

**SAHAM TONEY PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30 p.m. at the Wells-Cole Community Centre, Saham Toney.

The Chairman welcomed Alistair Wilson to his first meeting and asked if Mr. Wilson had any objection to being referred to by his Christian name and his contact details being put online and in the Saga. Mr. Wilson had no objection,

**Present** – Mr. J. Baldwin in the Chair supported by Messrs N. Creek, D. Freeman, R. Harrold, L. Rees-Murphy, S. Rees-Murphy, A. Wilson, Ms. K Avery and Ms. M. Baldwin. Ms. H. Crane and Mr. P. Bate (District Councillors) were also present.

One parishioner was present.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies received and accepted from Councillor G. Morton and Mr. E. Connolly (County Councillor)
2. **To Receive declarations of Interest from Members on Items on the Agenda:** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were proposed by Mr. D. Freeman, seconded by Mr. N. Creek and unanimously agreed.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes and Action List:**
  - Repairs to the Council's shed at the Community Centre – Mr. G. Morton will repair the shed.
  - Dog Signs for Community Centre land - On Agenda under Correspondence.
  - Replacement doors and windows at the Community Centre – Work is complete but the thresholds do not comply with disability requirements as in their quote. Work done to rectify the problem is unsatisfactory and the Chair has sent an email to Wymondham Windows. The Clerk has also sent this with a covering letter, by Signed For post and confirmation of receipt has been received. The Clerk has also rung them twice but they have not returned the calls. The Chair said Wymondham Windows had not yet responded to any communication. Mr. N. Creek said they had phoned him and asked for the balance that was due on completion.
  - Dog bin for Hills Road – Breckland Council have replied that the cost to empty this bin is £238.89 p.a. as it is on private land. Ms. H. Crane said that she thought the land was owned by NCC and the Clerk will query this with Breckland pointing out that the verge is cut by NCC.
  - Sanctuary Meadow road sign – This has been replaced.
  - Repairs to Playpark and Gym Equipment – ongoing.
  - Playing Field walk round – Playing Field is on the Agenda.
  - Clerk will query if permission is required for village gateway signs and also enquire about trods. On Agenda.

- Defibrillator for Hills Road. The Clerk had expressed an interest in a Government Grant through Breckland Council. Nothing heard about possible grant. Clerk to research further options for the purchase of a defibrillator.
- Road sign missing on Richmond Road. Clerk will contact Breckland Council. – it should be replaced within the next 6 weeks.
- Overhanging tree on the corner of Cressingham Road – Clerk has reported again.
- Shrubs /fence for the extension of the central bed at the WCCC Car Park – this will be done in the Autumn. Lamp post guards is on Agenda.
- Pot holes in Ploughboy Lane – will be repaired in the next 6 weeks.
- Capping stones on Cley Lane bridge need replacing – reported to highways.
- Overgrown hedges in Pages Lane, Mill Corner and on the bend on Richmond Road – Clerk has reported to Highways. Pages Lane and Mill Corner have been cut. The verge on the bend opposite the church on Richmond Road needs to be cut but this may be the responsibility of the parishioner,

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

There is no cabinet or council meeting in August so there is little to report although the Council runs as business as usual.

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. An abandoned lorry trailer at Pickenham was investigated, it had been there for some 15 years and surrounding businesses and landowners had always assumed it belonged to one another so the trailer was never reported until this year. There was no means to identify the owner so working with NCC a scrap dealer broke down the trailer and took it away, the value of the scrap dismissed any cost to have the trailer removed.

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.

Mr. P. Bate had nothing to add to Ms. Crane's report.

**6. Public Participation:** It was suggested by a parishioner to include the number of parishioners present at the meetings in the Saham Saga and this was agreed

**7. Correspondence:**

- Email from Watton Rugby Club in connection with applying for Planning Permission to replace and upgrade the existing training floodlights. Ms. K. Avery suggested more information be sought before agreeing i.e. is it like for like, are the floodlights being moved to a different location on the field, will they be permanent or movable? It was agreed that Councillors L and

S. ReesMurphy will raise these points at the Playing Field meeting next week as it could save costs being incurred at the planning stage if any objections were raised. It was also agreed that the application would need to be submitted by the Playing Field Committee.

- Email from Breckland Council about the Local Validation List - to be on the October Agenda.
- Email from a parishioner with questions concerning proposals for the Parish Partnership Grant Scheme. A quick Facebook survey revealed that parishioners were more in favour of a trod but the costs of this are expected to be high. To be on the next Agenda.
- Email from Breckland with price of their metal signage - £41.50 per sign. It was agreed to order 4 of these signs – 2 for the Wells-Cole grounds and 2 for the Playing Field.
- Emails from Ashill Parish Clerk and Highways about trods – Clerk has had an online meeting with Matt Lines and he has commented as follows: -

1. A trod down Cley Lane past the Bird Sanctuary and Allotments to just before the bridge and then on the Golf Club side to join with the pavement to Watton would cost between £60,000 to £100,000 depending on the construction materials used. Permission from the Golf Club would also be needed.
2. Between 1 and 2 metres is needed for a trod and therefore there is insufficient depth on the highway side for a trod past the Bird Sanctuary and Allotments but this could be constructed inside the hedge of both the Bird Sanctuary and Allotments.
3. The Council could construct a trod inside the Bird Sanctuary and Allotment site as the land is owned by the Council and Fuel Trust. No permission or permits from Highways would be required. Volunteers could be used to reduce the cost of this.
4. Matt Lines did suggest that village gateways do help to prevent speeding and he said he has received quite a lot of concerns about speeding in the parish from Saham residents. However, unless the Council surveys parishioners either in Saga or by holding a Parish Meeting, from comments received on Facebook, this is not what residents want.

