its place to be advising one supplier above any other. It was **agreed** though, that members could agree to add their names to such a letter in a personal capacity, and Cllr. Jon Ford agreed to draft a suitable letter to be circulated and agreed, which the Clerk would forward.
- 11 **Consultation (1).** It was **noted** that, following consultation with Members, the Clerk has responded to the Government’s consultation paper, *Changes to the current planning system*, listing a number of objections.
- 12 **Consultation (2).** The Government’s White Paper, *Planning for the Future* was discussed and a number of concerns were raised, including developers not building out permissions in order to keep house prices high, authorisation of applications in assessed Growth areas without proper scrutiny, and blaming Local Planning Authorities for delaying the production of Local Plans when it is usually the Planning Inspector requiring re-consultations. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should respond to the Paper on behalf of the Council incorporating these points.
- 13 **Consultation (3).** The Council discussed the Boundary Commission’s draft recommendations for Norfolk County Council, but it was **agreed** not to make any comments.
- 14 **Publication.** It was **agreed** that the Council should share the cost of purchasing a copy of *Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition* jointly with the other three Councils for which the Clerk works, at a cost of £37.50 each council.
- 15 **Accessibility.** It was **noted** that the Clerk has done what is necessary to ensure that the Council complies with *The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2)*

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*Accessibility Regulations 2018* with regard to the pages in the Village Website which carry Council information, having due regard to the Disproportionate Burden exemptions, and also arranged for an Accessibility Statement to be uploaded to the site. He has asked the website Administrator whether she is also arranging for other parts of the site to comply.

### 16 Finance.

16.1 **Training.** It was **resolved** that cheque number 100780 for £11.25 (£6.25 + £5.00 VAT) to the Norfolk Association of Local Councils be signed, being this Council's share of the cost of the Clerk completing Website Accessibility Training on 13 July 2020. (*Local Government Act 1972 s. 111*)

16.2 **Monthly Financial Report.** The report for the month ending 30 September 2020 was **received**.

17 **Matters for consideration at next meeting.** None.

18 **Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday, 12 November 2020**, at **7.00 p.m.** via **video link**.

**Confirmed:**

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**Harold Smith (Chairman)**

12 November 2020

#### **Future Meeting dates:**

Thursday, 12 November 2020

Thursday, 10 December 2020

Thursday, 14 January 2021

Thursday, 11 February 2021

Thursday, 11 March 2021