

BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday, 2 September 2019
Botesdale Village Hall

Present: Cllr Des Bavington-Lowe Cllr Ernie Baxter
 Cllr Greg Russell Cllr William Sargeant (Chairman)
 Cllr Caroline Stratford

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
District/County Cllr Jessica Fleming

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Victoria Curry
2. **Casual Vacancies:** None.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 1 July 2019.** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed and signed.
4. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** None.
5. **Public Forum:** County Cllr Jessica Fleming reported that uneconomic bus routes would have public funding cut this autumn effective 2 November. A full list of the affected routes and solutions was published at www.suffolkonboard.com. Local services were unlikely to be affected. She reported that a 'We are Listening' event was to be held on 11 September in Eye. This was an opportunity for any member of the public to speak to the Council Leader and senior officers. She noted that the District Council's new waste collection schedule was working well so far.

Councillors asked Cllr Fleming to investigate several issues including changes to part-night lighting (see item 8.1), incomplete verge cutting – specifically on Mill Road North – and the proliferation of diversion signs/cones which were not collected promptly after the work ended. It was also reported to her that eight sizeable potholes/road defects on The Street and Diss Road had been reported to SCC and only one had met the criteria for repair. She explained that the pothole repair criteria were to change after October, and it would then be worth reporting them again.

6. **Planning:**
 - 6.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 6.1.1 **Nissen Hut One, Lodge Farm, The Common. Ref. DC/19/01051 - Appeal Ref. APP/W3520/W/19/3233694.** Notification of Appeal. Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of an agricultural barn to dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for associated operational development. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q. This was noted and it was felt that no further comment was required.
 - 6.1.2 **Nissen Hut Two, Lodge Farm, The Common. Ref. DC/19/01054 - Appeal Ref. APP/W3520/W/19/3233697.** Notification of Appeal. Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of an agricultural barn to dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for associated operational development. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q. This was noted and it was felt that no further comment was required.
 - 6.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:**
 - 6.2.1 **Ivy House, Back Hills. Ref. DC/19/04033.** Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Ornamental Cherry (T1) – Fell due to poor health, Pear (T2) - fell due to poor health. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 6.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions/Appeals by Mid Suffolk DC:**
 - 6.3.1 **Land Adjacent Grove Flock Farm, The Common. Ref. DC/19/01822.** Planning Application – Creation of vehicular access. Prior Approval GIVEN.
 - 6.3.2 **The Hollies, The Street. Ref. DC/19/02103.** Householder Planning Application - Rebuild brick and flint boundary wall. Planning Permission GRANTED.

- 6.3.3 **The Hollies, The Street. Ref. DC/19/02104.** Application for Listed Building Consent - Rebuild brick and flint boundary wall. Listed Building Consent GRANTED.
- 6.3.4 **16 The Fairstead.** Ref. DC/19/03079. Householder Planning Application - Conversion of garage to additional living accommodation. Planning Permission GRANTED.
- 6.3.5 **Sunnyholme, The Street. Ref. DC/18/02012 – Appeal Ref. APP/W3520/W/19/3219690.** Planning Application - Conversion of and extension to outbuilding to form a new dwelling, using existing access road. Appeal DISMISSED.
- 6.3.6 **Chilvers, 1 and 2 Market Place, The Street. Ref. DC/19/02668.** Application for Listed Building Consent. Re-decorate externally, replace awning fabric with new signwriting to fascia panels. Removal of internal partitions at ground floor level and construction of new, to form kitchen area. Construct WC within basement. Repairs to brickwork and roof covering. New doors to basement entrance on west side. Listed Building Consent GRANTED.
- 6.4 **Neighbourhood Plan Update:** The Neighbourhood Plan had been passed by the Examiner and the next step would be a YES/NO referendum held by Mid Suffolk District Council around mid-November. A report would be taken to the Cabinet on 7 October and the date for the referendum set then.

7. Progress Reports:

- 7.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman reported that training was available from the Suffolk Preservation Society on how to comment on landscape proposals. This was scheduled for 15 October in Haughley.
- 7.2 **Clerk:**
- As discussed in the public forum, several potholes along The Street and Diss Road had been reported during the summer and only one, outside the village hall, had met the current criteria for repair.
 - It had been reported previously that the new Highways Self Help Scheme for local councils had highlighted that councils and their contractors could not legally work on the highway without specific (Chapter 8 – Signing and Safeguarding) training. The Clerk had attended a meeting with SCC to give feedback on the scheme. SCC maintained that there was no flexibility when it came to the legalities of working on the highway and parish representatives made it clear that this would make it very difficult for them to continue basic community upkeep, such as street sweeping and verge cutting. However, the PC noted that Tim and Jim Gaddis now had the required certificate which would enable them to continue street sweeping, and maintaining the VAS and verges.
 - MSDC had requested that all councillors submit a new register of interests after the election. However, the Clerk would be investigating whether this was legally required.
 - The digital mapping system agreed earlier in the year was scheduled to be downloaded on 9 September and the Clerk would undergo training in mid-October.

8. Correspondence:

- 8.1 **SCC:** It was noted that there was a new SCC Part Night lighting policy which turned off all county-owned streetlights from 23.30 to 06.00 effective from 1 April 2019. The PC noted that this had not been communicated to parish councils and enquired whether the times could be altered. It was told that because the policy affected approximately 42,000 lights throughout the county, it was not possible to make changes to individual lights. It was noted that the 23 parish-owned streetlights throughout the village still stayed on until midnight. The PC asked County Cllr Fleming to investigate why the policy had been changed without notification and it was agreed to consider at the October meeting whether to bring parish-owned lights into sync with the county lights.
- 8.2 **MSDC:** The PC noted the advance notice of new CIL Bid round (no 4) opening 1st October and closing 31st October 2019 - Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 8.3 **NALC:** The PC agreed to sign up to the Tree Charter for local councils.
- 8.4 **Better Broadband for Suffolk:** The PC noted the briefing for councillors on the current state of broadband in the county, and it would be put on the website.
- 8.5 **Resident:** The PC received the complaint about parking at the bottom of Back Hills (next to the Market Place) obstructing traffic. It was noted that the police no longer

dealt with parking issues and that responsibility had not yet been handed on to the District Council. However, it was not currently illegal to park there if not obstructing traffic. The timed parking restrictions suggested in the complaint would require an expensive Traffic Regulation Order to implement and would currently be difficult to enforce. There was also a complaint of speeding, but it was felt that this was more likely to be drivers going too fast for that section of the road but not actually over the speed limit of 30mph, and therefore difficult to deal with.

9. General Items:

- 9.1 **Joint Local Plan Consultation:** The PC considered the draft comments prepared by Places4People in response to the Draft JLP Consultation. It was felt that they presented a logical progression of objection to the housing numbers allocated for Botesdale and Rickinghall – together a “Core Village” – which it was felt were unjustifiably and unnecessarily high. The comments also objected to the addition of land south of The Street (behind White Horse Cottage, formerly PH) within the settlement boundary, without prior consultation with the community. It was allocated for 100 houses within the Draft JLP. This land had been assessed during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and was not included in its site allocations due to important landscape characteristics and key views into and out of the village. The Draft JLP disregarded the advanced stage of the Neighbourhood Plan and its conclusions. The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the comments and object on this basis.
- 9.2 **Play Area Consultation:** The PC just received the plans prepared by Groundwork so it was agreed to discuss them at the October meeting.

10. Finance

10.1 **Account Balance:** £43,709.53
Income: £ 320.19 MSDC Cleansing Grant 1st qtr 2019

10.2 Accounts for Payment (Aug):

Admin Payments	£ 690.34	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 506.97	St Clean/Play Area/VAS Aug 19

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

10.3 Accounts for Payment (Sept):

Admin Payments	£ 731.43	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 303.97	St Clean/Play Area/VAS Sept 19
Came & Company	£ 1,127.55	Insurance Oct 2019 – Sept 2020
MSDC	£ 498.00	Dog and Litter Bins 2019-20
Suffolk Preservation Society	£ 30.00	Membership Fee 2019-20
PKF Littlejohn LLP	£ 240.00	External Audit Fees 2019
MSDC	£ 107.78	Election Charges 2 May

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

10.4 **External Audit Report:** The PC noted the clean report from the auditor.

11. Councillors Reports:

- **Barwoods:** It was noted that the local Brownies group were offering hedgehog houses and it was agreed to pass this information to Barwoods.
- **SALC:** The next meeting was on 5 September.
- **Village Hall:** The next committee meeting was on 9 September. There had been two applications for the booking secretary/administrator, and it was expected that the scaffolding would be taken down soon.

12. **Highways Issues:** There were reports of motorbiking on footpaths from Botesdale to Redgrave. This would be highlighted in the parish magazine.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

14. **Matters for the next meeting of the Council:** Minutes – format of follow-up information.

15. **Next Meeting:** 7 October 2019

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm.