

BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 11 January 2016
Botesdale Village Hall

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

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
County Cllr – Jessica Fleming
District Cllr – Derek Osborne
3 Members of the Public

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

1. **Apologies for absence.** None.
2. **Casual Vacancies in the Office of Parish Councillor:** One prospective candidate, Caroline Stratford, was considered by the Council. It was RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Ms Stratford, who was invited to take her seat on the Council.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 14 December 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:** 7.36pm RESOLVED, with all agreed, to adjourn the meeting for the public forum. *County Cllr Jessica Fleming reported that the Greenest County Awards are now open for nomination. A member of the public asked the PC to look into the possibility of a 20mph zone on Back Hills and to keep in mind the need for more housing for young people when considering planning matters. Finally, it was noted that a group of residents wanted to bring back the Soap Box Derby and would be presenting plans to the PC at the February meeting.* The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.59pm.
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 SALC Executive meeting focussing on the relationship with NALC and a meeting of Rickinghall PC to hear discussion about development at Garden House Lane. He would be attending a meeting on 13 Jan with Rickinghall PC and MSDC planning development officers to discuss development in the villages more generally. All aspects of the Christmas celebrations had been successful and the Christmas Eve elves had collected £100 for the Friends of Botesdale Health Centre. The new litter bin had been installed next to the bench on the Fen Lane to The Street footpath. Clive Wilby had cleaned the Village Sign and had offered to clean it annually at no charge, which was much appreciated by the PC.
 - 7.2 Clerk: The Clerk reported that feedback had been received on the traffic survey and it would be distributed as planned in the February magazine.
8. **Correspondence:**
 - 8.1 **Suffolk Constabulary:** It was noted that parishes and towns were to be given the opportunity to fund a PCSO to address issues in their communities. However, this was costly and came too late to be included in 2016/17 budgets.
 - 8.2 **Suffolk Constabulary:** The details of Policing Re-design were noted, including a significant reduction in personnel.

- 8.3 **SALC:** It was noted that Government would not require precept referendums in 2016.
- 8.4 **SALC:** It was noted that future auditing arrangements would require a fee of £200 for external audits where income was over £25,000. Details were not given for below £25,000.
- 8.5 **J E Witham:** The comments concerning traffic congestion at Post Office were received and it was agreed that it was a persistent problem. However, it was understood that double-yellow lines were a costly solution and the Highways department were against adding them if another solution was available. It was noted that the letter had been sent to Rickinghall and that PC would write to reply.
- 8.6 **Friends of Botesdale Health Centre:** The Christmas Eve collection of £100 had been received and thanks were noted.

9. General Items:

- 9.1 **Litter Pick:** A date was set for Saturday, 16 April at 10am-12pm, to meet in the Village Hall car park. It was agreed to leave the waste for MSDC to pick up at the bottom of Snape Hill.
- 9.2 **Street Sweeping/Play Area:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to extend the current street sweeping and grass cutting contracts with Tim Gaddis for another three years.
- 9.3 **Play Area Tree Survey:** It was agreed to get quotes for the recommended work and add £2,000 to the play area budget towards the work.

10. Finance:

- 10.1 **Account Balance:** £ 23,469.39
Income: £ 276.00 Transparency Code Fund

10.2 Accounts for Payment:

L Jackson-Eve	£	359.89	Sal/Exps Dec 15
T Gaddis	£	120.12	Street Cln/Play Area Jan 16
MSDC	£	54.78	Annual Play Inspection 2015
HMRC	£	91.80	PAYE for LJE (Oct – Dec)
LCPAS	£	8.33	Rights of Way Training
TBS Ltd	£	102.00	Barriers for Xmas Tree
Suffolk County Council	£	856.01	St Light Maint & Energy 2015-16

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

- 10.3 **Budget 2016/17:** The budget position after 3rd quarter was noted. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to set a BUDGET of £24,850 for the year 2016-17 and to retain earmarked funds of £19,770 making a total fund of £44,620. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to request a PRECEPT of £24,000 from the District Council. Together with the discretionary grant of £415.33 from MSDC, this would result in an overall 21.9% rise on the amount received in 2015/16.
- 10.4 **Precept 2016-17:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to sign the precept request for £24,415.33.
- 10.5 **Transparency Code Funding Application:** It was noted that £804 (£528 to the Clerk and £276 to the PC) had been received towards costs of compliance with the transparency code.

11. Councillors Reports:

- PC Surgery: It was agreed to discontinue the surgery at the Farmers' Market due to lack of interest.
- War Memorial: The Clerk would arrange cleaning.

12. **Highways Issues:** The Clerk reported that SCC wished to go ahead and replace lights 4, 6 and 8 (on The Street) as per the schedule and light 15 (on Bridewell Lane at the junction of Chapel Lane), which was not on the schedule. The Clerk had suggested that as light 15 would require road closure due to its location, it might be done in conjunction with light 14 (on Bridewell Lane at the junction of The Street), which was on the same

stretch of road and also require road closure. This would be looked into. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to replace all five lights, subject to confirmation of costs from SCC.

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

14. **Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council:** The Clerk reported that the new owner of the amenity area at Maypole Meadow preferred that the property not be used by the public and the PCs for reasons of liability. It was agreed that the notice board could be moved if necessary.

15. **Next Meeting:** 8 February 2015

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.54pm.