

# BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 3 July 2017  
Botesdale Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr John Abraham  
Cllr Ernie Baxter  
Cllr Desmond Bavington-Lowe  
Cllr William Sargeant (Chairman)

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve  
District Councillor Derek Osborne  
PC Stefan Henriksen  
2 Members of the Public

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Mike Bishop, Cllr Ken Liddle and Cllr Caroline Stratford
2. **Casual Vacancies:** None.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 5 June 2017.** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed and signed.
4. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** None.
5. **Public Forum:** PC Stefan Henriksen from the Safer Neighbourhood Team based in Stowmarket spoke about the lack of police presence at PC meetings but explained that with 73 parishes to cover with two members of staff, this just wasn't possible anymore. The police had chosen to utilise their limited time focussing on community issues. He emphasised that they were always contactable in the usual ways, by telephone and on their website. However, he confirmed that the police could no longer update parishes on individual crimes unless there had been a series of events in the area.  
District Cllr Osborne reported that all district councillors now have a budget of £6,250 to give grants to local organisations.  
A member of the public offered help in removing a dead tree at the playing field. The possibility of a publicly owned woodland near the school was also discussed and it was suggested that the Charity Commission be made custodians as added protection.
6. **Planning:**
  - 6.1 **Planning Applications:**
    - 6.1.1 **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. It was agreed that there weren't enough details available to make an informed comment on this application. 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:** None.
  - 6.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
  - 6.4 **Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr Bavington-Lowe reported that the three surveys – a combined Household and Housing Needs Survey, a Youth Survey for 11-18 year olds and a Business Survey – were in the process of being delivered, with a deadline of 28 January. The drop-in "Issues and Options" event would take place at The Bell on 8 July at 10am-3pm.
7. **Progress Reports:**
  - 7.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman reported a section of overgrown footpath on Bridewell Lane and some overhanging branches on Sally's Lane (at the end of Fen Lane) which had prevented access for an ambulance. He had received agreement from MSDC that reduction of trees on his property did not require formal notification.
  - 7.2 **Clerk:** None.

8. **Correspondence:**

- 8.1 **MSDC:** From 1<sup>st</sup> July, Mid Suffolk District Council would be charging for pre-application advice. Fees would start from £84 for a written response and more for a site visit.
- 8.2 **Boundary Commission:** It was noted that the Commission was undertaking an electoral review of Mid Suffolk and warding arrangements consultation would take place until 14 August.

9. **General Items:**

- 9.1 **Traffic Restriction Order:** There was no update.
- 9.2 **Vehicle Activated Sign:** Two posts had been installed and the one at Bridewell Lane was expected to be installed in mid-July.
- 9.3 **Play Area:** It was noted that the broken youth shelter panel had been reported to the police as criminal damage. Councillors noted that a replacement panel would cost £1,260 and it was agreed to make a claim on the insurance. Some slats were missing on the bench and it was agreed to ask Urban Forestry to make the repairs. It was agreed to ask Tim Gaddis to carry out mole removal.
- 9.4 **Walks Map Display:** The Clerk had ordered the panels printed.

10. **Finance**

10.1 **Account Balance:** £33,148.76  
**Income:** £ 530.20 VAT Reclaim

10.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

L Jackson-Eve	£ 579.61	Sal/Exps June 17
T Gaddis	£ 476.82	Street Cln/Play Area/PRoW July 17
HMRC	£ 72.80	PAYE for LJE – 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter
Community Workshop Ltd	£ 202.40	Printing of Bots Bugle
Mid Suffolk DC	£ 498.00	Dog & Litter Bin Emptying 17-18
Mr S Green	£ 20.00	Clean Bus Shelter
Rickinghall PC	£ 700.00	Transfer of funds (from Locality grant) for VAS

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

10.3 **Budget Report:** The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report was noted.

11. **Councillors Reports:**

- Village Hall: As reported in June, the commercial rates had increased due to the addition of the log cabin as the planning application had stated in error that it was on VH land. A formal appeal had been submitted.

12. **Highways Issues:** It was noted that three potholes had been filled in Fen Lane while others had been ignored. This would be reported to County Cllr Fleming. Several verges badly needed cutting and it was noted that the current phase of cutting had not yet been completed.

13. **Welcome Pack:** One to Cllr Bavington-Lowe.

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

15. **Next Meeting:** 7 August 2017 (if planning) or 4 September 2017

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.49pm.