

BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 2 July 2018
Botesdale Village Hall

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

Cllr Des Bavington-Lowe
Cllr Victoria Curry
Cllr Chris Lambert
Cllr Caroline Stratford

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:** None.
2. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 4 June 2018.** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed and signed.
3. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** Cllr Lambert declared an interest in item 5.2.1 as an immediate neighbour. He would not be required to leave the meeting during the item.
4. **Public Forum:** County Councillor Jessica Fleming reported that the Cabinet had decided to adopt 'Option 2' for Home-to-School Transport, with some modifications, to be phased in starting in September 2019. The County Council would support transport to a pupil's nearest suitable school (rather than Transport Priority Area school as currently) and there would be no requirement to count out-of-County schools. Support for post-16 education would continue under the new plans. The decision had been subject to a call-in and review by the County Council Scrutiny Committee, which would sit on 9 July.
A major review had been launched of the way highways in Suffolk were maintained. This would explore how Suffolk's limited highways budget could be used to best effect for maintaining the county's roads, bridges, grass verges and other assets. The review would look at whether to redirect funds allocated for resurfacing to repair as roads had deteriorated more quickly than anticipated in recent years. A new Highways Improvement and Innovations Board would oversee the areas that would make up the review.
Consultation on Special Needs Education: The public was invited to comment on options for future special educational provision for children and young people ages 5-25 by 7 August. The options proposed varying providers from either wholly independent sector, developing new special schools, and/ or specialist centres alongside mainstream schools.
We Are Listening Events: Suffolk residents were invited to come and meet the Leader of the Council, other county councillors and senior managers to discuss concerns and ideas for Suffolk at various locations in September/October.
5. **Planning:**
 - 5.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 5.1.1 **Land at Common Road.** Ref. 4367/16. Change use of land as a commercial fishing lake. Formation of a car park. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 5.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:** None.
 - 5.2.1 **Starre House, Chapel Lane.** Ref. DC/18/02674. Notification of works to Trees in a Conservation Area - T1 (Conifer) - Fell. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 5.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions/Appeals by Mid Suffolk DC:**
 - 5.3.1 **Barn, Land at Lodge Farm.** Ref. APP/W3520/W/18/3196714. Prior Approval Application under Schedule 3, Part 3, Class Q (a) and (b) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development (England) Order 2015 - Change of use of barn to form a dwelling.

5.4 **Neighbourhood Plan Update:** There had been two Steering Group meetings since the last PC meeting. A representative from Hastoe Housing Association came to the first one to discuss the potential for affordable housing in the village. It was noted that the Steering Group had the budget to see the Plan to completion and it would be ready for public consultation in the autumn.

6. Progress Reports:

- 6.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman reported that there had been damage to The Limes building site including graffiti, fires and a broken door. There had been no response from the Post Office re a mobile branch in the village. The Chairman had been interviewed by an MSc student of Town Planning on the loss of public rights of way due to development and had explained that it hadn't been an issue locally due to supportive county and district councils.
- 6.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk had reported a silted-up drain from the junction in Fen Lane into which the drains from The Street flowed.

7. Correspondence:

- 7.1. **Suffolk Police:** The PC received correspondence from Suffolk Police about parish-funded PCSOs. It was felt that this might be an opportunity to have a regular police presence in the village and had been taken up in other parishes, often with several sharing a PCSO to reduce the cost. The PC agreed to express an interest to find out more about the scheme.
- 7.2. **Suffolk Police:** It was noted that a public meeting with the Police Commissioner would be held on Wednesday, 11 July at 7pm at Cedars Hotel, Needham Road, Stowmarket.
- 7.3. **MSDC:** The Local Plan Community Involvement Consultation was noted.
- 7.4. **Resident:** The Chairman had received a complaint that the PC had not taken into consideration an objection to a recent planning application. It was noted that the Clerk and two councillors had checked the MSDC Planning website prior to the meeting and the objection had not yet been available.

8. General Items:

- 8.1 **Safeguarding and DBS Checks:** The issue of safeguarding had been raised at the June meeting and the Clerk had drafted a safeguarding policy. Comments would be fed back to the Clerk and it would be considered at the September meeting.
- 8.2 **Communications:** It was noted that Rickinghall PC supported in principle having a joint Facebook page. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Curry would be administrators with at least one other from Rickinghall. They would aim for the page to be up and running by the autumn.
- 8.3 **Street Lighting:** The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the quote of £95 for additional works to facilitate installation of new light on Mill House, The Street at corner of Bridewell Lane.
- 8.4 **War Memorial:** The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the quote of £2,241 (1/3 from Botesdale £747) from H L Perfitt for cleaning and letter renovation of the memorial at Botesdale Market Place and £1,455 for cleaning the market place paving, both using a conservation system. The Clerk would seek funding from the District and County Councillors' Locality budgets.

9. Finance

- 9.1 **Account Balance:** £35,952.83
Income: £ 2,072.94 VAT Return 2017-18
- 9.2 **Accounts for Payment:**
- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Admin Payments | £ 796.77 | Not itemised due to GDPR |
| Street Sweeping etc. | £ 214.36 | St Clean/Play Area/VAS Jun 18 |
| Community Workshop Ltd | £ 598.40 | Annual Newsletter printing |
| Redgrave Parish Magazine | £ 35.00 | Annual Newsletter distribution |
- RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts above.
- 9.3 **Budget Report:** The 1st Quarter report was noted.

10. **Councillors Reports:**

- **Playing Field:** Cllr Sargeant would purchase more bird spikes.
- **Public Rights of Way:** The footpath opposite Chapel Lane was blocked by foliage and had been reported.
- **SALC:** The Chairman had attended the Mid Suffolk North meeting at Hoxne and felt it was a useful exchange of information with other rural parishes.
- **Village Hall:** Window replacement and redecoration work would be undertaken starting the first week of the holidays.

11. **Highways Issues:** There had been two complaints about the height of grass on The Knoll, Rose Lane blocking visibility. The Clerk would ask Tim Gaddis to cut a metre border.

12. **Welcome Pack:** None.

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

14. **Next Meeting:** 6 August 2018 (Planning only)
3 September 2018

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.29 pm.