

BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 4 September 2017
Botesdale Village Hall

Present: Cllr John Abraham
Cllr Caroline Stratford

Cllr Ernie Baxter
Cllr William Sargeant (Chairman)

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
County Councillor Jessica Fleming
2 Members of the Public

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Bavington-Lowe, Bishop and Liddle.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** None.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 7 August 2017.** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed and signed.
4. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** None.
5. **Public Forum:** A member of the public noted that the application for Land at Common Road set a precedent for residential building in a greenfield site and was too far from the village to be sustainable. Furthermore, the heavy soil there was unsuitable for raising cattle and the cattle were not present for more than 3-4 months each year.
Cllr Fleming reported that SCC had three priorities for the new administration: inclusive growth, healthcare and wellbeing and efficient and effective public services. A "Blueprint for Suffolk", supported by Suffolk Planning for Infrastructure, would be published later in the year. There would be a consultation on educational transport in October. As part of the Highways "transformation", Botesdale services would be managed from the service centre in Rougham.
6. **Planning:**
 - 6.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 6.1.1 **Land at Common Road.** Ref. DC/17/03002. Erection of 2 agricultural buildings, machinery storage building and residential dwelling in association with cattle breeding business. It was recognised that this application was identical to Planning Application 0038/17 refused on 28 March 2017. The PC noted the representation during the public forum about the unsuitability of the land for keeping cattle. The Council also considered the reasons for refusal of the previous application in the Case Officer's Report and Recommendation and in the Refusal Statement, to assess whether the current application presented additional information to justify approval. On the matter of economic justification, the herd size of breeding stock was variously identified as 32 in a letter to the officer, and 25 in the Design and Access Statement. The applicant noted that all the pedigree cattle were registered with the British Charolais Society and a search for his membership showed that he joined in 2016 and currently had seven animals registered. The inconsistent nature of this information did not appear to satisfy the requirements for the economic justification. The consideration of alternative accommodation did not appear to have been addressed in the documents available for assessment of the current application. The report on the previous application identified that a location more closely related to an existing farm complex should be sought, but the current application did not address this issue. The previous assessment of residential amenity considered that the distance from Woodhouse Farm was insufficient to ensure no adverse impact upon the occupants due to noise, odour and vehicle movements. This had not been addressed in the current application. The justification for development in the countryside as necessary to support an agricultural business had not be provided. The council concluded that the reasons for refusal of the previous application had not been adequately addressed in the current application, and therefore it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to object to the application.

6.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:**

6.2.1 **The Priory, The Street.** Ref. DC/17/04412. Thin crown by 50% and balance on 1 no. Beech (T1), lift crown to 4m and reduce radius by 3m on 1 no. Yew tree (T2), reduce height and prune 1 no. espalier Cherry (T3), fell 1 no. Poplar (T4), reduce main limbs by 10m and thin canopy by 30% on 1 no. Weeping Ash (T5), fell 1 no. Norway spruce (T6), reduce to wall height and prune 1 no. espalier Pear (T7), remove deadwood and reduce by 8m and thin by 25% canopy on 1 no. Robinia (T8). There was no objection to this application.

6.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**

6.3.1 **The Barn, Lodge Farm, Mill Road.** Ref. DC/17/02845. Prior Approval Application under Part 3, Class Q (a) and (b) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 - Change of use of agricultural barn to 1 No. dwelling. Prior Approval GIVEN.

6.3.2 **Chapel House, The Street, Botesdale.** Ref. DC/17/02799. Minor alterations to outbuilding converted under application 2834/14 to enable annex use. Planning Permission GRANTED.

6.3.3 **Chapel House, The Street, Botesdale.** Ref. DC/17/02800. Minor alterations to outbuilding converted under LBC application 2835/14. Listed Building Consent GRANTED.

6.4 **Neighbourhood Plan Update:** Cllr Sargeant reported that he had joined the Steering Group. The three surveys had been completed and the data was now being entered on Survey Monkey by volunteers, after which it would be analysed.

6.5 **Local Plan Consultation:** It was noted that the Joint Local Plan: Consultation Document had been published with a deadline for comment of 10 November 2017. There were several upcoming drop-in events for the public and a Town/Parish Council briefing session at 6.30pm in Rickinghall Village Hall on 20 September. The Chairman would attend and Cllr Bavington-Lowe would be asked to attend.

