

BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday, 6 September 2021
Botesdale Village Hall

Present: Cllr Des Bavington-Lowe (Vice-Chair) Cllr Simon Dickinson
Cllr William Sargeant (Chair) Cllr Jack Stracey

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Greg Russell – The PC accepted his advance notice of family commitments which would limit his attendance over the next four months.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** There were four vacancies.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 5 July 2021.** 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 supported Mid Suffolk District Council Planning Committee's decision to defer the Bennett Homes application (see item 6.4.1). There was a query about the plans for the existing play equipment at the Recreation Ground and it was confirmed that only the newer pieces of equipment would be kept under the Regeneration Project plans. It was also confirmed that the Project did not include wholesale removal of the larger trees.

Another member of the public complained about several overgrown footpaths and verge growth on Cherry Tree Lane which had prevented waste collection vehicles from accessing the lane on a number of occasions. It was explained that both were the responsibility of SCC and could be reported to them directly online.

Two residents commented on the many positives in the Safety and Security review of the Recreation Ground Regeneration Project designs which had been carried out by the RGR Sub Committee in consultation with the Design Out Crime Officer at Suffolk Police and RoSPA. The PC was encouraged to approve CCTV and security fencing to prevent anti-social behaviour. Anti-social behaviour was discussed at length and the PC strongly encouraged the residents to report any incidents directly to the Police in a timely manner so that the Police, and the Parish Council, could build an accurate picture of the problem.

County/District Councillor Jessica Fleming reported that Suffolk would be participating in the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) on 1-12 Nov. Events were planned across Suffolk in the lead up to COP26 as part of the Greenest County campaign and aspiration to achieve net zero by 2030. The 6th and final stage of the Women's Bike Tour would run from Haverhill to Felixstowe via Stowmarket on 9th October and it would be the first time since 2014 that Suffolk had hosted the final stage. Applications were now open for Councillors' Locality Awards funding which were intended to help community facilities and charitable activities.

6. **Planning:**

6.1 **Planning Applications:**

- 6.1.1 **Bell Hill Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/21/04268. Application under Section 19 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) of Listed Building Consent DC/19/00337 dated 25/04/2019 (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.) To allow for re-positioned and amended cowl to external flue. Variation of Approved Drawings from 04D to 04H & 06A to 06B. The PC noted that there was no justification within the application for the change in position of the extraction equipment and flue. Given the negative impact on the Listed Building and the street scene, as well as the amenity of the adjoining property, it was **RESOLVED**, with all agreed, to object to the application. Councillors strongly agreed with the suggestion

that MSDC should take a harder line on developers making unauthorised changes to approved plans.

6.1.2 **Bell Hill Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/21/04362. Application under S73a for removal or variation conditions following grant DC/19/00336 following APP/W3520/W/19/3229585 Allowed Appeal with Conditions dated 23/12/2019 Town and County Planning Act 1990. Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas Act) 1990 - Retention and completion of (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) - without compliance with (Approved Plans and Documents) -To allow for repositioned and amended cowl to external flue. Variation of Approved Drawings from 04D to 04H & 06A to 06B. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to object to the application for the reasons outlined in item 6.1.1.

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

6.2.1 **Angel House, The Street.** Ref. DC/21/04632. Notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 1no Ash by 1/3 (T2). Reduce top and lift crown on 1no Goat Willow (T1). Lift crown on 2no Hazel (T3, T4). Lift crown on 1no Robinia (T5). It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.

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

6.3.1 **Building Plot Adjacent To Magnolia, Fen Lane.** Ref. AP/21/00042. Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No single storey dwelling. This appeal was noted and it was agreed that no further comment was necessary.

6.4 **Notification of other Planning Matters:**

6.4.1 **Land South of Diss Road. Ref. DC/20/03098.**

- The PC noted the deferral of this application by the Mid Suffolk District Council Planning Committee on 21 July and the subsequent request from Bennett Homes for a meeting with the PC, as directed by the Planning Committee.
- The PC approved the notes from an informal meeting of the PC, held on 2 August 2021 to discuss the deferral, and noted the decision under delegated powers to commission a review of the application from Places4People Planning Consultancy.
- The PC considered the Review of the Reserved Matters Planning Application produced by Places4People and agreed that it was an excellent report. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve its circulation to MSDC and Bennett Homes. MSDC would set up a meeting to discuss the report with Bennett Homes and the PC.

7. **Correspondence:**

7.1 **MSDC:** The PC noted the consultation on the long-term approach to parking provision within the Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts.

7.2 **MSDC:** The PC noted the advertisement of some necessary technical changes to the existing off street Traffic Regulation Order, following the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) in April 2020.

