

**SAHAM TONEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 9th JANUARY 2023**

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on the 9th January 2023 at 7.30 p.m. at the Wells-Cole Community Centre, Saham Toney.

Present – Mr. N. Creek in the Chair supported by Messrs J. Baldwin, T. Bunce, D. Freeman, R. Harrold, L. Rees-Murphy, S. Rees-Murphy and Ms. K Avery, Ms. M. Baldwin and Mrs. S. Porter. Ms. H. Crane (District Councillor) was also present.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies received and accepted from Councillor G. Morton Mr. T. Birt (District Councillor) and Mr. E. Connolly (County Councillor).
2. **Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** There were no declarations of interest in the Agenda items.
3. **To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th December 2022:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th December 2022 were proposed by Mr. D. Freeman and seconded by Mr. T. Bunce and unanimously approved.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes and Action List:**
 - Dog Fouling on the Playing Field– Breckland has not yet visited the parish and put up notices. Mr. T Bunce has been in touch with Environmental Services at Breckland who are going to contact the Dog Warden again.
 - Hedge from the Golf Club overhanging Richmond Road – Highways were unable to locate the area – the Chairman will send a grid reference to the Clerk who will then contact Highways again.
 - Skip to clear out the sheds at the Community Centre - this will be done in the Spring when the ground is dry.
 - Replacement doors and windows at the Community Centre - on Agenda.
 - Work required at the Play Park – Clerk has contacted Environmental Services again but still no reply about the costs involved for a larger litter bin. Nothing further to report – Ms. H. Crane will chase.
 - Fallen tree in the Cley Pit – Mr. J. Baldwin has removed the tree and put the wood in the Clay Pit. The pit needs clearing of dead wood but access is a problem. The hedge of the adjoining landowner is overgrown.
 - Notice Boards from Parish Partnership Grant – Clerk has submitted application – decision awaited.
 - Fleur Homes have made a mess of Ovington Road and caused potholes – Mr. G, Morton will speak to the Foreman. Mr. D. Freeman said the situation has improved but the road still needs making good.
 - Accident at the Playing Field – nothing further heard.
 - Village Resilience Plan –On Agenda
 - Emptying of bins on the Playing Field. On Agenda.
 - Dog bin on the corner of Bell Lane – still needs repairing.
 - Navigational mirror at the allotment site. Highways have replied that they do not allow navigational mirrors on the highway.

- Shrubs for the extension of the central bed at the WCCC Car Park – Mr. J. Baldwin said the hedges will be removed at the end of January/beginning of February, before the birds start nesting and then the Council will need to discuss the planting of shrubs.
- A parishioner has asked if she can plant wildflowers/bulbs on the corner of St. George's Close. Mr. T. Bunce has looked at the site and planting of flowers will not cause a problem. Clerk to inform parishioner.

5. **Reports from District/County Councillors:** Mrs. H. Crane reported as follows: -

At cabinet on the 9th of January cabinet approved the endorsement of the local plan issues and documents for public consultation for 8 weeks.

Cabinet granted delegated authority to the deputy chief executive, in consultation with the cabinet member for planning to make any typographical or other minor changes to the report prior to going out for public consultation.

The document will contain 9 topics: Vision and objectives, Housing development, amount and location, Providing the right type of housing, The economy, The built environment, The natural environment, Climate change, Transport and Infrastructure.

The draft budget was brought to cabinet in readiness for final budget setting in February. It will go to Overview and Scrutiny on the 26th January. Breckland council is proposing a balanced budget with no cuts to core services along with investment in key areas. Public consultation runs until 22nd January and comments can be made via the Council's website.

SERCO were unable to complete a small number of their round of black bin collections after Christmas due to the large volume of waste and driver hours, residents are asked to leave their bins out to be collected the following day.

In February 2020 the Council invested £1million into a 3-year programme of work focusing on prevention of vulnerability in our district. As a result of the Councils innovative work in this area the NHS had confidence to commission us to deliver social prescribing services, which has seen the team support over 400 residents, and grow from 2 to a team of 4 in its first year of operation.

May Elections-Phot ID will be needed for the first time in England when going to vote at a polling station. Acceptable ID will be passports (UK,EEA,or commonwealth), Driving licence (UK, EEA, or commonwealth), older persons bus pass or Oyster 60+ card. Anyone who does not have one of these forms of ID will be able to apply for a free ID on-line or by completing a paper form.

Giant screens will be installed in the districts towns to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, and like the Jubilee celebrations grants will be available for community groups of up to £500 to hold local coronation celebrations and events. Town and Parish councils can apply for a match funded grant of up to £200 to help in the purchase of flags and flagpoles to mark the event.

I was delighted in my role as portfolio holder for licensing to present Banham Zoological gardens with their Zoo licence. As we move forward in 2023, may I wish all residents Health and happiness and as always do get in touch with me with any concerns you may have.

Mrs. Crane said she is now attending Local Plan meetings again in her sustainability role and has been assured that sustainability will be at the forefront of the Local Plan.

