

BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 9 November 2015
Botesdale Village Hall

Present: Cllr John Abraham Cllr Desmond Bavington-Lowe
Cllr Ernie Baxter Cllr Mike Bishop
Cllr William Sargeant (Chairman)

County Cllr Jessica Fleming
3 Members of the Public

7.30pm The Chairman welcomed those present and opened the meeting.

1. **To receive apologies for absence.** None.
2. **Casual Vacancies in the Office of Parish Councillor:** There were no applications for the post of parish councillor (4 vacancies)
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 12 October 2015.** The minutes of the Meeting, circulated with the agenda, were agreed and signed.
4. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** None.
5. **Public Forum:** 7.34pm RESOLVED, with all agreed, to adjourn the meeting for the public forum. The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.53pm.
6. **Planning:**
 - 6.1 **Planning Applications:** None.
 - 6.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:** None.
 - 6.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
7. **Progress Reports:**
 - 7.1 Chairman: The Chairman had attended the Parish Liaison meeting at MSDC where strategic housing and neighbourhood plans were discussed. The report on strategic sites was unlikely to be published before the new year and would only apply to larger sites (50-60 houses). Emergency planning was also discussed and it was agreed to contact Wattisfield to get a copy of their resilience plan for information and to possibly use as a template.
 - 7.2 Clerk: The Clerk reported that SCC had suggested that the "No through road" sign at Fen Lane be moved forward for better visibility to address issues with lorries trying to access Broom Hills from Fen Lane. It was agreed to request this.
8. **Correspondence:**
 - 8.1 **MSDC:** The information in the Planning Together and Community Engagement newsletter was noted. The focus was on the drafting of the Local Plan.
 - 8.2 **Suffolk Police:** The information on the Future of Policing Event on 10 December would be passed on to Peter Beck, the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.
 - 8.3 **SALC:** The information on proposed planning right of appeal for parish councils was noted positively.
 - 8.4 **SALC:** The information on Local Government Devolution was noted.
 - 8.5 **J Canning:** The request re the future of the annual Remembrance Parade was noted and it was agreed that the PC would like the event to continue as long as Mr Canning was happy to carry on organising it.
 - 8.6 **RBR PCC:** The request for funding was received and it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to give a grant of £600 for maintenance of churchyards.
 - 8.7 **Headway Suffolk:** The request for funding would be considered in April 2016.
 - 8.8 **Neighbourhood Watch:** The thanks for the "H marking" at Warrens Lane was noted.
 - 8.9 **East Anglia Air Ambulance:** The request for funding would be considered in April 2016.

9. General Items:

- 9.1 **Play Inspection:** The report for 2015 was noted and it was agreed to discuss it at the December meeting.
- 9.2 **Community Bus:** Gordon Lawrence, the co-ordinator of the local community transport scheme (RBGNS), had spoken during the public forum about the changes to the scheme which had been supported by Suffolk County Council for 15 years. Under the new model, SCC sought to reduce funding from £2.4m to £700k. SCC would not be retaining the vehicles previously provided and maintained for the community transport schemes and were re-tendering for the service. As volunteers, Mr Lawrence and his team of drivers could not tender for the service but it was hoped that another organisation would come forward to maintain it in its current or similar format. The PC agreed that it was a very valuable service and the Clerk would write a letter in support.
- 9.3 **Meeting Dates for 2016:** 11 Jan; 8 Feb; 14 Mar; 11 Apr; 9 May; 13 Jun; 4 Jul; 8 Aug (Planning only); 12 Sep; 10 Oct; 14 Nov; 12 Dec. The July meeting would be held one week early due to the Clerk's holiday.
- 9.4 **Village Sign Cleaning:** Cllr Baxter would ask Clive Wilby to clean the sign.
- 9.5 **Online Banking:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, that the Clerk should become a signatory in order to have online access to statements.
- 9.6 **Walks Leaflet:** A meeting would be held in January and Di Maywhort and the Ramblers had agreed to be involved.
- 9.7 **Christmas Event:** Councillors voted on the Christmas themed drawings from children at St Botolph's Primary School. Prizes would be presented at a school assembly. The winning drawings came from Reception: Jacob Bond (1st) and Jessica Farrow (2nd); Year 1: Wilfrid Meldrum-Edwards (1st) and Evie Shorten (2nd); Year 2: Mae-Li Sun (1st) and Ruby Stratton (2nd); Year 3: Hebe Meldrum-Edwards (1st) and Hollie Clarke (2nd); Year 4: Florence Mattock (1st) and Nathan Stephens (2nd); Year 5: Molly Davies (1st) and Henry Jones (2nd); Year 6: Inigo Meldrum-Edwards (1st) and Harry Clarke (2nd).

10. Finance:

10.1	Account Balance:	£ 24,834.05	
	Income:	£ 0.70	Bank Credit Interest
		£ 280.80	MSDC Street Cleaning Grant

10.2 Accounts for Payment:

L Jackson-Eve	£ 315.77	Sal/Exps Oct 15
T Gaddis	£ 120.12	Street Cln/Play Area Nov 15
J Canning	£ 38.54	Remembrance Day Costs
M Bishop	£ 30.00	Remembrance Day Floral Arrangement

RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts detailed above.

- 10.3 **Budget 2016/17:** It was agreed to put in £1,000 for a grant towards the Village Hall and discuss it further in December.

11. Councillors Reports:

- Play Area: It was agreed have the multi-play area cleaned.
- PC Surgery: Cllrs Bishop/Sargeant would attend the surgery in November/December.
- PRoW: The Clerk would follow up on the sign at the FP off Bridewell Lane.

12. Highways Issues: None.

13. Welcome Pack: None.

14. Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council:

15. Next Meeting: 14 December 2015

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.37pm.