

BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday, 4 February 2019
Botesdale Village Hall

Present: Cllr Ernie Baxter
Cllr Victoria Curry
Cllr William Sargeant (Chairman)

Cllr Des Bavington-Lowe
Cllr Chris Lambert

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
County Cllr Jessica Fleming
2 Members of the Public

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs John Abraham, David Green, Greg Russell and Caroline Stratford.
2. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 7 January and 17 January 2019.** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed and signed.
3. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** Cllr Curry declared an interest in item 5.1.3 as the adjoining neighbour.
4. **Public Forum:** County Councillor Fleming reported that Suffolk Highways had invested in Nu-phalt Thermal Patching technology to improve pothole repairs. This had been funded from £9.67 million received from central government in the autumn. On 29 January, SCC's Cabinet had agreed that the road bridge section (crossing A) of the Upper Orwell Crossings project was not deliverable due to escalating costs, but the Council and its partners were considering ways to deliver crossings B and C in the Waterfront area. The 2019 Great East Run opened for entry on 7 January and would take place on Sunday 22 September. Eye had opened a new library on Cross Street to replace the 40-year-old former premises.

Two members of the public spoke about the third application at Bell Hill Cottage and Newsagents for change of use to a hot food takeaway. It was felt to be broadly the same as the second application, with the hot food takeaway section further back into the ground floor. There were still concerns about the loss of residential space in a largely residential area, the effect of noise, litter and odours on local residential amenity, insufficient parking and the effect of increased traffic on pedestrian safety near the premises. County Cllr Fleming confirmed that she would apply to call in the application to go before a planning committee and would request the same committee who considered the two previous applications.

5. **Planning:**

5.1 **Planning Applications:**

- 5.1.1 **Crown Hill Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/18/04722. Householder Planning Application - Erection of first floor extension and access to loft. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
- 5.1.2 **Crown Hill Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/18/04723. Application for Listed Building Consent. Erection of first floor extension and access to loft. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
- 5.1.3 **Bell Hill Cottage and The Newsagent, The Street.** Ref. DC/19/00336. Planning Application. Change of Use of ground floor to A5 Hot Food Takeaway. Installation of extract equipment internally and flue through roof. Internal alterations to provide sound and fire-proofing to party walls and floors. Having declared an interest, Cllr Curry left the room during the discussion of this and the next item. The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to object again to the application at Bell Hill Cottage and Newsagent for change of use to a hot food takeaway. It was felt that very little had changed in this version of the application and previous concerns – as outlined in the public forum – had not been addressed or had been dismissed.
- 5.1.4 **Bell Hill Cottage and The Newsagent, The Street.** Ref. DC/19/00336. Listed Building Consent Application. Works to ground floor to create A5 Hot Food Takeaway. Installation of extract equipment internally and flue through roof. Internal alterations to provide fire and sound-proofing to floors and party walls. It

was noted that the current tenants had exposed heritage features. Unfortunately, this was not addressed in the application which showed photographs of the premises when it was a newsagent/post office. The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to object to the application as it was difficult to assess how the proposals would affect the listed building without up to date information.

5.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:** None.

5.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions/Appeals by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.

5.4 **Neighbourhood Plan Update:** The Neighbourhood Plan had been formally submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council on 23 January 2019. MSDC would undertake their own consultation on the content of the Plan starting from Monday, 11 February 2019. The deadline for comments was 4pm on Wednesday, 27 March 2019. Members of the Steering Group had met a representative of Suffolk County Council Properties to discuss SCC property within the village, particularly at Rectory Hill, for the use of affordable housing.

6. Progress Reports:

6.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman had attended a meeting with Bill Butcher, a new PCSO funded by MSDC. He also reported that the start of the new Post Office mobile service had been delayed due to technical problems with the van equipment.

6.2 **Clerk:** The pothole in the Back Hills passing place was due to be repaired the following week.

7. Correspondence:

7.1 **SCC:** The PC noted the new Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in the area covered by Mid Suffolk District Council, which covered all waiting restrictions, loading restrictions and parking places in that area. The new TRO would use maps to show existing static traffic restrictions, rather than the current text document. The order made no changes to existing restrictions in Botesdale.

7.2 **MSDC:** The litter pick information/guidance was noted. A note would go in the April parish magazine advising participants in the litter pick on 13 April to wear gloves and sensible shoes, and to bring hi-vis jackets and litter pickers if they had them.

7.3 **Safer Neighbourhood Team:** The January/February 2019 newsletter was noted.

7.4 **Care Choices UK:** The new Suffolk care services directory was noted, and the information would be posted on the notice board.

7.5 **Resident:** The PC considered the complaint about youths setting fires under A143 underpass. It was agreed to pass this information on to the police.

7.6 **Resident:** The PC considered the complaint about new fencing on the footpath from Cherry Tree Lane/Rose Lane. It was confirmed that the fence would mark the boundary of land that had changed hands and should not interfere with access to the footpath.

8. General Items:

8.1 **Play Area:** It was RESOLVED, with four agreed and one abstention, to accept the quote of £3,487 for the consultation and design service provided by Groundwork UK.

8.2 **Street Sweeping and Grass Cutting Contract:** The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to follow Local Government scales from 1 April 2019 with an initial hourly rate of £9.02/hour (raised from the current rate of £8.53/hour), so that future increases would be in line with the National Salary Award.

8.3 **Annual Newsletter:** It was agreed to have the play area proposals on the cover and as the theme, with a tie-in to Community Infrastructure Levy. The deadline for councillor reports (Tree Warden, Footpaths, Streams) was 19 April.

8.4 **Internal Audit Review:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to appoint Cllrs Russell and Sargeant to carry out the annual review.

9. Finance

9.1	Account Balance:	£37,307.44	
	Income:	£ 497.00	Redgrave PC – War Mem Clean
		£ 64.32	Redgrave PC – War Mem Insure
		£ 375.00	Rickinghall PC – Xmas Tree Contribution

9.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£ 697.32	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 146.12	St Clean/Play Area/VAS Feb 19
C Burnard	£ 198.00	Hydraulic Lift – Xmas Tree

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

10. **Councillors Reports:**

- **Public Rights of Way:** It was noted that the path at the end of Fen Lane was being churned up by delivery vehicles turning around when stuck at the bottom. It was agreed that an additional "no through road" sign should be erected on the Anglian Water side of the road at the bottom.
- **SALC:** The Chairman had attended an Executive meeting in January.
- **Streams and Footpaths Project:** There had been a good turn-out for recent working parties. There were two more left in the season.
- **Village Hall:** Volunteers for the Bookings Secretary and Hall Administrator positions were being sought for the AGM on 8 April. The advertising frame had been taken down prior to demolition works at The Limes site. The Village Hall had declined a request from the developer at The Limes to connect a sewage spur for the site from the Village Hall as agreement would have been required from the Diocesan Advisory Committee and this was unlikely to be forthcoming due to complications that might arise from connecting the services. The elder bush at the front had been removed and the notice board lowered. The Pre-School had requested more storage space, and this would be considered.

11. **Highways Issues:** A councillor had received requests for an official passing place / layby on Back Hills, but it was thought to be unachievable without purchasing land from adjacent fields. Unfortunately, there was no budget for this.

12. **Welcome Pack:** None.

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

14. **Next Meeting:** 4 March 2019

15. **To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 for consideration of the following items:** The PC noted the changes in the National Pay Scales.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.53 pm.