

# BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Monday, 5 June 2023  
Botesdale Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Des Bavington-Lowe  
Cllr Andrew Edwards  
Cllr Richard Lock  
Cllr William Sargeant (Chair)  
Cllr Jack Stracey

Cllr Simon Dickinson  
Cllr Sally Jarvis  
Cllr Greg Russell  
Cllr Elizabeth Stanford

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve  
District Cllr Gilly Morgan  
5 Members of the Public

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 10 May 2023.** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed as a true record.
3. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** Cllr Bavington-Lowe declared an interest in item 10.2 as a director of Parish Assets Management Ltd.
4. **Public Forum:** The new District Councillor, Gilly Morgan, was welcomed to her first meeting and gave a brief report about her first days in office.  
A member of the public complained about the shipping container at the corner of The Drift and Back Hills. It was explained that the PC had asked the owner whether it had planning permission and the owner had subsequently contacted Mid Suffolk District Council. MSDC had confirmed that as it was a temporary structure, it would not require planning permission. It was agreed to ask the resident how long it would be staying there.  
A representative of Rickingham Village Hall spoke about item 6.5 and how the project would benefit a well-used community asset.
5. **Planning:**
  - 5.1 **Planning Applications:** None.
  - 5.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:**
    - 5.1.1 **The Chestnuts, Bridewell Lane.** Ref. DC/23/02405. Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 1No. Larch (T1), Fell Several conifers growing as one (T2). It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection to the application.
  - 5.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
  - 5.4 **Notification of other Planning Matters:** None.
6. **Correspondence:**
  - 6.1 **20's Plenty for Suffolk:** The PC considered the request to support the *20's Plenty for Suffolk* campaign including
    - Joining a call on Suffolk County Council to implement 20mph in Botesdale and
    - Writing to Suffolk County Council to request 20mph speed limits on streets throughout Suffolk where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.Although councillors could see some benefits to the scheme, it was noted that past speed sign data indicated that road users through Botesdale mostly kept to the speed limit, principally due to the number of parked cars on The Street. It was also felt that a 20mph speed limit would be difficult to enforce without a regular police presence. It was therefore agreed not to join the campaign.
  - 6.2 **Resident:** The PC noted a complaint about parking for the Recreation Ground on Chapel Lane, which were similar to parking problems throughout the village. It was agreed that in this location there wasn't much that could be done except to add signage to the Recreation Ground to remind users to be considerate of local residents.

- 6.3 **Rural Market Towns Group:** The PC considered the membership costing £90.75 and agreed not to take it forward due to cost considerations and the availability of similar information from other sources.
- 6.4 **Resident:** The PC noted the request for installation of a bench somewhere in the village to encourage people to have "healthy conversations" as promoted by [www.thebenchuk.co.uk](http://www.thebenchuk.co.uk). There were plans to put in a 'chatty' bench at the Recreation Ground, but it was agreed to look at whether appropriate signage could be put on an existing bench in the village.
- 6.5 **Rickingham Village Hall:** The PC considered a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan funding application for new solar panels and replacement rooflights to contribute to a 'greener heating system' at the hall. The total project cost was approximately £35,000 and funding would be sought from MSDC, Green Suffolk and the County and District Cllr Locality Budgets. It was noted that Rickingham PC had agreed to contribute £3,214.20 in grants and remaining Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It was therefore RESOLVED, with all agreed, to make up the shortfall of £4,000 from CIL funds. There was some discussion about whether the current ad hoc approach was the correct one for PIIP applications but noted that there were few projects left on the PIIP which were not within the direct control of the PC.
- 6.6 **Parkview Youth Club:** The PC considered a PIIP funding application for £1,000 for new equipment for the club. It was noted that Rickingham PC had agreed to contribute £500, and it was therefore RESOLVED, with all agreed, to give £500 towards the project from the PIIP Budget.

