

BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday, 3 September 2018
Botesdale Village Hall

Present: Cllr Ernie Baxter
Cllr Chris Lambert
Cllr William Sargeant (Chairman)

Cllr David Green
Cllr Greg Russell
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 Abraham, Bavington-Lowe and Curry.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** One prospective candidate, Greg Russell, was considered by the Council. It was RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Mr Russell, who was invited to take his seat on the Council.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 2 July 2018.** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed and signed.
4. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** None.
5. **Public Forum:** Cllr Osborne reported that the Boundary Commission had published its final recommendations concerning the electoral review of Mid-Suffolk (see item 8.6).

Cllr Fleming reported that Suffolk Highways had reviewed grit bin and grit heap provision and details of the new system would be sent to parish councils shortly. Grit heaps would no longer be restocked due to pollution concerns. Any parish which had a grit heap was encouraged to apply for a new grit bin in line with the guidance. She also reported that the existing Ipswich and Stowmarket waste recycling sites were severely constrained, with limited expansion opportunities, and money had been earmarked for replacement sites. Construction of a new site in Stowmarket was expected to get underway in 2019/20. It was reported that tourism had seen its biggest boom for a decade with the visitor economy reaching £2 billion for the first time. The number of jobs in this sector rose by 6% to 42,428, i.e. 13.6% of all employment in Suffolk was in the tourism sector. Lastly, Suffolk residents were invited to come and meet the Leader of the Council, other county councillors and senior managers about their concerns and ideas for the County of Suffolk. The following events were scheduled from 11am to 1pm, unless otherwise stated, for the remainder of 2018: Framlingham: Tuesday 18 September; Bury St Edmunds: Wednesday 26 September (2-4pm); Haverhill: Friday 12 October; and Ipswich: Thursday 25 October.

6. **Planning:**
 - 6.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 6.1.1 **Barn at Lodge Farm, Mill Road.** Ref. DC/18/03538. Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwelling house (Class C3) and for Associated Operational Development under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q (a) and (b) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015. It was noted that Prior Approval had already been given for a single storey development of the building and the application was now modified for two storeys. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 6.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:** None.
 - 6.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions/Appeals by Mid Suffolk DC:**
 - 6.3.1 **Land South of Diss Road.** Ref. DC/17/02760. Outline planning application (Access to be considered) - Erection of up to 69 dwellings, open space and associated infrastructure (all matters reserved except access). Outline Planning Permission GRANTED.

- 6.3.2 **Box Tree Cottage, Cherry Tree Lane.** Ref. DC/18/01821. Planning Application - Erection of extension to dwelling to form additional living accommodation. Planning Permission GRANTED.
- 6.3.3 **Box Tree Cottage, Cherry Tree Lane.** Ref. DC/18/01822. Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of an extension to form additional living accommodation. Listed Building Consent GRANTED.
- 6.3.4 **Sunnyholme, The Street.** Ref. DC/18/02012. Planning Application - Conversion of and extension to outbuilding to form a new dwelling, using existing access road. Planning Permission REFUSED.
- 6.3.5 **Cedar Lodge, The Drift.** Ref. DC/18/00415. Householder Application - Erection of garden room. Planning Permission GRANTED.
- 6.3.6 **Starre House, Chapel Lane.** Ref. DC/18/02674. Notification of works to Trees in a Conservation Area - T1 (Conifer) - Fell. NO OBJECTION.
- 6.3.7 **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. Planning Appeal DISMISSED.
- 6.4 **Neighbourhood Plan Update:** Cllr Sargeant reported that the draft was currently being reviewed by Steering Group members and would shortly receive an informal review from Mid Suffolk District Council. It would subsequently be circulated to councillors in late September for review, to be considered for approval by the Parish Councils in October.

7. Progress Reports:

- 7.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman reported that
- Jo Churchill MP had visited the Cross Keys Pub in Redgrave on 13 August to speak to local residents.
 - Arrangements were being made for a Post Office van service for two periods each week. A visit was expected from the PO advisor to confirm arrangements.
 - There had been a Police and Crime Commissioner meeting in Stowmarket at which the Chairman had asked for feedback on the success of parish-funded PCSOs, but little advice had been forthcoming. The Rickinghall Chairman, Geoff Short, had raised the issue of speeding and had asked for checks to be organised in the villages.
 - The Suffolk Preservation Society regularly offered training opportunities and the Chairman and Clerk would shortly be attending one on landscape design. As the cost was the same with membership included, it was suggested that the PC join. This was agreed.
 - There had been some damage and prolific littering at the woodland site next to the school in the summer months. After a complaint from a nearby resident, the Chairman had spoken with some of the children responsible and had left them black bags to clear up some of the waste. It was suggested that a litter pick be arranged once the new school term had started.
- 7.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk reported that
- Discussions continued about the light on the soffit of Mill House at Bridewell Lane. The owner would need to arrange with SCC the details of refurbishment prior to the new light being installed. It was noted with delight that the light opposite Chapel Lane had finally been replaced and was working.
 - The Vehicle Activated Sign post at the corner of Bridewell Lane and The Street had been moved by SCC as requested.
 - A request had been made for additional signage to stop drivers from trying to access Mill Lane from Fen Lane despite current signage which indicated that it was a dead end. It was agreed to add a sign beneath that stating, "No access to Mill Lane". If this did not work, a second sign near the Bowls Club would be considered. The cost of the first sign would be £29.
 - Several complaints had been made about the hedge next to Street Farmhouse. It extended quite significantly into the road and needed a severe cutting back to improve safety at the corner. The Clerk would ask SCC to make the request.

