

BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 14 December 2015
Botesdale Village Hall

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

1 Member 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). It was agreed to put a half-page advert in the parish magazine in February.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 9 November 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:** 7.37pm RESOLVED, with all agreed, to adjourn the meeting for the public forum. The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.44pm.
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 a Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) Mid Suffolk North meeting where the main focus had been on Suffolk County Council's proposed budget. SCC was again proposing not to increase council tax, to which the Chairman had objected. The intermittent closure of Brome recycling centre and the issue of planning applications not going to committee based on PC objections, were also discussed. The Chairman attended the Neighbourhood Watch meeting and recent damage to vehicles parked on The Street in Rickinghall was discussed. Finally, the Chairman, along with Chris Burnard and David Green, had received and decorated the Christmas tree. The transformer had promptly failed but the lights had now been replaced with LED sets that didn't require a transformer.
 - 7.2 Clerk: The Clerk reported that a reply had been received from SCC concerning the Community Transport Bus. This did not relay any new information but promised that the scheme would continue in one form or another.
8. **Correspondence:**
 - 8.1 **SCC:** The County Council would be leaving all of its lights on all night on the nights of 24th December and 31st December. This would enable the expected increase in overnight celebrations to pass with as few incidents as possible. It was agreed to ask SCC to leave on all parish-owned lights as well on those two nights.
 - 8.2 **MSDC:** The PC noted the information from the District Council about next year's Parish Precept and Local Council Tax Reduction Grants. The LCTR grant scheme was designed to compensate each parish and town council in Mid Suffolk for any negative movement in that town or parish's tax base as a result of changes to the Council Tax base in 2013. 2015-16 was the final year that the LCTR grant would be received.
 - 8.3 **SALC:** Following the introduction of the Transparency Code for smaller authorities with a turnover of under £25k, all local authorities could choose to have an auditor appointed to them by a "sector-led body" or they could procure their own. The PC

felt that that there would almost certainly be savings to be made from a group contract and it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to opt-in to the new arrangements.

8.4 **MSDC:** The Town and Parish Council Newsletter was noted.

9. **General Items:**

9.1 **Play Inspection:** It was noted that none of the issues highlighted needed immediate attention and it was agreed to get a working party together in the spring.

9.2 **Christmas Event:** Councillors noted that the Chairman had acquired a shed for Father Christmas's grotto and had arranged for FC to visit the market place on Christmas Eve. The Clerk had put up posters and advertised the event with flyers at the school. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to purchase sweets/chocolate, up to £50, for FC to hand out that evening.

9.3 **Community Emergency Plan:** Cllr Bishop agreed to go to the meeting of Wyverstone Parish Council, on 7th January in Wyverstone Village Hall for the talk on emergency planning.

9.4 **Speeding:** It was noted that Rickinghall PC was looking into a number of options including a Speedwatch group, a vehicle activated speed sign and 30mph stickers for litter bins. The PC agreed with Rickinghall that a village-wide consultation would be helpful in determining the degree of local involvement and interest in these options that could be expected and it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to pay £35 for a questionnaire insert in the February parish magazine.

10. **Finance:**

10.1	Account Balance:	£	24,415.10	
	Income:	£	1.14	Bank Credit Interest
		£	52.17	Rickinghall War Memorial Insurance
		£	52.17	Redgrave War Memorial Insurance

10.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

L Jackson-Eve	£	325.99	Sal/Exps Nov 15
T Gaddis	£	120.12	Street Cln/Play Area Dec 15
Turf Machinery Spares	£	180.00	Litter Bin for Fen Lane Footpath
Elveden Farms Ltd	£	615.60	Xmas Tree

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

10.3 **Budget 2016/17:** It was agreed to sign off on the budget in January.

11. **Councillors Reports:**

- PC Surgery: Cllr Sargeant would attend the surgery in January. It was noted that the surgeries were not well attended but it was agreed that for now, Botesdale would continue as long as Rickinghall did.
- Public Rights of Way: The Clerk reported that the missing railing at Bridewell Lane had dropped off SCC's contractor's list in error and had now been reinstated. It was expected that this would be dealt with in the next 6-8 weeks.

12. **Highways Issues:** The Clerk would survey Bridewell Lane for potholes to be reported to SCC and report a pothole at the top of Chapel Lane.

13. **Welcome Pack:** Two for Cllr Sargeant.

14. **Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council:** None.

15. **Next Meeting:** 11 January 2016

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.04pm.