

BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 9 January 2017
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)

District Councillor Derek Osborne
County Councillor Jessica Fleming
Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** None.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 12 December 2016.** The minutes of the Meeting, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed and signed.
4. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** None.
5. **Public Forum:** 7.32pm *RESOLVED*, with all agreed, to adjourn the meeting for the public forum. Cllr Fleming reported that primary school applications for Sept 2017 were due in on 15 January. Cllr Osborne reported that an MSDC representative would be attending the public meeting about the Neighbourhood Plan on 18 January. The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.40pm.
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 reported that the East Bergholt Neighbourhood Plan had been in the news due to a challenge to a planning approval which went to high court, where it was overturned as issue in the NP had not been dealt with appropriately. A copy of the East Bergholt Plan had been requested. The Chairman would meet Sue Coe and Jo Broadbent to discuss the agenda of the public meeting on 18 January to discuss a Neighbourhood Plan for the villages. The Chairman thanked everyone who helped bring Christmas to Botesdale Market Place, with particular thanks to Chris Burnard, the working parties to set up Santa's grotto, and to the team of helpers, elves and reindeer who assisted with Santa's visit. The bucket collection in aid of the Friends of the Health Centre had resulted in a donation of £140. It was agreed that the addition of the green netting around the barriers and the printing of school artwork on durable sheets was very effective and would be repeated next year.
 - 7.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk had reported the issue with the steps at the end of Bridewell Lane and SCC would assess whether a second handrail was needed.
8. **Correspondence:**
 - 8.1 **MSDC:** The PC noted the confirmation that there would be no precept referendum in 2017.
 - 8.2 **St Botolph's School:** The Headteacher had received a number of queries about capacity at the school and wrote to the PC to say that the perception seemed to be that the school wouldn't have the capacity to take any additional children if new homes and thus families moved into the area. He said that in some instances this was true but on the whole the school did have the capacity to take in more pupils and out of the seven classes there was currently space for additional pupils in all

except for yr6, yr5 and reception. In total they had space for 29 new children throughout the school, the equivalent to a whole class.

9. General Items:

- 9.1 **Play Area:** The PC had received some examples of play equipment at the December meeting and it was agreed to meet at 6.30pm on 30 January at the Village Hall to discuss it in detail.
- 9.2 **Vehicle Activated Sign:** The PC considered two quotes for vehicle activated signs, both from companies approved by SCC Highways and noted the preference of Rickinghall Parish Council who would share the cost. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to accept the quote for the Radarlux sign for approximately £2,315, as the specification was better and the unit appeared to be better value than the Westcotec sign. This would be subject to the results of contacting local users of the sign. At that point the purchase of accessories, such as additional batteries or brackets, would be considered. The Clerk would ask SCC about funding for the poles and councillors were asked to consider locations.
- 9.3 **Footpath Map Display:** The PC considered four quotes for an upright map information board and noted the preference of Rickinghall Parish Council who would share the cost. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to accept the quote from G Cobbold for an oak-framed board at a cost of £460. There would be further costs of £150 for the design of the map panels and around £100 for printing.
- 9.4 **Litter Pick:** A date was set for Saturday, 22 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.

10. Finance:

10.1	Account Balance:	£ 31,789.31	
	Income:	£ 54.67	RedPC War Memorial Insurance
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10.2 Accounts for Payment:

L Jackson-Eve	£ 503.77	Sal/Exps Dec 16
T Gaddis	£ 122.55	Street Cln/Play Area Jan 17
HMRC	£ 118.80	PAYE for LJE – 3 rd quarter
B & R Pre-school	£ 300.00	s137 grant for New fencing
Gislingham Silver Band	£ 150.00	s137 grant for New hall

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

- 10.3 **Budget 2017/18:** It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to set a BUDGET of £29,200 for the year 2017/18 and to retain earmarked funds of £20,400 making a total fund of £49,600. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to request a PRECEPT of £27,500 from the District Council. This would result in an overall 12.8% rise on the amount received in 2016/17.

11. Councillors Reports:

- **Playing Field:** It was agreed to ask Tim Gaddis to get rid of the moles.
- **Tree Warden:** The PC received a draft copy of the tree guide produced by Cllr Liddle.

12. Highways Issues: None.

13. Welcome Pack: One to Cllr Baxter.

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

15. Next Meeting: 6 February 2017

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.