8. Correspondence:

- 8.1 **Suffolk County Council:** The PC noted the information about the introduction of civil parking enforcement (CPE) in Suffolk, where the responsibility for enforcement against illegal parking would be transferred from the police to the local authority. It was agreed to ask SCC for clarification of how it would be dealt with in parishes and who would enforce it. The Clerk would confirm that the TRO at Back Hills had been identified correctly.
- 8.2 **SCC:** The PC received the request to confirm the footpath cutting programme for 2019. The Clerk would circulate a better map of the current routes and it was agreed to consider it further in October.
- 8.3 **Suffolk Police:** The PC noted the additional information about parish-funded PCSOs which confirmed the annual cost as £37,000. It was felt that it was harder to justify the high cost with the removal of parking enforcement from the police portfolio and it was agreed not to pursue it.
- 8.4 **Suffolk Police:** The September newsletter was noted. The Clerk would contact the Police to let them know that the newsletter was not up to date on the website.
- 8.5 **Unison:** The information about Suffolk Police proposed reduction of workforce was noted. The number of PCSOs was due to fall from 107 to 48 and only 38 of those posts had confirmed funding.
- 8.6 **Boundary Commission:** It was noted that final recommendations from the electoral review of Mid-Suffolk had been issued and Mid-Suffolk District Council would be reduced from 40 councillors to 34. Rickinghall Ward would now have only one district councillor.
- 8.7 **Twinning Association:** The TA co-ordinator had sent information about reviving the TA following an invitation from Tinteniack to visit in November. This information would be put on the notice board and in the parish magazine.
- 8.8 **MSDC:** It was noted that there was now a more than five-year housing supply for the district. The previous lack of a five-year supply for deliverable housing land had forced the District Council to consider all planning applications in the context of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The planning system would now return to considering applications against existing policies.
- 8.9 **MSDC:** The information about the Gambling Act Consultation was noted.

9. General Items:

- 9.1 **Vehicle Activated Sign Report:** The June speed data for Diss Road was considered. It was noted that 85% were not exceeding 36mph and the average speed was 29mph.
- 9.2 **Vehicle Activated Sign Report:** It was noted that the July speed data for Diss Road was very similar to previous months.
- 9.3 **Safeguarding and DBS Checks:** The PC considered the draft safeguarding policy circulated in July. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed to adopt the policy.

10. Finance

10.1 **Account Balance:** £34,614.45
Income: £ 306.15 MSDC Street Cleaning Grant

10.2 **Accounts for Payment (Aug):**
Admin Payments £ 631.25 Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc. £ 214.36 St Clean/Play Area/VAS Aug 18

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

10.3 **Accounts for Payment (Sept):**
Admin Payments £ 715.96 Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc. £ 624.36 St Clean/Play Area/VAS Sept 18
Came & Company £ 1,094.71 Insurance Oct 2018 – Sept 2019

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

11. **Councillors Reports:**

- **Playing Field:** The Clerk would ask Tim to cut the ivy growing on trees and posts near the roadside. The contractor had been reluctant to install the concrete pad under the youth shelter while the play area was so heavily used, and the Clerk had instructed him to wait until school resumed. Cllr Green agreed to install the new signs on the gate.
- **Public Rights of Way:** It was noted that the kissing gate on the footpath from Chapel Lane to Bridewell Lane had been removed by SCC as it was no longer needed and created a noise nuisance to nearby residents.
- **SALC/Parish Liaison:** There would be a SALC Mid Suffolk North meeting on 19 September. The Chairman had attended a Parish Liaison meeting on 12 July which had focussed on the Joint Local Plan.
- **Village Hall:** Internal redecoration of the hall and replacement of windows had taken place over the summer break. There was some electrical work outstanding.
- **War Memorial:** County Cllr Fleming had awarded the PC £750 for the cleaning of the memorial.

12. **Highways Issues:** It was noted that several residents near The Bell PH had contacted SCC directly to request H-markings at drive entrances.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

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

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

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm.