

# **BEDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **(Draft) Minutes of a Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The meeting commenced at 1930 at the Bedfield sports pavilion

### ***09/19 - 01 Present***

- Keith Frost (KF), Jenny Barham (JB – Vice-Chairman), Suzie Carr (SC), ED Nesling (EN) and Richard Pickard (RP) and John Dickson (JD).
- Geoff Robinson (GR), as Parish Clerk.
- Alison Manning (AM) as Playground Project Officer.
- One member of the public (DC – see Item 09/19 - 17).
- Matthew Hicks- MSDC & SCC ward councillor (see Item 09 – 13 below).

### ***09/19 - 02 Apologies for Absence***

- None (see item 09/19 - 03 below regarding Brian Belton (BB))

### ***09/19 - 03 Co-option to Fill Vacancy***

- BB had submitted his written resignation, which was accepted. He was thanked for his excellent input as a councillor, especially on planning matters and GR will write to him accordingly. GR then explained the co-option procedure and it was agreed that this should commence immediately.

### ***09/19 - 04 Declaration of Members Interests & May 2019 Election.***

- GR reminded the councillors of the need to occasionally review and keep their declarations up to date. All except that for RP & SC were recorded on the MSDC portal, which for no obvious reason had proved impossible for them. He was still trying to resolve the issue.

### ***09/19 - 05 Public Open Session***

- There was no comments made.

### ***09/19 - 06 Minutes of the AGM (15<sup>th</sup> May 2019)***

- These were agreed and signed by KF as Chairman, following previous circulation.

### ***09/19 - 07 Matters Arising from the Minutes***

- BB had forwarded to GR his final version of the welcome pack. It had been circulated and it was agreed to proceed with its production and circulation. GR to liaise with Mark Howard.
- KF stated that the play area repairs would be completed very soon.
- GR had advised Worlingworth Parish Council that they had received no complaints regarding Landsdowne Plant.
- The Bedfield Town Trust had been unable to add anything further appertaining to the hedge boundary at the sports field.

### ***09/19 - 08 Minutes of the 2019 Annual Village Meeting (15<sup>th</sup> May 2019)***

- These were agreed and signed by KF following previous circulation.

### ***09/19 - 09 Matters arising from the Minutes***

- None.

### ***09/19 - 10 Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting (28<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - DC/19/02172)***

- These were agreed and signed by KF following previous circulation.

### **09/19 - 11 Matters arising from the Minutes**

- MSDC had been advised by GR of the Parish Council's views on the application

### **09/19 - 12 Police Report**

GR stated that Suffolk Police crime website checks for April to Ju 2019 had showed the following:

- One recorded crime of "Antisocial behaviour" in May 2019 "on or near" Charity Lane. The reports do not provide timescales or current status for such crimes.
- One recorded crime of "Drugs on or near Southolt Road" in July 2019, shown as still being investigated.

### **09/19 - 13 Report of District & County Councillor**

MH attended and stated that the salient points of his pending report were:

- The latest schools figures showed excellent improvements, particularly in GCSE results and in respect of children in care. These figures were above the national average. Debenham High School had again come out top with Thomas Mills not far behind.
- The new records office, to be known as The Hold in Ipswich had been completed. In addition to storing the information, it also, boasts an exhibition centre and an auditorium. It is expected to be widely used by a range of people and organisations.
- There was great concern at the national drop in the take-up of the second measles vaccination, which was extremely worrying. MH emphasized the need to reverse this trend by public education and that publicity was urgently required.
- Local Trading Standards Teams supported by the national organisation had stopped huge numbers of dangerous goods at the Port of Felixstowe, usually made in China. This work is vital to community safety and was to be applauded.

KF raised the issue of the never ending and seemingly excessive diversions on roads over a wide area, which were of great annoyance to local residents and largely ignored. Quite often no work was being done and the roads supposedly closed were quite navigable. MH stated that SCC were aware of the situation and were about to introduce a permit system which he hoped would go a long way to resolving the situation. This would also introduce a time frame for utilities to complete the work and a contact point for information and complaints

### **09/19 - 14 Financial Update**

- GR explained that income since the last meeting consisted of the 2018/19 VAT refund of £708.33 and £0.05 Interest (Barclays)
- Expenses during the same period had been the MSDC parish election costs of £104.78, MSDC £162.00 (dog & litter bin emptying 2019/20) and £124.75 to the Sports Club as their share of the VAT refund.
- Pending expenditure consisted of the Clerk's first half salary (£432.00) PAYE (£82.00) and expenses (£125.50), all of which were approved for payment. Also approved was renewal of the insurance with Came & Company (£575.28). GR had revised the valuation of the pavilion with Came & Company to £80k and also pointed out that it was of wood and not brick construction. This had not resulted in an increased premium but that would not insure the gang mower as it was always left out in the open.
- GR produced an estimate for the rest of 2019/2020 which showed a potential surplus of £3267.00 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, without prejudice to any unforeseen expenditure during the current year.

