

# BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Present:** Cllr Des Bavington-Lowe  
Cllr Victoria Curry  
Cllr Greg Russell  
Cllr Caroline Stratford

Cllr Ernie Baxter  
Cllr Simon Dickinson  
Cllr William Sargeant (Chairman)

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

7.00pm The Chairman welcomed those present and opened the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** No applications.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 4 November 2019.** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed and signed.
4. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** Cllr Sargeant declared an interest in item 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 as an adjoining property owner.
5. **Public Forum:** County Cllr Jessica Fleming reported that the refurbished Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) at Gt Blakenham would continue trials through December. Once this process was completed, Suffolk Waste Partnership would resume tours of the facility for schools, groups and clubs. Suffolk County Council was promoting the Veterans Gateway and the Suffolk Military Covenant. The Veterans Gateway was a national resource supported by military charities and the web portal ([www.veteransgateway.org.uk](http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk)) helped veterans find suitable support. The School Travel Review was commencing in December, focussing on mainstream under-16 transport. Recommendations were expected to go to a February or March Cabinet meeting.

A councillor reported to Cllr Fleming that a pothole had been missed when others on The Street were being filled, despite it being understood that the new policy was to fill any nearby potholes not included within a work order. Cllr Fleming would pass on the feedback.

As District Cllr, Jessica reported the Council was working with the Suffolk Waste Partnership to reduce all waste generation over the holiday period, particularly food waste and packaging. Some but not all Christmas paper could be recycled (NOT if it has a coating, YES if it is made of paper). Parishes had been sent messages on the Food Savvy programme and the Clerk confirmed that the information had been posted on Facebook. Mid Suffolk was again offering free swimming over the Christmas holidays from 20 December 2019 to 5 January 2020 inclusive at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre and Stradbroke Swimming Pool.

A councillor queried whether there would be a change in approach to planning applications following the recently declared climate emergency. Cllr Fleming replied that this would mainly affect building regulations and there was an active national consultation on Part L of the building regulations governing environmental aspects. Part L would be partially updated in 2020, with more ambitious targets to come online in 2025, aiming to meet higher insulation and emissions standards. In particular, use of fossil fuels would be prohibited. Cllr Fleming was also Chair of the Climate Change Task Force group advising the Joint Local Plan. She stressed that any new regulations aimed at design and the built environment would need to be in line with national policy and legally enforceable. The Task Force planned to bring some recommendations to Cabinet in February or March and future policies could also be fed into Supplementary Planning Documents.

A member of the public expressed their thanks to the PC for its ongoing support of the Community Transport scheme.

## 6. **Planning:**

### 6.1 **Planning Applications:**

6.1.1 **Land at Back Hills.** Ref. DC/19/ 05130. Discharge of Conditions. It was noted that MSDC did not normally consult on Discharge of Conditions applications. However, they were happy to receive comments from the PC in this instance. There was a discussion about parking, landscaping and future-proofing in response to the climate emergency MSDC had recently declared. However, it was agreed to focus comments on issues relating to construction management. These included unsociable times of operation, the location of site compound close to existing dwellings and the use of reversing alarms, which, it was felt, should be "non-disturbing" due to the proximity of dwellings.

6.1.2 **Land at Back Hills.** Ref. DC/19/05152. APPLICATION FOR RESERVED MATTERS: Submission of details under Outline Planning Permission 0460/17 - appearance, scale, layout and landscaping (for residential development of 40 dwellings with associated improvements to public footpaths, creation of public open space and provision of an area of woodland to the Parish Council for use by the Woodland Group, Primary School and Pre-School). The deadline for comment had been extended to 10 January so it was agreed to consider this further at the January meeting. It was also agreed to invite Simon Burgess to the meeting and to prepare questions for him in advance. These were to be forwarded to the Clerk by 23 December.

### 6.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:**

6.2.1 **5, The Street.** Ref. DC/19/05484. Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - T1 (Walnut) - Fell. It was noted that this tree was not in great condition and it was agreed to suggest replanting a suitable tree. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.

6.2.2 **10 Oswald Mews.** Ref. DC/19/05295. Application for works to trees in Conservation Area - Fell 1 No tree to rear. This tree was in a common garden and obscuring light to one house. It was proposed to remove it and replant with lower bushes. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.

### 6.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions/Appeals by Mid Suffolk DC:**

6.3.1 **6 Park View.** Ref. DC/19/04196. Householder Planning Application- Erection of single storey rear and side extension and internal alterations. Planning Permission GRANTED.

