

- During the severe weather, it was noted that the grit bin near the Blue Orchid had been locked making the grit inaccessible. It was also noted that the bottom layer of grit in the bin on The Street near Bridewell Lane was too hard to be used. The Clerk would arrange its removal. It was agreed to put something in the parish magazine at the start of next winter to remind residents of the availability and rules for using the grit.
 - The Village Hall had looked into the General Data Protection Regulations and had identified that volunteer groups did not have to register with the Information Commissioner if certain conditions were met. Volunteer groups would still need to comply with the regulations and be able to demonstrate compliance. The Village Hall was seeking suitable template policies for community groups.
 - A tree was down in Lizzie's Lane.
- 7.2 **Clerk:** Rickinghall PC had written to Jo Churchill MP about the lack of support from the Post Office following the local branch closure.

8. **Correspondence:**

- 8.1 **SCC Highways:** Councillors completed the survey about SCC's Community Self Help offer to enable town and parish councils to undertake work that SCC Highways did not have the budget for. Although the PC wished to enable work that wasn't currently being carried out if possible, there was no indication where the budget for the additional work would come from.
- 8.2 **Suffolk Police:** The February newsletter was noted.
- 8.3 **Historic England:** It was noted that the War Memorial was now a Grade II Listed building. However, the stone trough had been included in the listing and this would be queried.
- 8.4 **Resident:** Councillors considered the complaint about ongoing anti-social behaviour at the play area, including setting fire to the rubber chippings beneath the youth shelter. The resident had made several suggestions, one of which was to limit access to daylight hours, allowing people to challenge its use out of hours. This was agreed and the Clerk would order new signs for the play area, which would also contain a plea for users to take care of the amenity. Concerning the removal of the youth shelter, although the PC appreciated the resident's concerns, it felt that there was very little available to older children and teenagers in the village and the shelter was put there to give them a space to gather. Although there had been some instances of vandalism to the shelter in the 12+ years since it was installed, they had been relatively minor and on the whole, it was used for the purpose intended. Therefore, the PC was not minded to remove it at this time. It was, however, agreed to remove the rubber chippings and replace them with something less flammable. Finally, CCTV had been suggested. This had significant data protection issues when covering public areas and it was agreed that the PC would consider it only as a last resort.
- 8.5 **Botesdale Village Hall:** The AGM would take place on 16 April.

9. **General Items:**

- 9.1 **Vehicle Activated Sign:** Councillors noted the February data, which showed similar levels of speeding to the previous month. It was agreed to collate the data and pass it on to the Police every 2-3 months. It was also agreed to ask Tim to put the VAS at the village centre location when it was ready to be moved.
- 9.2 **Community Infrastructure Levy:** The Chairman had attended a briefing by MSDC on the availability of CIL payments for Planning Applications approved since 2016. The value of the CIL was dependent on the location and scale of the development and would require the parish to have an Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIF) to allocate money to capital projects. As an IIF could address needs in both Botesdale and Rickinghall, it could therefore usefully be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. It appeared that the village hall and the playing field would be suitable projects.
- 9.3 **Anti-Social Behaviour:** It was noted that some anti-social activity had taken place in the village, including damaging liners in the Market Place litter bin and filling it with un-bagged dog faeces. The resulting mess had led to MSDC indicating that they would no longer ask their staff to empty the bin if the activity continued. This,

and previous incidents involving dog mess, had been reported to the Police and was being taken seriously. The Police had issued a leaflet to local residents asking for information and had suggested CCTV for the Market Place. It was agreed to see if the leaflets worked and to consider other measures if the activity continued. Some information would go in the parish magazine.

9.4 **Annual Newsletter:** It was agreed to have "planning" as the newsletter theme and use a diagram of planning in the village, without the text, as the cover art. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would be asked to provide a report.

9.5 **Internal Audit Review:** Cllr Sargeant had carried out the review 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 in favour, to accept the review.

9.6 **Internal Auditor:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to appoint the Local Council Public Advisory Service to carry out the Internal Audit at a cost of £175.

10. Finance

10.1	Account Balance:	£28,861.60	
	Income:	£ 360.00	Rickinghall Xmas Contribution
		£ 306.15	MSDC Street Cleaning Grant

10.2 Accounts for Payment:

L Jackson-Eve	£ 616.98	Sal/Exps Feb 18
T Gaddis	£ 345.58	St Clean/Play Area/VAS Mar 18
Botesdale Village Hall MC	£ 94.50	Hire of Hall Oct 17 – Mar 18
LCPAS	£ 250.00	Data Protection Services

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

11. Councillors Reports:

- **Barwoods:** It was noted that the AGM would take place next week.
- **Playing Field:** It was agreed to think about further improvements.
- **SALC/Parish Liaison:** There would be a SALC Mid Suffolk North meeting on 7 March to present the new CEO.
- **Village Hall:** Grants were being sought for internal redecoration of the hall and replacement of two windows.
- **Website:** The Clerk would explore the possibility of using a picture "carousel" on the Home page as a notice board. A footer on the Botesdale Bugle would include the website address to encourage use.

12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

14. **Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council:** It was noted that Facebook could be a useful tool for disseminating information, but existing local Facebook pages weren't really suitable for use by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Curry would investigate setting up a Parish Council page, ideally by summer.

15. **Next Meeting:** 9 April 2018 – to start with Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 pm.