## 7. Ongoing Items:

- 7.1 **Recreation Ground:** The Sub Committee had been asked to consider the use of the site by visitors with support dogs or mobility scooters. Due to the many health and safety considerations of mixing dogs with children, the PC agreed to maintain its 'no dogs' policy. Although the rules currently prevented the use of motorised vehicles at the site, it was agreed to investigate the use of mobility scooters and related regulations. There was a discussion about the park ranger position proposed earlier in the year and it was agreed that it was not yet needed due to local volunteers contributing to the upkeep of the Ground.
- 7.2 **TRO for Back Hills, Chapel Lane and Mill Road North:** The Clerk would follow up on evidence for the proposed TRO at the Chapel Lane/Bridewell Lane junction.
- 7.3 **TRO for extension of 30mph on B1113:** The Clerk would write to the landowner to request cutting back the hedge on the northwest corner of Back Hills with the B1113.
- 7.4 **Marl Pits:** There was no update.
- 7.5 **Sarah's Wood:** There was no update.

## 8. Other Items:

- 8.1 **General Power of Competence:** The PC considered the advantages of the GPoC which was intended to give local councils wider powers to deliver more for their communities. The Parish Council met the eligibility criteria for adoption of the General Power of Competence as defined in the Localism Act 2011 s1(1) and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. This meant that 2/3 of members were elected rather than co-opted and the Clerk had an approved qualification. The Council therefore RESOLVED, with all agreed, to adopt the General Power of Competence. It would be reviewed every parish council election year.
- 8.2 **Annual Newsletter:** The draft newsletter was approved for printing.
- 8.3 **Christmas 2023:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the quote for £975 from Elveden Estates for tree and HIAB delivery, which was the same as last year. It was noted that Rickingham PC paid half of the Christmas costs. It was also agreed to purchase some more lights.
- 8.4 **Land Registry:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the estimate of £500 from Birketts LLP (discounted services through SALC) to complete first registration of the Recreation Ground.
- 8.5 **Road Signs:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the quote for £439 for repairs to two road signs on the B1113.

## 9. Village Status Reports:

### 9.1 Chair's Report: The Chair proposed that the PC consider the following:

- Whether the PC should actively look to acquire assets as investments, income generators, CIL money or surplus funds;
- How to engage more with the wider community and get people more actively involved with their village;
- Should AGM / Xmas meetings conclude with a 'social' event, wine, nibbles; and
- Whether to put Councillor bios on the web site and parish magazine, e.g. one per month.

It was agreed to set a date at the next meeting to hold an informal discussion about these points and potentially, to formulate a view about where the village was headed over the next decade.

### 9.2 Clerk's Report: None.

### 9.3 Local Organisations:

- Streams and Footpaths – Progress on the information board was waiting for content and a suggested location.
- Village Hall – The Village Hall Management Committee had re-elected Cllr Sargeant as Chair and elected Cllr Edwards as Vice-Chair but still required a Treasurer. The VH was financially stable and would review its fees in the summer. It would also be considering the installation of EV charging stations.

### 9.4 Village Assets: It was agreed to remove the wreaths from the War Memorial and to remove them next year at the Litter Pick. The Clerk would ask Kit Brinkley to confirm whether he would be taking over the organisation of the Remembrance Event from Mike Bishop.

### 9.5 Public Rights of Way: A fingerpost sign near Stable Cottage (near the Market Place) had been reported as damaged.

### 9.6 Highways Issues: There were more potholes on Mill Road North which would be reported.

### 9.7 Welcome Packs: None.

## 10. Finance (as of 31/05/23):

10.1 Account Balance:	£ 134,303.34
Bank Balance:	£ 134,303.34
Income:	£ 0.00

### 10.2 Accounts for Payment:

Admin Payments	£ 1,353.35	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 299.30	St Clean etc Jun 23
Parish Asset Management	£ 413.24	Rec Gnd – CAP Installation
Community Action Suffolk	£ 108.00	Accessibility Audit
Community Heartbeat	£ 62.40	Replacement Defibrillator Pads
Ace Engraving Ltd	£ 59.40	Rec Gnd – Dedication Engraving

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

## 11. Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:

- The proposed solar farm site at Suggenhall Farm had gone to appeal with the Planning Inspectorate.
- It was noted that there was no update on County Broadband but at least one local property had been sent a wayleave notice.

## 12. Next Meeting: 3 July 2023

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:52pm.