Mr. D. Freeman asked about "social prescribing" – Ms. Crane will send details.

Mr. T. Birt had sent the following report -

1. Some may have seen a social media post regarding the food bus being off the road for 'legal reasons', it was in fact another mechanical breakdown which should be repaired by now. This is a problem with using an old vehicle.

2. Breckland's draft budget has been released, see cabinet papers for details.

<https://democracy.breckland.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

(click on Cabinet and select 9 Jan meeting)

The Breckland District component will likely rise by £4.95 (typical band-D); there are the usual "efficiency savings" (called the Evolve project) but funding isn't as tight as it could have been with a further extension of the New Homes Bonus for one more year. Next year is likely to be more difficult with a number of changes having significant budget effect. As usual the political spin about lowest district council tax is being quoted while forgetting to include parish precept in the comparison with boroughs like Great Yarmouth, which has the actual lowest overall council tax in Norfolk.

Since there is a little more money than expected, opposition members are considering suggesting some amendments to the budget to increase support for our most in need residents, such as those struggling to pay council tax and energy bills.

There doesn't appear to be any funding to implement Breckland's 2035 climate emergency pledge. Insulating existing homes and building better insulated homes seems obvious, but we are struggling to even achieve this with "Breckland Bridge" partner, a joint enterprise between Breckland Council and a private developer. I have a meeting on Friday to discuss further.

3. The Cabinet papers also include the Local Plan full update and options, which I'm sure is of interest to STNP group.
4. I am still pursuing information disclosure and after 18 months of trying we now have a useful part of the Serco contract (schedule 2, the "service specification"), so at least we now know what should be done!
- A general point worth making is that if you request information using the "freedom of information act", also ask for the request to be considered under "environmental information regulations" which are more powerful, albeit with a narrower scope.
5. As always, I am happy to try to answer any queries, put questions to cabinet or committees and I welcome comments.

6. Public Participation: No member of the public wished to speak.

7. Correspondence:

- Email from Mr. J. Walpole about the Coburg Lane foot path. Mr. J. Baldwin said it is the owner's responsibility to repair the deep tracks that he has made. Mrs. S. Porter pointed out that there could be a safety issue if someone has an accident as a result of the state of the bridleway. Clerk to write to the owner pointing out his responsibilities and the fact that he would be liable in the event of an accident.
- Emails from Barclays Bank – Barclays have been carrying out a review of the Council's Account but when the Clerk was asked to provide details of who else lived at the registered office of the Council (the Clerk's home address), she complained to Barclays Bank and a complaint is ongoing. The latest Newsletter from the NALC mentions that this is a problem and a lot of Councils have been threatened with closure of their accounts.
- Information from Clerks & Councils Direct about Coronation Mugs – there was a lack of interest in the Platinum Jubilee mugs and a discussion took place as to an alternative to a mug. Mrs S. Porter suggested something could be done for the school to commemorate the event – a shelter or something similar or a coin. It was thought that people might just spend the coin instead of keeping it as a keepsake. Clerk to see what other Councils in the area are going to do and make a decision at the next meeting.
- Quote from Groundscape for grounds maintenance at the Community Centre and the graveyard.

The Chairman and Councillor R. Harrold had met with Groundscape and they were impressed with the interest shown. They are also prepared to fix the price for the next 2 years unlike TTSR. The Clerk said that as their quote is slightly cheaper than TTSR, this will not affect the Budget. It was unanimously agreed to award the grass cutting contract to Groundscape for the next two years.

- Email from Norfolk and Waveney Mind, Suicide Prevention Facilitator offering to meet with the parish. The Clerk suggested that this is something that the Community Centre could organise as a community event and will reply to this effect. Ms. M. Baldwin suggested this should cover broader wellbeing in general across the age range and the Clerk will mention this when replying.
- Email from Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme offering grants – this may be something that the Bird Sanctuary could benefit from . Clerk to express an interest in a grant.
- Email from Mr. C. Blow about the newly published decision for the Local Plan; Full Update and Options. The main thing to be aware of is that the allocation of the additional houses for the remaining 10 years is not stated and there are some open-ended questions to allow comment on different scenarios.
- Email from Mr. A. Walmsley informing that due to unsatisfactory responses from Breckland to the formal complaints raised about the Neighbourhood Plan Co-ordinator and Breckland's lack of support for Neighbourhood Plans, the two complaints will now be raised with the Local Government Ombudsman.

8. To Approve Accounts for Payment: The following accounts are due for payment: -

- Mr. T. Bunce – £60 - emptying of rubbish bins at Saham Toney Playing Field from July – December 2022.
- Mrs. J. S. Glenn - £523.11 – salary
- Spire Solicitors - £287.20 – final invoice re the registration of the Bird Sanctuary

The payment of these accounts was proposed by Mr. L. Rees-Murphy, seconded by Mr. D. Freeman and unanimously agreed.

