

BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Monday, 1 November 2021
Botesdale Village Hall

Present: Cllr Des Bavington-Lowe (Vice-Chair) Cllr Greg Russell
Cllr William Sargeant (Chair) Cllr Jack Stracey

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Simon Dickinson
2. **Casual Vacancies:** There were four vacancies and no candidates.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 4 October 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:** Two members of the public spoke about the parking problems at Oswald Mews. The license to use the hard standing on the south side of Chapel Lane would be terminated from 30 November as Bennett Homes had acquired the site. This would cause some hardship to the residents of the 11 dwellings at Oswald Mews who had been provided with one car parking space per dwelling, with no visitor parking. The majority of residents were elderly and extra parking was needed for visitors including family, friends and support persons, and at least two of the dwellings had more than one car. An average of 6-7 extra spaces were needed at any given time. Chapel Lane was too narrow to accommodate cars parked on the road, but it was suggested that the bollards could be removed on the north side to allow parking on the verge, or the verges could be removed, and Chapel Lane widened.

Cllr Fleming reported that the Greenest County Awards would be held on 12th November at The Hold, Ipswich. This year's award categories include biodiversity and landscape, business, community, schools, waste and recycling. An Offshore Electricity Grid Task Force (OffSET) – had been set up to respond to the Government's Offshore Network Transmission Review (OTNR). The task force of regional MPs and Councillors chaired by Sir Bernard Jenkin would engage with the OTNR and the current Planning regime. OffSET supported national targets of Net Zero by 2050 and delivery of 40GW of Offshore Wind by 2030. However, this would demand significant new connection infrastructure (pylons and substations) with projects planned in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex over the coming decades; these would have significant impacts on the environment, landscape and communities. New Trees - A joint bid by Suffolk authorities to the Forestry Commission had secured around 3,000 trees for this coming planting season. The successful bid would see £149,712.55 come into the county for new trees from the Local Authority Treescapes Fund. With the Suffolk Tree Warden Network, SCC was following the 'right tree, right place' policy, to be sure that the planting was effective.

Joint Local Plan Hearings - The JLP public examinations had been paused by the Planning Inspector to allow time for councils to review its evidence. Light Pollution - Mid Suffolk District Council had committed to reducing artificial light intensity across the district and light pollution generally – protecting plant and wildlife, and reducing energy use, in line with biodiversity and climate change ambitions. There was a New iPad Lending Scheme to help residents get online and Suffolk Libraries and Mid Suffolk District Council were joining forces with a new iPad lending scheme.

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. (Re-consultation). The PC had welcomed the opportunity to discuss the site with the developer, Bennett Homes, and its recognition that the

requirements of the Botesdale & Rickinghall Neighbourhood Plan (BRNP) should be fully addressed in the application. The PC now welcomed the updated plan which addressed some of the conditions of the BRNP which had previously been lacking, including changes to landscaping and car parking. However, the PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to continue to object as the application could not be fully assessed until omitted documents were made available. This included a complete report demonstrating how they had satisfied the requirements of the Development Design Checklist in Appendix 4 of the BRNP and more varied and representative street scenes, which had been requested at a meeting with Bennett Homes in April 2021.

6.1.2 **The Botesdale Kitchen, The Street.** Ref. DC/21/05540. Listed Building Consent - Remove cement render to upper floor and use lime putty and sand render; Change colour of external paint and woodwork. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection to the application.

6.1.3 **Botesdale Recreation Ground, Mill Road.** Ref. DC/21/05377. Planning Application - Creation of one off-street disabled parking bay within the boundary of the site and associated alterations to the access arrangements including pedestrian gate, maintenance gate, security fencing and cycle parking. Works associated with the creation of a new play area including installation of equipment. As the applicant, the PC would not submit a comment to MSDC.

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

6.2.1 **Tudor Cottage, Cherry Tree Lane.** Ref. DC/21/05811. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area: reduce crown of 1no Norway Maple (T1) to front of property by 50% (4m) and shape, and crown raise 2no Pine (T2 and T3) in rear garden to 9m. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection to the application.

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

6.3.1 **The Cottage, Bridewell Lane.** Ref. DC/21/05116. Application for works to a tree in a Conservation Area - Fell 1No Spruce tree due to tree now outgrowing its natural space in its surrounding environment. NO OBJECTION.

6.3.2 **Alcira, Back Hills.** Ref. DC/21/05349. Notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Remove 1no Conifer. NO OBJECTION.

6.3.3 **Walnut Tree Cottage, Back Hills.** Ref. DC/21/05352. Notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 1no Tulip tree by 1/3. NO OBJECTION.

6.4 **Notification of other Planning Matters:**

7. **Correspondence:**

7.1 **MSDC:** The PC noted the update on the Active Travel Consultation which gave a summary of the information gathered. MSDC was aiming to produce a draft prioritised list of schemes for the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan by the end of November 2021.