- Email about Council Preview Sessions – Breckland’s Local Plan – Mr. A. Walmsley will attend the Dereham meeting and Mr. A. Wilson will attend the Thetford one. Mr. T. Bunce will liaise with Mr. A. Wilson regarding this meeting.

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

- Mr. T. Bunce - £80 - Emptying rubbish bins at the Playing Field – January – August 2023 including disposable gloves and industrial waste bags
- Mr. N. Creek - £139.98 – Light bulbs for Community Centre
- Wells-Cole Community Centre - £120 – hire of Small Hall on 6 occasions
- Mr. J. Walpole - £19.50 – stain for painting the seat in Hills Road
- Mrs. J. S. Glenn - £702.58 – made up of Salary £544.93  
Use of home as office 78.00  
Postage, stationery etc. 19.65  
Broadband 60.00
- HMRC - £151.20 - Tax

The payment of these accounts was proposed by Mr. N. Creek, seconded by Mr L. Rees-Murphy and unanimously agreed. Clerk to thank Mr. T. Bunce and Mr. J. Walpole for their help.

- 9. To Consider any Planning Matters:** There were no planning matters to discuss. There is an update on the Local Plan in the Minutes of Breckland's Planning Committee meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> August.
- 10. To Discuss and Agree to Purchase Lamppost Guards for the Community Centre Car Park:** Mr. A. Wilson said prices were roughly the same as already confirmed. Ms. K. Avery will send out the information on the guards for confirmation and approval. It was agreed to purchase these and deliver to Mr. A. Wilson who said he could help instal these if it is within the next 2-3 weeks.
- 11. To discuss Replacing the front door at the Community Centre:** There is no funding in the Council's budget for this. Mr. L. Rees-Murphy suggested it would be aesthetically pleasing if it matched the windows. It was mentioned that the two shed style doors i.e., the cellar and store room doors had not been replaced but this was not an issue. Mr. D. Freeman said that the Wells-Cole Trust has spent in the region of £70,000 on the Community Centre with the car park and windows and nothing on any other projects. It was agreed the replacement of the front door could be looked at next year.
- 12. To Discuss a Project for the Parish Partnership Grant for 2024/25:** To be on the October Agenda.
- 13. To Discuss Maximising Storage at the Community Centre:** There is no funding in the Council's budget for this. A suggestion had been put forward to use the space above the toilets but a permanent staircase would be needed to make it safely accessible. A structural engineer would need to be appointed to do a report. To be considered by the Wells-Cole Trust Trustees at their next meeting.
- 14. To Discuss the formation of a sub-committee to manage and improve the Bird Sanctuary:** It was agreed to appoint a subcommittee with the following councillors – Messrs. D. Freeman, A. Wilson, R. Harrold and Ms. K. Avery and a member of the Nature Group – Mr. G. Franklin.
- 15. To Receive Reports from Outside Organisations:**
- 15.1 **Wayland Partnership** – Nothing to report – next meeting due end of September/beginning of October.
- 15.2 **Wells-Cole Community Centre** – August in person meeting cancelled due to Covid related illness with Chairman. However, the committee kept updated online. The key focus is the Drag Quiz that is happening on 23rd September. The format has been agreed by the committee and some adjustment is required - timing for the food has to be confirmed. After the trial the Farmers Market will no longer continue. Otherwise, the user groups continue as before and a new coffee morning is starting in September. It was reported that 18 people had attended the first Coffee Morning - a welcome return for parishioners to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.
- 15.3 **Playing Field** – No Playing Field update as the meeting is not being held until the 11<sup>th</sup> September.

15.4 **Play Park Inspector** – This report had been received late and will be circulated to all. Mr. R. Harrold had researched recycled plastic posts and the nearest depot was in Cambridge- various sizes and colours are available.

15.5 **Any Other Reports** – None

**16. Items for the next Agenda:** The following items to be on the October Agenda: - Parish Partnership Grant – Trod; Comments on Breckland's Local Valuation List; Report from the WC Trust Fund Meeting and Playing Field Planning Application.

**17. To Confirm the Date and Time of the Next Parish Council Meeting:** Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30 p.m. at the Wells-Cole Community Centre, Bell Lane.

The Meeting closed at 08.40 p.m.

### **Parish Matters**

Mr. D. Freeman said he had been asked by a parishioner about the removal of trees in the ditch on Cley Lane and if this was allowed or if the Council could do anything to prevent them being removed. The Chair said that as these are on private land and probably do not have TPO's on them, the Council cannot do anything. Mr. A. Wilson said that trees of a certain diameter would need a tree surgeon's report.

The Chair said that there is a dead pine tree at the back of the Community Centre land and he will look at this.

It was suggested that any saplings falling beyond people's boundaries in the parish be removed to save future problems.