

# BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Monday, 3 July 2023  
Botesdale Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Des Bavington-Lowe  
Cllr Andrew Edwards (Chair)  
Cllr Richard Lock  
Cllr Elizabeth Stanford  
Cllr Simon Dickinson  
Cllr Sally Jarvis  
Cllr William Sargeant  
Cllr Jack Stracey

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve  
County Cllr Jessica Fleming  
District Cllr Gilly Morgan  
1 Member of the Public

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Greg Russell
2. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 5 June 2023.** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed as a true record.
3. **Members Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:** None.
4. **Public Forum:** County Cllr Fleming reported that the National Grid's consultation on the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Project had started and would continue until August 21<sup>st</sup>. 'Drop-in' events were taking place along the line, the nearest being Diss Youth & Community Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00 pm. At its May meeting SCC Cabinet approved updates to the County's 2021 Energy Infrastructure Policy to include water infrastructure projects. New infrastructure was needed to secure water supplies and a new reservoir in Suffolk was under consideration to meet anticipated demand. The Government had committed to funding the replacement of West Suffolk Hospital. Outline planning permission was granted in 2022 for the Hardwick Manor site adjacent to the existing hospital and public outreach concerning details of related services would follow. The current 10-year contract with Suffolk Libraries would come to an end in July 2024. Preparations were underway for a tender process to find a new provider/partner. The Suffolk Trading Standards Imports Surveillance team had detained over 13,000 e-scooters and e-bikes at Felixstowe Port over the past year on safety grounds and a further 9,000 were refused entry due to substandard batteries and chargers which posed serious risks of fire or electric shock. District Cllr Gilly Morgan reported that she and County Cllr Fleming would be holding a monthly surgery at the Farmers' Market at Rickingham Village Hall. Andy Warnes, the Chairman of Redgrave Parish Council and member of the Green Redgrave group, invited Botesdale PC to join the Suffolk Green Cluster with Redgrave, Hinderclay, Hopton, Thelnetham, Blo Norton and Ixworth. The aim was to support the County's net zero target. The group currently had a proposal with Community Energy South Pathways to assess, carry out feasibility studies and help find funding for energy saving and community energy generation projects within the community.
5. **Planning:**
  - 5.1 **Planning Applications:**
    - 5.1.1 **Grove View Workshop, The Common.** Ref. DC/23/02856. Planning Application - Conversion of steel portal framed agricultural barn to 1no dwelling. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection to the application.
  - 5.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:** None.
  - 5.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
  - 5.4 **Notification of other Planning Matters:** None.
6. **Correspondence:**
  - 6.1 **Suffolk Green Cluster:** The PC considered an invitation to join the Suffolk Green Cluster (Hinderclay, Hopton, Thelnetham, Blo Norton and Ixworth) in a proposal to the Community Energy South (CES) Pathways project for a community energy generation and saving project. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to join with the

aim of finding out more about the proposals, noting that there was no commitment to take it further.

- 6.2 **Resident:** The PC noted the negative response from the landowner to the PC's request for the hedge at the junction of Back Hills and the B1113 to be cut back / removed. It was agreed to approach SCC Highways about the matter.

## 7. Ongoing Items:

- 7.1 **Recreation Ground:** It was noted that work to extend the Junior Swing to include two flat seats as originally specified would be undertaken by UF at no additional costs. It was also noted that the Sub Committee had opted to install about 20m of 1.2m high Weldmesh fencing to the South-West corner of the site to remove the opportunity for easy egress from the facilities into the adjacent field. As requested at the last BPC meeting, the Sub Committee had reviewed the position to be adopted with regard to mobility scooters. It was agreed to leave the signage as is and address any queries as and when they were made. There had been a complaint regarding the use of the basketball court late at night by youths and the complainant had been advised to notify the police about any anti-social behaviour. However, the complainant subsequently confirmed that they had spoken to the group, reminding them of the closing times, and there had been no further noise or complaint. Finally, as agreed at the June PC Meeting, additional signage had been incorporated at the Recreation Ground to request that users arriving by car park with consideration for local residents.
- 7.2 **TRO for Back Hills, Chapel Lane and Mill Road North:** The Clerk had circulated additional evidence for the proposed TRO at the Chapel Lane/Bridewell Lane junction. It was agreed that the parking could and had caused a danger to vehicle users and pedestrians as the parking made it a blind corner and there was no pavement on Bridewell Lane. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to go ahead with the TRO as discussed previously with SCC.
- 7.3 **TRO for extension of 30mph on B1113:** There was no update.
- 7.4 **Marl Pits:** There was no update.
- 7.5 **Sarah's Wood:** There was no update.