7.2 **MSDC:** The PC noted the parish council consultation as part of the Lorry Route Review. It was agreed to publicise it on Facebook and review any feedback at the December meeting.

7.3 **Police and Crime Commissioner:** The PC noted the consultation on the new Police and Crime Plan and had no comment to make.

7.4 **Oswald Mews Residents Association:** The PC sympathised with the concerns of residents as expressed in the Public Forum. It was agreed to contact SCC to ask for assessment of Chapel Lane and whether on street parking could be accommodated. The PC would also contact Bennett Homes and ask them whether there was anything which could be done within their remit, such as accommodating some parking on the site of the existing parking.

7.5 **Parochial Church Council:** The PC noted the request for funds for churchyard maintenance. It was agreed to ask about their yearly expenditure.

8. **Ongoing Items:**

8.1 **Recreation Ground Refurbishment:** It was noted that the deadline for tenders was 5 November and there had been a significant amount of interest on Contracts Finder website. The planning application was ongoing and funding applications had been submitted for District CIL funds, s106 funds, an MSDC Capital Grant and the

Lottery Reaching Communities Fund. A Community Art Project had been proposed by a resident and this was being investigated.

8.2 **Speed Indicator Device:** The PC had received three quotes for an additional device at the October meeting and had been considering the specification they required. It was agreed that a comparison table would be helpful, and this would be considered at the next meeting.

8.3 **Street Light Replacement Programme:** The PC received the report from SCC which detailed £13,515 of work to 17 units. Out of those, the report recommended priority replacements totalling £8,985 for 10 units (Activities 1-3). There was currently £10,400 in earmarked funds for street light replacements which could cover all of the priority replacements and it was therefore RESOLVED, with all agreed, to agree that work with SCC. The remainder of the earmarked funds would be held for non-priority work and added to in future budgets. However, it was agreed that no adjustment would be made to this year's budget for this programme.

8.4 **Christmas 2021:** Arrangements had been made for the delivery of the tree and barriers on 19 November. Gislingham Band had been secured for the Lights-On event on Saturday, 27 November at 6pm and The Bell Inn had agreed to provide mulled wine and mince pies. The councillors had much pleasure in voting on the Christmas themed drawings from children at St Botolph's Primary School. All winning drawings would be displayed around the Christmas tree in the Market Place and prizes presented to the winners. The winning drawings were from Reception: William Beaton (1st) and Peggy Grace Finch (2nd); Year 1: Maya Fox (1st), Delores Giddings (2nd) and Esme Oliver (3rd); Year 2: Penny Fox (1st) and Frank and Charlie Ramsey (2nd); Year 3: Ivy-Lou Clough (1st) and Joni Burgin (2nd); Year 4: Bertie Bavington-Lowe (1st) and Isobel Bond (2nd); Year 5: Poppy Hills (1st) and Maisie Summer (2nd); Year 6: Jessica Farrow (1st). Councillors thanked all the children who participated.

8.5 **Marl Pits:** There was no update.

8.5 **Village Assets Refurbishment:** There was no update.

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

9. New Items:

9.1 **Parish Assets:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept a quote for £287.75 for work to refurbish the main notice board near Warrens Lane. There would be an additional cost of around £300 for removal and reinstallation of the board and this was agreed. The cost would be shared by Rickingham PC.

9.2 **Infrastructure:** The PC considered a quote for £2,922.50 for pothole repair on Back Hills and noted that there would be an additional cost of around £1,500 for traffic management. It was agreed to shelve this for now and ask SCC to consider putting in formal passing places.

9.3 **Meeting Dates 2022:** These were agreed as follows - 10 Jan; 7 Feb; 7 Mar; 4 Apr; 9 May; 6 Jun; 4 Jul; 1 Aug (Planning only); 5 Sep; 3 Oct; 7 Nov; 5 Dec

10. Village Status Reports:

10.1 **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported that BT had publicised their intention to bring Fibre to the Premises to Botesdale exchange by 2025.

10.2 **Clerk's Report:** The Clerk reported that the signatories for the Recreation Ground Charity bank account could now activate their security access.

10.3 Local Organisations:

- Village Hall: The next Committee meeting would take place on 8 November.

10.4 **Village Assets:** None.

10.5 **Public Rights of Way:** None.

10.6 **Highways Issues:** None.

10.7 **Welcome Packs:** None.

11. Finance

11.1 Account Balance:	£82,481.56	
Income:	£17,147.31	MSDC CIL Payment Oct 21

11.2 Accounts for Payment:

Admin Payments	£ 1,273.06	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 160.60	St Clean/Play Area/VAS Nov 21

Suffolk County Council	£	582.00	Street Light Replace – Unit 22
Community Workshop	£	18.00	Printing – Art Competition Flyers

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

11.3 **Draft Budget 2022-23:** The draft budget would be considered further at the next meeting.

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

13. **Next Meeting:** 6 December 2021

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:15 pm.