7.3 **MSDC:** The PC noted a consultation on the revised Hackney Carriage, Private Hire Operator, Vehicle and Driver Policy.

7.4 **MSDC:** The PC noted a consultation on the revised draft statutory 'Gambling Act 2005: Statement of Principles' policy document.

7.5 **Residents:** The PC received the complaint about an anti-social behaviour incident near/at Botesdale Recreation Ground and noted that the Police had spoken to the individuals involved. It was agreed that there was some element of police failure when response times were so poor that they deterred residents from making reports. However, it was also agreed that the PC could not enforce illegal behaviour itself. It was agreed to put a short article in the parish magazine encouraging residents to report incidents directly to the Police as they were happening.

8. **Ongoing Items:**

8.1 **Recreation Ground Refurbishment:**

- The Parish Council received the report from the Sub-Committee outlining the results of the Safety and Security Review undertaken by the Sub-Committee, dated 16 August 2021. The PC agreed to support the Review and to take on

board its recommendations when making any decisions on the Recreation Ground Project. However, it was also agreed that more investigation was needed into the legality and desirability of CCTV. It was felt that many might want CCTV, but just as many would be against its use on site and the views of the latter also needed to be considered.

- The PC considered the early removal of the Shelter as recommended within the Review. It was agreed that it seemed to be a focus for anti-social behaviour but as the nights were drawing in, it would be less in use. It was agreed to get quotes for the cost of removal and consider it further at the next meeting.
- The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to install a noticeboard on site at a cost of around £750-£800 for the board itself. The Clerk would pursue grant funding.
- The PC agreed in principle to the creation of a Friends Group and to commence activity to identify aims and terms of reference.

8.2 **Marl Pits:** Councillors noted the very interesting report from Suffolk Wildlife Trust on the Marl Pits and agreed to put it on the PC website. It was noted that improving the site would require a lot of work and was likely to be costly due to access difficulties. However, it could still function as a wildlife area without work. The Clerk would continue to investigate the cost of erecting an information board on site.

8.3 **Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan:** There had been no feedback from the consultation and the PIIP Steering Group would be meeting this month to approve the Plan's submission to the Parish Councils in October.

8.4 **Village Assets Refurbishment:** It was noted that this was largely complete subject to a review of the street lighting. It was suggested that the large central notice board needed a new header and the Clerk would find out whether this could be carried out by the original company.

8.5 **Sarah's Wood:** There was no update.

9. New Items:

9.1 **Speed Indicator Device:** The PC noted the data from village centre VAS position indicated a very low level of speeding and it was agreed that it had been very effective at that location. Councillors discussed purchasing an additional device to be erected on Diss Road with the existing device to move between Rickingham and the centre location. Two quotes had been received and the Clerk was waiting on a third. This would be discussed further at the next meeting.

10. Village Status Reports:

10.1 **Chairman's Report:** None.

10.2 **Clerk's Report:** None.

10.3 Local Organisations:

- BARWOODS: The group had applied to Cllr Fleming's Locality Award scheme for a grant to do work to trees on Miller's Orchard.
- Village Hall: Bookings had started to return to normal but parties were still being avoided.

10.4 **Village Assets:** None.

10.5 **Public Rights of Way:** It was noted that SCC had assessed the steps at Bridewell Lane as satisfactory and it was agreed to ask SCC about the PC replacing them.

10.6 **Highways Issues:** It was agreed to get a quote for a second edge pothole on Back Hills near the new development site.

10.7 **Welcome Packs:** None.

11. Finance

11.1	Account Balance:	£53,195.44	
	Income:	£ 347.49	Cleansing Grant 1 st qtr payment

11.2 **Accounts Paid between Meetings:** These were noted as having been made under delegated powers.

Admin Payments	£ 1,086.03	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 459.76	St Clean/Play Area/VAS Aug 21
RoSPA Play Safety	£ 300.00	Rec Ground Project Plans Review
James Blake Associates	£ 2,480.40	Design Fees Recreation Ground

11.3 Accounts for Payment:

Admin Payments	£ 1,084.05	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 309.76	St Clean/Play Area/VAS Sept 21

Steve Green	£	40.00	Village Assets Cleaning
PKF Littlejohn LLP	£	240.00	External Audit Fees
BHIB	£	656.88	Insurance Fees 2021-22
Northumbrian Water Ltd	£	139.20	Rec Ground Water Services Application
James Blake Associates	£	854.40	Design Fees Recreation Ground

It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts above. The payment to JBA would be delayed until the monthly report from JBA had been received and approved by Cllr Russell on behalf of the Sub Committee.

11.4 **External Audit Report 2020-21:** The Council noted the report.

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

13. **Next Meeting:** 4 October 2021

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:35 pm.