6.4 **Neighbourhood Plan Update:** The referendum on the question: "Do you want Mid Suffolk District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Botesdale & Rickinghall to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Plan area?" had been held by Mid Suffolk District Council on 28 November. The result, decided by a simple majority, had been "YES" with 87.1% in favour on a 25.8% turnout. The plan now had full weight as MSDC would give its consent automatically at the next full council meeting on 23 January 2020.

## 7. **Progress Reports:**

7.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman had attended a planning conference held by SALC.

7.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk had attended training to use the PC's new mapping software.

## 8. **Correspondence:**

8.1 **SCC:** The PC had been asked to consider streetlight programming over the Christmas/New Year period and it was agreed to follow the SCC option to leave Part Night lights on all night on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

8.2 **MSDC:** The PC noted information about the tax base and applying for a precept.

8.3 **Community Transport Service:** The PC noted the update on the service's finances and future purchase of a replacement bus. Finances were healthy and it was thought that there would be enough funds available, both from the service and supporting organisations, to replace the bus at a cost of up to £40,000.

8.4 **Resident:** The PC noted the request for a "no dog fouling" sign and replacement bin at Spring Meadow. It was agreed to investigate the cost of replacing the bin which was very rusty. A request was made to lower it. It was noted that there wasn't a good spot to erect a sign, but stickers could be put on the bin itself.

## 9. General Items:

- 9.1 **Time of Meetings:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to change the monthly meeting start time to 7pm as meetings were regularly lasting until 10pm with the current start time.
- 9.2 **Defibrillator:** No update.
- 9.3 **Play Area:** The first meeting of the Recreation Ground Regeneration Sub-Committee would take place on Monday, 9 December at 7pm in the Village Hall. This had been advertised widely.
- 9.4 **Christmas Events:** The tree had been erected and lights installed for the event at 6pm on 7 December. The Chairman would MC the event. The Chairman would also coordinate erecting Father Christmas's grotto for his Christmas Eve visit.

## 10. Finance

- 10.1 **Account Balance:** £51,536.87
- Income:**
- |  |          |                                   |
|--|----------|-----------------------------------|
|  | £ 65.15  | Redgrave PC – War Mem Insurance   |
|  | £ 65.15  | Rickingham PC – War Mem Insurance |
|  | £ 320.19 | MSDC – Street Cleaning Grant      |
- 10.2 **Accounts for Payment:**
- |                        |          |                                                                   |
|------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Admin Payments         | £ 756.36 | Not itemised due to GDPR                                          |
| Street Sweeping etc.   | £ 156.81 | St Clean/Play Area/VAS Dec 19                                     |
| Pear Technology        | £ 684.00 | Mapping Software, Training & Support<br>½ Botesdale, ½ Rickingham |
| SALC                   | £ 38.40  | Planning Workshop – G Russell                                     |
| M Bishop               | £ 48.00  | Wreaths – RBL                                                     |
| Gislingham Silver Band | £ 150.00 | Remembrance Day Parade                                            |
| Gislingham Silver Band | £ 60.00  | Xmas Lights On Event                                              |
| S Green                | £ 10.00  | Bus shelter clean                                                 |
| Community Workshop     | £ 6.50   | Posters/flyers                                                    |
- RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts above.
- 10.3 **Draft Budget 2020-21:** The draft budget would be formally approved at the January meeting when the precept request would also be signed.

## 11. Councillors Reports:

- **BARWOODS:** The group was currently working to check the safety of the trees at Millers Orchard.
- **Playing Field:** The two signs on the gate had been damaged, possibly kicked in, but were salvageable. Tim Gaddis would remount them on heavy plywood to prevent it happening again.
- **Public Rights of Way:** The flooding on Bridewell Lane was still a problem. The Clerk would follow up with two of the landowners who had not cleared their section of the waterway.
- **SALC:** The AGM had been held on 26 November.
- **Streams and Footpaths:** A working party would be held the next Sunday to remove a large tree from the stream.
- **Village Hall:** New posts for advertising banners had been used already by WARTS; quotes were being sought for a water softener; the new administrator was getting to grips with her role; internet provision for the hall was being investigated; there was not much support for a defibrillator at the hall; and the Chair had recently attended the Suffolk Village Halls and Community Buildings conference.
- **Website/Facebook:** The Clerk had produced a flyer about the PC's online presence to go in the Welcome Pack.

12. **Highways Issues:** It was agreed that Back Hills needed a drainage channel into the adjacent field to alleviate flooding problems. The Chairman would speak to the landowner.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

14. **Matters for the next meeting of the Council:** None.

15. **Next Meeting:** 6 January 2020

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.59 pm.