

## **Minutes of Bradenham Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 in the Village Hall.**

Mr C Allhusen, Mr J Reading, Ms T Frost, Steven Parker, Lisa Johnstone and Michael Bell with the Clerk Mrs D Ruppert, Helen Crane & Pete Bate (District Councillors) plus 4 Residents.

### **APOLOGIES – Ed Connolly (County Councillor)**

**Steve Welton –** Chris Allhusen - Steve was Clerk from November 1991 to May 1997 Parish Councillor from May 1999 to February 2007 and then from May 2015 to May 2023. Steve was always committed to the village and the Parish Council.

Our condolences to his wife Lesley and all his family. Steve will be missed. A minute silence was held.

The minutes of the last meeting were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare any interest in the following items on the agenda.

Chris Allhusen declared an interest in the Cricket Club Lease renewals.

Dispensation is granted to all Parish Councillors in order to discuss the Precept and other financial matters.

**Parish Council Vacancy –** Ms Victoria Short applied for the position. All the PC agreed to her nomination. The Clerk will inform Breckland and arrange for the forms required to be signed.

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

Resident asked if anything had been done about the speed sign post that is on Mill Street which is too close to the highways. Clerk advised that highways will not agree to moving the post, but we will ask them again and offer to pay.

**Helen Crane – District Councillor -** Breckland Council has received a further award from the RSPCA for its work with animal welfare, having received the Gold award for 7 years I am pleased to say that in its 8<sup>th</sup> year it has now been awarded the Platinum award, the highest accolade.

The environmental enforcement team has successfully fined a business £640 that used an unlicensed waste carrier to dispose of office furniture. The business volunteered to collect the furniture and have it disposed of correctly.

A driver was caught on CCTV disposing of bags of rubbish in Attleborough, with help from the DVLA the team were able to identify the vehicle owner and a fixed penalty was awarded of £445 A further £400 fine was given to resident of North Norfolk who drove to Breckland to dispose of their rubbish in a lay-by on the A47 at Scarning.

Breckland issued 67 fixed penalty notices in the year 21/22, and this is the highest in Norfolk. The council issued more FPN's than all other districts in Norfolk combined.

Breckland Council uses the money from these fines to continue to investigate fly-tipping.

New advice from Natural England regarding the SPA (special protection area) and buffer areas of The Brecks has been noted at cabinet and will be used when determining planning applications.

The Queen Mothers garden in Dereham has won a national landscaping award in the regeneration category for projects under £500k. The scheme has transformed the garden which was originally opened by the Queen mother in 1983.

Local Plan partial-On 21<sup>st</sup> September it was recommended that council accepts the inspectors report and her recommendations to make the local plan partial update sound. The inspector considered the partial review to be sound without any modification. The outcome of the partial update is an excellent outcome for the council and once adopted the local plan will be a strong and robust framework against which planning applications will be considered whilst the full update of the plan continues. Local plan full review-The Breckland design Code for the Local plan is in its final stages, thank you to all stakeholders who have taken part in the consultation. It will go out for public consultation. Moving forward this document is going to be a strong tool to encourage building the type of homes that we want in Breckland.

Waste reforms-Councils will retain local discretion on how to collect core recyclables, ours are co-mingled and sorted at the Mixed Recycling Facility. Items which will be required to be collected by 31.3.26 are glass bottles and jars, plastic pots and trays. Plastic tubes and tetra pak. This is already aligned with what we do at Breckland, which means there will not be the need for sorted kerbside collection and different bins. All councils will be required to provide weekly food waste collection to all types of property by 31.3.26.

Approval by full council has been given to the installation of solar panels at Dereham centre. The projected income over 25 years of 1 million£ and a CO2 reduction of almost 47,000 KG per annum. Watton and Swaffham are to have 2 more electric vehicle charging points at Kittell Close in Watton and Theatre St in Swaffham.

Breckland Council has received £1,041,797 from the Rural England Prosperity fund to support businesses in rural areas. Four schemes are available under the titles-Rural fund, business growth fund, Local centre improvement fund and Community infrastructure fund. Details can be found on the website.

**Peter Bate – District Councillor** - At the BDC meeting on 2 November the labour group were raising questions on housing. In particular they were concerned with disabled grants and the waits for assessment. The answer was given that things were improving. There were also questions on mould in house and the issuing of enforcement notices. There was no response to these questions because time was needed to find out the required information.

The independent and green group asked why BDC does not have an ethical investment policy as much of council money is invested in Qatar and Abu Dhabi. The answer to this question was that investment policy was agreed by the council. A follow up question was, should decide upon an ethical investment policy. This will be looked at.

There was also interest in development on the Dereham hospital, no information at present.

## ANY QUESTIONS

Julian Reading asked if parking could be sorted out at Dereham Football Club during the week for people who need to travel to Norwich. Helen would put this proposal forward to Breckland. Comments were made that there was no bus stop near the Club.