7. **Progress Reports:**

7.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman reported on the most recent police crime statistics which were for June 2017. The Rickinghall PC Chairman, Geoff Short, had arranged a meeting with Tom Barker, the Assistant Director (Planning for Growth) at MSDC, and the Chairman had attended along with the District and County Councillors and several members of the NHP Steering Group. This had been a useful meeting, particularly as Mr Barker had explained in some detail why MSDC still could not demonstrate a 5-year housing supply, despite the recent spate of large development proposals. It was noted that the Annual Monitoring Report on the housing supply was published annual in June and next year might show an adequate supply. The Chairman had also attended the MSDC Planning Committee meeting at which the application for Land south of Back Hills was approved after imposing some additional conditions. He sought clarification on the conflict between the draft Local Plan, which did not recommend development of the site, and the current planning application. The Committee Chairman advised that they could place little weight on draft documents. Philip Isbell, Corporate Manager – Growth and Sustainable Planning, had advised that all reserved matters would be dealt with under a planning application with full consultation and would in due course also go to the Planning Committee.

7.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk reported the map display was now up near the market place and seemed to be well-received. She also reported that a resident near the Greyhound PH had tripped on the potholes in The Street in front of the pub and suffered a bad fall. The resident intended to write to SCC Highways to complain and request repair in that location and others where the road was breaking up down the middle. The Clerk had explained that these areas had been reported more than once but SCC had replied that they were not a priority. Following this incident, they would be reported again.

8. **Correspondence:**

- 8.1 **National Association of Local Councils (NALC):** The PC noted the information about reform of data protection legislation. The Clerk would be attending a briefing at SALC in October and would report back at the November meeting.
- 8.2 **National Association of Local Councils (NALC):** The PC noted the information about the Broadband Universal Service Obligation.
- 8.3 **Better Broadband Suffolk:** The PC noted the newsletter.
- 8.4 **Suffolk Community Foundation:** The PC noted the information on grant funding.
- 8.5 **J Canning:** It was noted that Mr Canning was moving from the village but would organise the Remembrance Sunday event for 2017. Cllr Bishop had offered to organise it in 2018. The PC agreed that it would work best if Mr Canning was reimbursed for expenses after the event, as he had suggested.
- 8.6 **G Norris:** The information about the GP Patient Participation Group was noted but it was felt that the Friends group formed a sufficient link to the community.

9. **General Items:**

- 9.1 **Traffic Restriction Order:** The PC noted the feedback from consultation about double-yellow lines at The Drift/Back Hills.
- 9.2 **Planning Applications:** Following the meeting in August, at which residents were unhappy about the level of notification they had received about land developments in the village, the PC carried out an informal review of the process of public consultation on local planning applications. It was agreed that the Chairman would draft something for the parish magazine which briefly explained the constraints of the planning system and addressed the issue of notification.

10. **Finance**

- 10.1 **Account Balance:** £24,200.97
- Income:** £ 800.00 Insurance Claim – Youth Shelter

10.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

L Jackson-Eve	£ 560.01	Sal/Exps Aug 17
T Gaddis	£ 411.82	Street Cln/Play Area/PRoW Sep 17
Botesdale VHM	£ 94.50	Village Hall Hire April-Sep 2017
Suffolk County Council	£ 102.50	Design/Print Map Display Boards
G C Cobbold	£ 460.00	Make and fit Map Display Board
Came & Company	£ 1,043.13	Insurance 01/10/17 to 30/09/18

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

- 10.3 **Internal Audit Report:** The recommendations were noted and the Clerk would incorporate them into a review of the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Financial Risk Assessment and the Clerk's Contract in October.

11. **Councillors Reports:**

- Public Rights of Way: The steps at the end of Bridewell Lane had been cordoned off by SCC after a toe board had given way.
- SALC: A Mid-Suffolk North meeting would be held on 21 September.

- 12. **Highways Issues:** There was a pothole in front of the Farnish House car park off Bridewell Lane.

- 13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

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

- 15. **Next Meeting:** 2 October 2017

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.39pm.