

BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday, 4 January 2021
Online Zoom Meeting

Present: Cllr Des Bavington-Lowe (Vice-Chair) Cllr Simon Dickinson
Cllr Greg Russell Cllr William Sargeant (Chair)

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Ernie Baxter
2. **Casual Vacancies:** There were no applications.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 7 December 2020.** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed as a true record.
4. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** None.
5. **Public Forum:** A member of the public commented broadly on the application in item 6.1.1 and the Recreation Ground Project.

Jonny Spinks of County Broadband gave a presentation on the company's proposal to provide the infrastructure for 'fibre to premises' broadband in Botesdale.

Cllr Fleming reported on Covid updates. The Home But Not Alone service at 0800 876 6926 was active and staffed from 9am to 5pm Mon. to Fri., as was the Suffolk Advice and Support Service phone at 0800 068 3131. Special schools and those supporting key workers would remain open during the new lockdown period. Residents on low incomes or benefits could get financial help if they are told to self-isolate due to COVID-19. Local Business Support Grants – Businesses could apply for multiple mandatory and discretionary grants, but separate applications would need to be made for each grant. All Covid related schemes were promoted on the Mid Suffolk District Council website at <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/benefits/coronavirus-money-and-benefits-advice/>

Fuel Change for Waste Fleet - Babergh and Mid Suffolk were considering proposals to cut their fleet's carbon emissions by up to 90% through use of hydro-treated waste vegetable oil (HVO) instead of diesel. As well as CO₂, emissions of other pollutants would be greatly reduced.

6. **Planning:**
 - 6.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 6.1.1 **Land to the South of Diss Road.** Ref. DC/20/03098. Submission of details application (Reserved Matters) and Discharge of Conditions 11 and 12 for Outline Planning Permission DC/17/02760. Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale to be considered for the erection of up to 69no dwellings, open space and associated infrastructure. Reason(s) for re-consultation: Revised plans submitted 21/12/20. It was noted that some aspects of the previous objection, including adequate provision of visitor parking and information about landscaping near the entrance at Diss Road, had been responded to in the amended application. However, it was agreed that the application still did not satisfy Policy 15 of the Botesdale and Rickingham Neighbourhood Plan which stated "Planning applications should, as appropriate to the proposal, demonstrate how they satisfy the requirements of the Development Design Checklist in Appendix 4" of the Plan and it was therefore RESOLVED, with all agreed, to maintain the objection to the application on that basis. The PC also agreed to draw attention to the issue of developers' compliance with the Neighbourhood Plan with Planning officers at Mid Suffolk District Council.
 - 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 on the South Side of Back Hills.** Ref. DC/20/05289. Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act relating to Outline Planning Permission 0460/17 / Reserved Matters DC/19/05152 for variation of Condition 1 (Approved plans and documents) of the Reserved Matters in order to change house types for plots 23 and 28. Amendment Details Approved.

6.4 **Notification of other Planning Matters:** None.

7. **Progress Reports:**

7.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman reported that he had taken down the Christmas tree with the assistance of the Chris and Jack from the Greyhound PH.

7.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk reported that the Co-operative Bank had simplified the process of making payments online and it was now relatively simple to arrange. The form to add signatories to online banking had been submitted.

The tree work at the Recreation Ground and at the triangle opposite the school would take place on 12 January. It was noted that this would coincide with a road closure on Rose Lane.

8. **Correspondence:**

8.1 **SCC Pension Fund:** The PC considered the consultation on Ill Health Liability Insurance which asked whether all employers in the Suffolk Pension Fund with a LGPS pension payroll of less than £1m should have the insurance. As there was no additional cost to employers in having it, the PC agreed to support this change in Pension Fund policy.

9. **General Items:**

9.1 **County Broadband:** The PC considered the information provided in the presentation given by County Broadband and noted that the company was financially backed by Aviva. It was also noted that they were currently the only company in the area offering 'fibre to premises' broadband. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to support the introduction of improved broadband infrastructure in Botesdale. It was agreed to draft a letter from the PC outlining the background of the approach from County Broadband with details of how to register interest in the scheme. County Broadband would take responsibility for distributing this to Botesdale residents. It was noted that approximate 40% of households would need to register interest for it to go forward to the next stage where households would be asked to pre-order. At that stage 25% would need to pre-order for it to go ahead. Installation would be free for those who signed up at the pre-order stage.

9.2 **Vehicle Weight Restriction on Fen Lane:** The PC had been asked by a resident to request a vehicle weight restriction in light of the damaged culvert at the end of Fen Lane and the poor road condition. It was agreed not to take this forward since heavy vehicles would still be able to use the road for necessary access and the reduction in heavy traffic would be minimal.

9.3 **30mph Zone on B1113:** It was agreed to request an extension of the 30mph to the parish boundary to improve safety when exiting Back Hills and the new development. It was also suggested that as a costly Traffic Regulation Order would be necessary for the change, this could include other works including double-yellow lines at the Market Place and an extension of the 30mph zone on Mill Road North which currently began just short of the recreation ground.

9.4 **Recreation Ground Project:** The PC noted that James Blake Associates had completed the updated design (Design Review 3), incorporating the comments arising from Design Review 2, together with an accompanying equipment list. The Sub Committee would review and comment on Design Review 3 and the equipment list in early January 2021. JBA would then prepare Design Review 4 by the end of January 2021 together with the initial cost estimate. The initial cost estimate would provide a basis for the establishment of funding targets. The current Design proposal included Phases 1 and 2, being respectively facilities on the existing Recreation Ground and facilities to be sited on land to the south of the existing Recreation Ground currently owned by Llanover Estates. The acquisition and the use of the Llanover land by BPC is a key dependency for the execution of Phase 2. It was noted that JBA would present the agreed design to BPC at the February 2021 meeting.

- 9.5 **Village Assets:** It was noted that work on the list was ongoing.
- 9.6 **Phone Box / Defibrillator:** The Clerk reported that the installation of the defibrillator was due to take place on 15 February.

10. **Finance**

10.1 **Account Balance:** £54,219.64
Income: £ 0.00

10.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£ 841.66	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 160.60	St Clean/Play Area/VAS Jan 21
Elveden Estates	£ 1,080.00	Christmas Tree
C Burnard	£ 168.10	Hire of hydraulic lift (Xmas tree)
Mobile Jet Wash UK	£ 145.00	Play Area Clean
Rickinghall PC	£ 981.70	Defibrillator/Phone Box contribution
James Blake Associates	£ 1,917.00	Recreation Ground Project Design/Survey Fees

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

10.3 **Draft Budget 2021-22:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to set a BUDGET of £37,460 for the year 2021-22 and to retain funds of £33,700, making a total fund of £71,160. The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to sign the form requesting a precept of £35,800 from Mid Suffolk District Council. This was an overall 16.6% rise on the amount received in 2020-21, adding an average £18.25 per annum per household depending on the band.

11. **Councillors Reports:**

- **Public Rights of Way:** It was noted that footpath RI1 was very muddy and almost impassable in places, and it was suggested that improvement of the surface should be put forward for the Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan.
- **Recreation Ground:** The Clerk would investigate whether this would need to be closed during the current lockdown.
- **Village Hall:** Activity at the Hall would be affected by the current lockdown, but it was uncertain to what extent.

12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

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

15. **Next Meeting:** 1 February 2021

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:12 pm.