Chris Allhusen asked if there was any news on incinerators in Norfolk – No, not at present

Teresa Frost asked about Wensum and if there was any movement on a solution to the Natural England nutrient pollution in River Wensum Special Area of Conversation (SAC) known as Nutrient Neutrality. This prevents housing development being built or planning applications granted which affects on Breckland's ability to build their quota of housing as set out in the local plan. That's because much of the Breckland area is within the SAC catchment area. Helen's response is that Breckland are working to develop a platform where developers are able to buy credits to mitigate for the impacts of nutrients.

## MATTERS ARISING

**Village Green Bylaws** – These have now been approved. The new Bylaws are on the Parish Councils website. We have also been asked to advertise them, which has been done via the EDP at the cost of £565.09 including VAT

**Highways** – They have now agreed to clear the Ford by 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Grass Cutting** – 34 Hale Rd front lawn has now been cut by Highways, and is now on their regular rota.

**Speed Signs** – New poles and brackets installed.

**Cricket Club Lease** – No News

**Play Area Inspection** – C. Allhusen advised that all the chain is now balanced on the swings. It was recommended that the gates and the outside climbing frame should be given attention.

## CORRESPONDENCE

**Horticultural Society** – Donation of £100 given to them for the upkeep of the area around the Village Green

**Precept** – It was decided by the PC that the Precept will stay at £8000 for the year. The Cricket club rent will stay at £350. The PC agreed to put the Clerks wages up by 10%.

**TTSR Ltd** – Renewal of the grass cutting contract, TTSR sent their Quote for next year. The cost has risen by £349.35 for the year. PC asked the Clerk to accept the quote and thank TTSR for their hard work over the years.

**Bus Shelter** – Mill Hill – Email from Ms Culley asking if it would be possible to have a bus shelter installed at the bottom of Mill Hill for the children that wait for the school bus. The PC decided that this would not be possible because other shelters would be needed in other parts of the village. The bus shelter could cost over £3500 plus and then the cost of fitting, maintenance and insurance would also be costly. Ms Culley did not attend the meeting and the Clerk will email with the PC's decision.

## PLANNING

**APPLICATION :-** Change of use of land from agricultural to domestic & erection of wood store, garage, carport and store at Squires Oak West End by Miss Lydia Raven.

**The PC asked the Clerk to speak to Planning and receive more clarification regarding the application**

**APPROVAL :-** NONE

**WITHDRAWN:-** Single Storey Extension To The Rear & Side & A Small Double Storey Extension Above Current Kitchen & New Porch. Erection Of A New Cart shed With Living Space To The First Floor. Walkers Cottage West End by Mr & Mrs Gamble – **No Objection**

**APPEAL :-** Proposed Dwelling by Mr Shaun Mower Garden Lane number 3 - **Objection**

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT PROJECTION FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024

### All the rents, wages need to be reviewed

Balance carried forward from last year **£ 6906.18**

#### RECEIPTS

Precept	8000.00
PCC Grass Cutting Fee	900.00
Interest	0.00
VAT Refund	2307.96
Cricket Club – Fees	350.00

#### PAYMENTS

Village Hall-Rent	60.00
TTSR-Grass Cutting	4330.16
Zurich Insurance	1036.00
Playarea Inspection	300.00
Clerk Wages	764.20
PAYE	170.80
Glasdon – Grit Bin – Mill Hill	259.87
Uncontested Election	75.00
Bradenham Hall Farm – Footpath	368.00
Westcotec–Brackets Speed Signs	208.00
Community Heart Beat- Pads	56.95
Westcotec – Battery for Speed Signs	84.00
Horticulture Club – Donation	100.00
TTSR – Installing Grit Bin	200.00
ICO- Data Protection	35.00
VAT	1082.76

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£ 11557.96

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£ 10213.50

This will leave us an approximate balance at the end of March 2023 of **£8250.64**

We are allowed to donate £8.82 per resident (590) per year £5203.80

#### FINANCE:-

**Opening Balance £10283.17**

#### Lloyds Account

##### Expenditure

TTSR Ltd- Grass cutting	1334.03
Glasdon – Grit Bin	311.84
Clerks Wages	190.95
PAYE	42.80
Westcote- Brackets	249.60
Horticultural Club-Donation	100.00
TTSR Ltd – Grass Cutting	1334.03
Uncontested Election	75.00

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£ 3638.25

##### Income

Precept	4000.00
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£ 4000.00

**Balance     £ 10644.92**

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Welcome to the new District Councillor Pete Bate

Julian Reading went to see Andrew and Rebecca Thornton are the new owners of Huntingfield Farm. They are in talks at present with the environmental agency regarding the creation of a wetland area, which will encourage wildlife.

The rain has once again caused problems at the Ford, as drivers do not realise how deep the water is. Rain water coming off the fields in Church Street can also be an issue to residents

**NEXT MEETING   Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**MEETING ENDED 8.24PM**