## 8. Other Items:

- 8.1 **Land Registration:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the increase in estimate for first registration of Recreation Ground to £1,250.
- 8.2 **PC Strategy Meeting:** It was agreed to hold an informal meeting on 7 August at 7pm to discuss community engagement and involvement, and to formulate a view about the future of the parish council and the village. This would either be held following a PC meeting if required for planning, or instead of the PC meeting.

## 9. Village Status Reports:

- 9.1 **Chair's Report:** The Chairman had received an invitation from St Botolph's School to an event on 11 July to celebrate the completion of the School's decarbonisation project and the PC's contribution to the project. He would be attending. He had attended a visit to the Bennett Homes site with Cllrs Jarvis and Lock and noted that there was a delay on the road widening works to Diss Road. He had spoken to Bennett Homes about the possibility of parking along Chapel Lane and they had agreed to see whether there was sufficient space for parking. If so, they would approach MSDC Planning to see whether it could be taken forward and they would get back to the PC in due course.
- 9.2 **Clerk's Report:** At the last meeting, a member of the public complained about the shipping container at the corner of The Drift and Back Hills, and it had been agreed to contact the owner about its length of stay. As the owner was carrying out the work himself, he indicated that it was likely to be around a year and this had been noted and agreed by MSDC Planning.
- 9.3 **Local Organisations:** Village Hall – It was noted with regret that the After School Club would be closing as it was no longer financially viable.
- 9.4 **Village Assets:** None.
- 9.5 **Public Rights of Way:** There were still problems with dog mess in some areas.
- 9.6 **Highways Issues:** Two potholes on Mill Road North had been reported and were due to be filled this summer. It was noted that cars were still occasionally going the wrong way on The Drift, and it was agreed to ask SCC Highways for advice.
- 9.7 **Welcome Packs:** None.

10. **Finance (as of 30/06/23):**

10.1 <b>Account Balance:</b>	£ 132,007.65
<b>Bank Balance:</b>	£ 132,007.65
<b>Income:</b>	£ 0.00

10.2 **Accounts for Payment (July):**

Admin Payments	£ 1,546.42	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 349.30	St Clean etc Jul 23
Community Workshop Ltd	£ 625.60	Botesdale Bugle printing
Redgrave Parish Magazine	£ 25.00	Botesdale Bugle delivery
Suffolk County Council	£ 1,416.00	Street Light LED Updates – 1 unit
Parkview Chapel	£ 500.00	PIIP Contribution to Youth Club
M J Nunn Surfacing	£ 526.80	Road Sign Repair
S Green	£ 50.00	Bus Stop, Village Sign Cleaning
L Burgin	£ 19.04	Rec Ground: Wood for CAP Sign
Glasdon UK Ltd	£ 650.22	Rec Ground: Additional Litter Bin
James Blake Associates	£ 663.60	Rec Ground: Maint Contract Admin
Urban Forestry	£ 2,865.26	Rec Ground: 1 <sup>st</sup> qtr Maint Invoice
Parish Assets Management	£ 296.08	Rec Ground: Info Board Installation

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

10.3 **Accounts for Payment (August):**

Admin Payments	£ 1,349.52	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 289.30	St Clean/PRoW Aug 23

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

11. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** None.

12. **Next Meeting:** 7 August 2023 (Planning only) or 4 September 2023

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:30pm.