

# BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 13 June 2016  
Botesdale Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr John Abraham  
Cllr Ernie Baxter  
Cllr Ken Liddle  
Cllr Caroline Stratford

Cllr Desmond Bavington-Lowe  
Cllr Mike Bishop  
Cllr William Sargeant (Chairman)

County Councillor Jessica Fleming  
District Councillor Derek Osborne  
Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve  
12 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:** None.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 9 May 2016.** 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. *County Cllr Jessica Fleming reported that Suffolk County Council would be voting on 30 June on whether to carry forward the present proposals for a Norfolk-Suffolk combined authority and 'weak' elected mayor model. Public consultation was planned over the summer with a subsequent opportunity to approve a final package in November. This would enable Suffolk to be among the 11 or so 'Devolution Pilot' authorities in England. As of 13<sup>th</sup> June, the community transport service provider for Mid Suffolk would be the Bury St. Edmunds Volunteer Centre (BSEVC) at 01449 614271. The local RBGNS would continue to run as before. District Cllr Derek Osborne reported that Cllr Nick Gowrley was confirmed as the new Leader for Mid Suffolk District Council on 28 April. Cllr Glen Horn was now Deputy Leader and Cllr Elizabeth Gibson-Harries was elected as Chairman of the Council. Peter Beck, the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, reported on an incident where cold callers had tried to sell an elderly lady unneeded new windows. There was a long discussion about the upcoming drop-in meeting at Rickinghall Village Hall on Thursday, 16 June to describe the process of updating housing planning policies, under the title of Building a Sustainable Future. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils had also released a draft report on Joint Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) presenting the results of a call for potential development sites of greater than 2 hectares – estimating a possible total of 320 new houses in the two villages. These two events had been conflated and there was a lot of unhappiness about the lack of notice for the meeting on 16 June, which many assumed was about the 'new houses'. It was explained that the meeting was a more general presentation of housing planning policies and was not intended to address the results of the SHLAA. It was also explained that the SHLAA was not out for consultation and as such was not something to be supported or objected to. However, the lack of notice for the meeting was very unfortunate and the PC had made a complaint to MSDC about it and the failure of MSDC's promised door-to-door leafleting for the event. The PC had done its best to publicise the meeting but with only two weeks' notice could not use the parish magazine and were limited to notices around the village and social media. It would be looking into ways to get future messages out quickly.* The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 8.20pm.
6. **Planning:**
  - 6.1 **Planning Applications:**
    - 6.1.1 **The Priory, The Street, Botesdale.** Ref. 2072/16. Internal Alterations - Creation of new first floor bathroom facilities - Phase 1. There was no objection.

- 6.1.2 **The Priory, The Street, Botesdale.** Ref. 2071/16. Internal Alterations - Creation of new first floor bathroom facilities - Phase 2. There was no objection.
- 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 Mid Suffolk District Council parish liaison meeting where the focus had been on devolution and a local business survey. Parishes were also encouraged to complete a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan.
- 7.2 **Clerk:** All reportable items were covered on the agenda.
8. **Correspondence:**
- 8.1 **Suffolk County Council:** The info on grass cutting and weed spraying was noted. The Clerk would get a quote for cutting the Rose Lane triangle.
- 8.2 **Suffolk County Council:** The info on the fostering campaign was noted and would be added to the parish magazine report.
- 8.3 **Mid Suffolk District Council:** The Village Development drop-in event on 16 June at Rickinghall Village Hall was noted.
- 8.4 **A Lyons:** The PC thanked Ms Lyons for her comments about the play area, which included concerns about the lack of fencing at the end and a latch on the main gate, and supported a car park and more facilities for very young children. It was agreed to try a simple loop and hook to latch the gate. The Clerk had struggled to get enough quotes for the work to the fencing but would try again. Finally, the PC would continue to look into improvements for the play area along the lines requested.
- 8.5 **Jo Churchill MP:** It was noted that she had made tentative plans to attend the PC meeting on 14 November.
- 8.6 **Centenary Fields:** The PC noted the info on securing public recreational spaces and it was agreed to defer consideration until the July meeting.
9. **General Items:**
- 9.1 **Traffic Issues:** The PC considered the necessity of double-yellow lines in the village, noting that a Traffic Restriction Order for such works could be combined with Rickinghall's at the Co-op and savings could thus be made. It was agreed that councillors would read the comments from the traffic survey, now published on the PC website, as there were several suggestions for areas which residents felt needed double-yellow lines. This would be discussed further at the July meeting.
- 9.2 **Play Area:** This had been discussed under correspondence and it was agreed to make a site visit to discuss improvements this summer.
- 9.3 **Village Development:** The Chairman explained that in November 2014 MSDC had issued a call for sites greater than 2 hectares to be considered for future development. This was the first stage of an assessment to deliver a five year land supply required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF required that Local Planning Authorities should ensure that there was a regular supply of land that was suitable, available and deliverable for housing development and the amount of land available should be sufficient to fulfil new housing requirement for the next five years. The assessment results would also be incorporated into the Local Plan which looked further forward to housing land requirements up to 2031. The recently released draft Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment was a report of the assessment results and included five sites in the Rickinghall and Botesdale key service centre area. These sites were assessed for suitability and one (on Botesdale Common) was rejected as too remote from the service centre, leaving one site in Rickinghall (behind the White Horse PH) and three sites in Botesdale (near the village entrance and on either side of the undeveloped stretch of Back Hills). The assessment included estimates of how many houses could be accommodated on each site and the result was a total estimated capacity of 320 new dwellings in the two villages. MSDC had now indicated that the 2 hectare cut off was too high and were proposing to put out a

further call for sites of 2 hectares and less sometime in June. It therefore appeared that the process of site allocations had some way to run and for now the Parish Council would address all planning applications in the usual manner. At present, there were no advanced plans to build houses in the parish and there were no planning applications associated with these sites.

10. **Finance:**

10.1	<b>Account Balance:</b>	£28,217.02	
	<b>Income:</b>	£ 1.51	Bank Interest Credit
10.2	<b>Accounts for Payment:</b>		
	L Jackson-Eve	£ 619.76	Sal/Exps May 16/Basketball goal
	T Gaddis	£ 412.19	Street/Play Area/Grass Jun 16
	Redgrave Parish Magazine	£ 35.00	Distribution of Bots Bugle
	MSDC	£ 120.00	Clean Play Equipment
	MSDC	£ 498.00	Empty Dog & Litter Bins 16-17
	LCPAS	£ 50.00	Cllr Training – M Bishop & J Abraham

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

11. **Councillors Reports:**

- **Playing Field:** The play equipment had been washed and the new basketball goal would be installed soon.
- **SALC:** The Chairman would attend the upcoming Suffolk Association of Local Councils local area meeting on 22 June.
- **Tree Warden:** Cllr Liddle had requested some maps of the village from SCC to assist him in his duties.

12. **Highways Issues:** The Clerk would feed back to SCC how unhappy the PC was that the promised resurfacing of The Street in Botesdale had not been carried out at the same time as Rickinghall.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

14. **Items for the next meeting:** None.

15. **Next Meeting:** 4 July 2016

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.