9. To Consider any Planning Matters: Planning Permission received to Plan 3PL/2022/1249/HOU – proposed side and rear extensions and internal alterations at 10 Mere Close and Plan 3PL/2022/1241/VAR – land adjacent Stanway Farm, Chequers Lane. The following plans were considered: -

- Plan 3PL/2022/1387/HOU – Single storey extension to rear and conversion of existing garage to study/shower room (including raising height of garage roof) at Greenways, 58 Hills Road – plan discussed between meetings. – no objection.
- Plan 3PL/2022/1387/HOU – Consultation Amendments - single storey extension to rear, rendering of dwelling and conversion of garage to study and shower room (including raising height of garage roof) at Greenways, 58 Hills Road – no objection.

10. To Discuss Insurance for the Playing Field Pavilion and the Community Centre: Ms. K. Avery said she thought that the insurance of the Pavilion and the Community Centre should be brought in line as at the moment the Council pays to insure the Pavilion but not the Community Centre. It was agreed that the Clerk look into the cost of this.

11. To Discuss the emptying of the litter bins on the Playing Field: The Clerk said that as the bins are used by dog owners, the Sports Clubs could not be expected to empty the bins. Mr. D. Freeman proposed that Mr. T. Bunce continues to empty the bins for a fee of £10 per month. This

was seconded by M R. Harrold and unanimously agreed.

12. To Receive an Update on Flood Defences: The Chairman passed round a plan of the proposed work to alleviate flooding in the parish. The path to the Clay Pit will be cut back and water will flow into the Pit and out through a leaky dam. There will be storage lagoons on land owned by Messrs Bowes and Ralli and a new woodland area to increase roughness and storage.

13. To Discuss a Winter Weather Policy and the provision of grit bins at the Playing Field and Community Centre Car Parks: After discussion, it was agreed that on the few occasions that the car parks are icy, grit could be used from our grit bin at the front of the Community Centre. Mr. D. Freeman had gritted both car parks during the recent cold weather. Regarding a Winter Weather Policy, something will be added to the resilience plan to cover this.

14. To discuss Quotes for Replacement Windows/Doors at the Community Centre: The Chairman had circulated three quotes with a large variation in the price. The Chairman has two other quotes ongoing and all the quotes will be discussed at the next meeting. The Clerk said that before any decision is made, the Council and the Management Committee of the Community Centre should meet to discuss.

15. To Agree a Village Resilience Plan: Mr. T. Bunce has received some comments from Debbie Harris at Breckland and he is going through these. Mr. Bunce will meet with Ms Harris to finalise the document and then produce a pamphlet for circulation to all parishioners, There is still a lack of volunteers and the finer details need to be agreed. Mr. Bunce said we needed a register of vulnerable people who would need support, but it was agreed that due to data protection, this could not be done. Mr. Bunce will ask Ms. Harris as to the best way to cover this.

16. To Consider Reports from Outside Organisations: Mr. R. Harrold reported as follows: -

- After 2 years the Wells-Cole Trust Fund is now registered as a CIO with the Charity Commission.
- The Wayland Partnership is open as a warm space on a Tuesday with the Library being open on a Wednesday.
- The Church has a water problem and it is promised this will be resolved by midnight on the 10th January. At the moment they cannot trace the water pipe.
- Due to the lack of heating in the Church, the schoolchildren could not visit to make Christingles. The Church had provided make your own Christingle bags to the children and this was so popular that they have asked if this can be done again next Christmas.

Mr. R. Harrold asked for the Saga grant and a cheque for £800 was issued.

Mr. L. Rees-Murphy said the New Year's Eve Dance had raised about £500 for Tapping House. This event was organised by a parishioner.

Mr. Rees-Murphy also asked why the replacement window quotes did not include the main door and large bar window as he thought that. whilst not all the work could be done at once, all the windows and doors were to be replaced in stages and it would spoil the look of the Hall if these areas were not replaced. It was pointed out that in the future it was hoped to lower the ceiling in the bar area and then a smaller window could be inserted. At the moment the Council are concentrating on replacing those windows and doors that are going rotten.

17. Items for the next Agenda: The following items to be on the February Agenda: To Agree a Resilience Plan; Quotes for Replacement Windows/doors at the Community Centre. Insurance of the Community Centre building and Something to Mark the Coronation in the Parish.

18. To Confirm the Date and Time of the Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday the 6th February 2023 at 7.30 p.m. at the Wells-Cole Community Centre, Bell Lane.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Parish Matters

Ms. M. Baldwin said she has seen people putting large quantities of dog waste bags into bins. Ms. H. Crane said this is classed as fly tipping and people should put dog waste in their green bins. People can be fined for putting dog waste from home in the public dog waste bins. Mr. J. Baldwin said parishioners were complaining about the dog mess in Coburg Lane. Dog waste bags are also left hanging from trees in some areas. Clerk to put something in the Saga and it will also be put on Facebook.

Mr. T. Bunce said there is a large pot hole between the entrance to the Playing Field and the road which has been caused as a result of the work on Pages Lane. Clerk will report to Highways.