### **09/19 - 15 Planning Update**

- DC/19/00801 (Erection of one house at 1 Lodge Farm Cottages). – Granted by MSDC.
- DC/19/01683 (Erection of detached building at the Beeches). Granted by MSDC.
- DC/19/02176 (Erection of private dwelling at Mill House Farm). Refused by MSDC.
- DC/19/02550 (Revised application – Autumn Meadow – Approved by MSDC.
- DC/19/02643 (Revised application Church Farm Barn) – Approved by MSDC.
- DC/19/03838 (Erection of Cart-lodge at 9 Greenlands) – Supported and decision awaited.

#### ***09/19 – 16 Progress of MSDC New Joint Local Plan***

- GR explained that he had attended a MSDC briefing at Stowmarket on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019 but it had been a poor event in terms of presentation and content.
- He also explained that BB had prepared a response to the latest MSDC proposals. In real terms, MSDC had ignored the parish council's request that the houses between The Rabbits and Dog Corner should be included in a settlement area, that the allotment area on Long Green should be removed from the plan and that Bedfield should be "Clustered" with Framlingham rather than Debenham. BB also recommended that the Parish Council withdrew the current play area from their original suggestion due to the fact it was registered Common Land.
- BB was thanked for his efforts and after a brief discussion, GR was tasked with advising MSDC accordingly.

#### ***09/19 - 17 Dog Walking on the Sports Field***

- There had been further minor incidents, plus emails between regular dog walkers on the field and DC. However, DC did not want to debate the matter further. GR stated on behalf of the Sports Club that there had been no change of policy and that the criteria remained that "dogs must be under complete control at all times", with owners totally responsible for their dogs when on the sports field.

#### ***09/19 -18 Sports Club Matters***

- GR (as Sports Club Secretary) stated that Sports Club AGM had been held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and summarised the minutes, which had included dogs on the sports field, pavilion hire rates, the success of the bottle bank and other activities. Disappointment had been expressed by the Sports Club Committee that there had been no attendance by the dog walking fraternity in light of the recent problems associated with a neighbour's horses.
- He also said that the Tennis Club was finding difficulty in obtaining support from its members for special events. In addition, the court surface would require replacement within two years at a cost of circa £15k.
- CCTV will be installed to improve security following the open gate policy and the planned new play area. It would also help to identify any dog walking problems. SD and RP to make enquiries through known contacts.
- The bottle bank had now been in place six months and had proved immensely popular in terms of an amenity. In addition, the Sports Club had received £65 for the first five months of its use.

#### ***09/19 - 19 Relocation of the Play Area to the Sports Field***

AM updated the meeting with a progress report and stated that it was time to make decisions, especially on deciding who would be our preferred supplier. After a detailed discussion, salient points and decisions made were:

- KOMPAN would be the preferred supplier, subject to some minor amendments to their plan and estimates. Also, they would be asked to include a seesaw within their estimated price.
- The current plans must be seen as only an opening phase, with further development considered at a later date. This may then consider items such as a zip-wire and some adult equipment.
- The new play area would be sited between the pole-barn and the tennis court to take maximum advantage of the prevailing sun and shade at different times of the day. In addition, this would not impinge on any further use of the field for football. It also allows for expansion in the future.
- The erection of fencing around the play area would be sourced locally and would need to be as maintenance free as possible.
- Grant sourcing would commence as soon as possible (GR and AM to liaise).
- GR to update the Bedfield Town Estate on the proposals.

#### ***09/19 - 20 AOB and Correspondence Etc***

- GR stated that Barlow and Sons had requested photographs of the pole regarding the wayleave application for Long Green, which had now been provided.

- AM complained that the footpath between Bedfield School and Church Road corner required sweeping and cleaning as it was becoming difficult to use. GR to raise the matter with SCC Highways. Also parking for the School sports day had been chaotic and caused a traffic hazard. GR to tactfully make the school aware of the problem for next year.
- A request from Worlingworth PC to join Speedwatch was discussed but not deemed appropriate at the moment, although speeding was a problem on Long Green in particular. GR mentioned the salient points of a meeting he had had with the Chairman of Kenton Village Committee regarding the operation of the recording device in their village. (GR to advise Worlingworth PC accordingly).

#### ***09/19 - 21 Date of Next Meetings***

- The next meeting will be held at Bedfield sports pavilion, commencing 1930 on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The meeting closed at 2135.

**Chairman .....**