

BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 9 March 2015
at Botesdale Village Hall

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

District Cllr Sara Michell
County Cllr Jessica Fleming
PCSO Dave Faulkner
3 Members of the Public

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

1. **To receive apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Cllrs Bishop, Green and Hathaway.
2. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 9 February 2015.** The minutes of the Meeting, circulated with the agenda, were agreed and signed.
3. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** None.
4. **Public Forum:** 7.34pm RESOLVED, with all agreed, to adjourn the meeting for the public forum. The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 8.06pm.
5. **Planning:**
 - 5.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 5.1.1 **Land to the rear of Hideaway, Cherry Tree Lane, Botesdale.** Ref: 0469/15. Erection of no.2 two storey dwellings. Creation of new vehicular access. The Parish Council agreed that the scale, layout and design were not appropriate to the site. With a ridge height of almost 8 metres and an unbroken length of 22.5 metres, the scale of the proposed building constituted overdevelopment of the site. Due to its elevated position at the edge of a former quarry and the brow of a hill, the building would tower over neighbouring properties, particularly those to the rear, including the bungalow 'Mulberry'. The layout of the proposed building had the main living accommodation on the first floor, leading to an unusual degree of overlooking. The building would command views over and into properties across Back Hills and to the rear of the property on Cherry Tree Lane, including Grade II Listed buildings. The terraced form of the proposed building would be at odds with the low density and chiefly detached dwellings of this area and as such councillors did not feel it would preserve or enhance the significance of the conservation area. The suggested boundary treatment would feature railings, rather than the more traditional flint/brick walls or hedges of neighbouring properties, a design element which it was felt would be more in keeping with an urban context than the informality and rural feel of Back Hills. Finally, Back Hills was the main pedestrian route to the school and the health centre and the site was at a very narrow point in the road, without the benefit of a footway. With regular on-street parking and another access road to multiple houses just opposite, it was felt that further traffic in and out at this point would be hazardous to pedestrians, including children going to school. It was therefore RESOLVED, with all agreed, to object to the application.
 - 5.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:** None.
 - 5.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
6. **Progress Reports:**
 - 6.1 Chairman: The Chairman had attended the Barwoods annual meeting and it was noted that a grant was requested again this year to help cover public liability insurance on Millers Orchard. A number of inquiries had been received about

superfast broadband in the village and these had been passed on to SCC. The Chairman reported with regret the resignation of Brendan Burgess.

6.2 Clerk: None.

7. Correspondence:

7.1. **SCC:** The PC noted the information about LED Lantern Project which would replace all SCC lights which stayed lit all night on main routes with LED lights.

7.2. **MSDC:** It was noted that the Suffolk Walking Festival was on from 9th - 31st May 2015. More information and the full programme of walks could be found on the festival website: www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk.

7.3. **Friends of St Botolphs School:** The request was agreed for use of the Market Place for annual plant sale on Saturday, 25 April between 9am and 12.30pm and annual garage sale trail on Saturday, 16 May between 9am and 1pm.

8. General Items:

8.1 **Standing Orders and Financial Regulations:** The Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations were reviewed and no changes were made.

8.2 **Notice Board:** It was noted with thanks that Rickinghall PC had negotiated a £100 reduction and the notice board had been ordered.

8.3 **Annual Newsletter:** It was agreed to ask St Botolphs school children to draw a picture for the front of the Botesdale Bugle, for consideration at the May meeting. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to offer a prize of one £20 book token.

8.4 **Internal Audit Review:** Cllr Sargeant had reviewed the accounts procedures, based on the internal controls checklist provided by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, and had signed off on them. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the review.

8.5 **Internal Auditor:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to appoint SALC as internal auditor for the year-end accounts.

8.6 **Elections and Councillor Vacancies:** Nomination papers were passed out to councillors who wished to stand for election on 7 May and the Clerk explained the procedure for filing papers. The completed papers were due by 9 April but would not be accepted by Mid Suffolk before 23 March.

9. Finance:

9.1 Account Balances:

Current Account	£ 1,656.58
Deposit Account	£14,866.25

9.2 Accounts for Payment:

L Jackson-Eve	£ 410.56	Sal/Exps Feb 15
T Gaddis	£ 117.24	Street Clean/Play Area Feb 15
HAGS-SMP Ltd	£ 1,645.44	Playground Refurb Inv. 035020
SCC	£ 916.84	Street Lights Maint & Energy 2014-15
Botesdale VHMC	£ 84.00	Committee Room Hire Oct 14 – Mar 15
LCPAS	£ 6.66	Elections Briefing LJE
J Canning	£ 31.00	Cost of Remembrance Sunday Event

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

10. Councillors Reports:

- PC Surgery: Cllr Sargeant would attend in March.

11. **Highways Issues:** There was a pothole opposite Pond Hall at Chapel Lane.

12. **Welcome Pack:** None.

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

14. **Next Meeting:** 13 April 2015

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.