

# BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Present:** Cllr John Abraham  
Cllr Ernie Baxter  
Cllr William Sargeant (Chairman)

Cllr Des Bavington-Lowe  
Cllr Caroline Stratford

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve  
County Councillor Jessica Fleming  
District Councillor Derek Osborne  
1 Member of the Public

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Bishop and Liddle.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** None.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 6 November 2017.** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed and signed.
4. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** None.
5. **Public Forum:** Cllr Fleming reported that proposed changes to school transport would be re-considered by Cabinet and assuming approved, consultation would commence on 12<sup>th</sup> December, running until 28<sup>th</sup> February. Changes to the present policy would be brought in for September 2019. Suffolk County Council was launching a special appeal for carers interested in taking children with siblings. Cllr Osborne reported that the takeaway planning application would go before an MSDC Planning Committee on 3 January 2018. Peter Beck reported a theft from an unlocked car parked in Back Hills. Members commented to Cllr Fleming about the condition of road signs, many of which were heavily rusted at the bottom and starting to fall over. She explained that SCC placed repair/replacement of mandatory signs on an immediate work list but if they were not mandatory, they were placed on a very long waiting list. An explanation of which signs were considered mandatory could be found on the SCC website.
6. **Planning:**
  - 6.1 **Planning Applications:**
    - 6.1.1 **The Priory, The Street.** Ref. DC/17/05502. Application for Listed Building Consent- Internal and external alterations as per schedule of works. The PC supported the work being done to bring the accommodation up to a standard for modern living. However, it was felt that the detail of the renovations was of a specialist nature and required an expert opinion the PC was not qualified to give. It was therefore RESOLVED, with all agreed, to pass on this comment to MSDC.
    - 6.1.2 **Barn, Land at Lodge Farm, The Common.** Ref. DC/17/05379. Prior Approval Application under Part 3, Class N (a) and (b) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development (England) Order 2015 - Change of use of barn to form a dwelling. It was noted that this was the third outbuilding application to convert into a dwelling house at Lodge Farm. There were two existing buildings in the current application, with a gap between them – the western Nissen hut being detached from the central section. The proposed combined structure could be construed as therefore increasing the footprint of the existing barn(s). The plans were misleading in showing the building as a single entity, whereas the roof of the central section did not appear to be joined to the roof of the western hut, each appearing to have separate guttering. The application described a conversion that had the potential to be developed into a novel and innovative dwelling. However, it was not clear whether the proposal met the requirements for Class Q planning as described. The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to recommend to MSDC that the planning officer make a site visit to assess the characteristics of the existing building with respect to the planning requirements for a Prior Approval Application.

- 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.
- 6.4 **Neighbourhood Plan Update:** The Chairman reported that this was a period of high activity with consultants' reports to review, local site assessments and analysis and presentation of the data from the local survey. There was an NP Forum meeting planned for 10 January.
- 6.5 **Local Plan Consultation:** The Chairman confirmed that the PC's comments had been submitted before the deadline. Comments had been made separately by Phil Schofield on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
7. **Progress Reports:**
- 7.1 **Chairman:** None.
- 7.2 **Clerk:** None.
8. **Correspondence:**
- 8.1 **SCC:** The County Council would be leaving all of its lights on all night on the nights of 24<sup>th</sup> December and 31<sup>st</sup> 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 **Historic England:** The PC agreed that the consultation document on the listing of the War Memorial looked accurate, but it was agreed to run it by the Local History Recorder.
- 8.3 **G Lawrence:** The PC noted the update on Community Bus finances. The Community Bus was covering its expenses very well, but it was clear that it would not be able to fund the purchase of a new bus in due course from its own funds.
9. **General Items:**
- 9.1 **Christmas Events:**
10. **Finance**
- 10.1 **Account Balance:** £32,548.03
- Income:**
- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| £ 75.18  | Red PC War Memorial Insurance               |
| £ 75.18  | RPC War Memorial Insurance                  |
| £ 306.15 | MSDC 2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr Street Sweep Grant |
- 10.2 **Accounts for Payment:**
- |               |          |                             |
|---------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| L Jackson-Eve | £ 530.48 | Sal/Exps Nov 17             |
| T Gaddis      | £ 125.58 | Street Cln/Play Area Dec 17 |
| SALC          | £ 10.00  | SALC AGM – W Sargeant       |
| J Canning     | £ 35.00  | Remembrance Day Event       |
- RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts above.
- 10.3 **Budget:** The PC agreed the budget in principle but would give formal approval and sign the precept request in January.
11. **Councillors Reports:**
- Playing Field: Tim would be asked to remove moles.
  - SALC/Parish Liaison: The Chairman had attended the SALC AGM and his motion concerning the effects of a lack of a demonstrable 5-year housing supply in Mid Suffolk was carried unanimously. It called for MSDC to get the figures updated before April 2018. The Chairman also attended a Parish Liaison meeting held by MSDC which focussed on planning issues, the ongoing Boundary Commission Review and a Joint Strategic Review to consider the future of Mid Suffolk and Babergh joint working.
  - Village Hall: The management committee would be undertaking a governance review in upcoming months.
12. **Highways Issues:** There were several outstanding and concerning issues with highways defects. It was noted that there was a new "escalation protocol" on the online highways

reporting tool and the Clerk would investigate. A restriction sign on the B1113 at the Wortham end needed repair/replacement.

13. **Welcome Pack:** 3 for Cllr Baxter.

14. **Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council:** The Clerk would follow up on the replacement light in Bridewell Lane.

15. **Next Meeting:** 8 January 2018

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.