

BEDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a Meeting held on the 5th September 2018

The meeting commenced at 1930 at the Bedfield sports pavilion

09/18 - 01 Present

- Keith Frost (Chairman - KF), Jenny Barham (JB – Vice-Chairman), Ed Nesling (EN), Suzie Carr (SC), Brian Belton (BB), Mark Howard (MH) and Richard Pickard (RP).
- Geoff Robinson (GR), as Parish Clerk.
- Alison Manning (AM) and Andrew Manning (see item 9/18 – 17 below)

09/18 - 02 Apologies for Absence

- Matthew Hicks (MH - SCC and MSDC councillor).

09/18 - 04 Public Open Session

- None.

09/18 - 05 Declaration of Members Interests

- GR reminded councillors of the need to update their Declarations of Interest, if appropriate. No changes were notified.

09/18 - 06 Minutes of the AGM (2nd May 2018)

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

09/18 - 07 Matters Arising

- KF stated that the repairs to the play area had been done and the swing replaced by Phil Mills. Also, the plinth for the historic airfield plaque has been installed and the Airfields of Britain advised accordingly.
- BB apologized that the Bedfield welcome pack needed more work and stated that he had been amazed at the wealth of information he had collated. The draft will be completed in time for the next meeting.
- The sports field “dogs must be under control” notice had been delayed by problems with the supplier (MH).

09/18 - 08 Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting GM (2nd May 2018)

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

09/18 - 09 Matters Arising

- BB had been unable to gain any indication from MSDC regarding the possibility of developing the current play area for housing (see item 09/18 – 17 below).

09/18 - 10 Police Report

- GR stated that Suffolk Police website checks had showed no recorded crime in the village or surrounding area for the period April to July 2018.
- GR, BB and KF updated the meeting about an incident near Bedfield church when an off-lead dog had attacked another dog belonging to an elderly lady. This was thought to be linked to the incident some months ago involving the harassment of a horse near the play area. The matter had been reported to the police and attempts made by Kane Martin, a PCSO at Eye, to identify the owner but without any success so far. Fortunately, there had been no more similar problems since then.

09/18 -11 Report of District & County Councillor

- Matthew Hicks last report had been previously circulated. GR stated that his next report was imminent, the salient points which will include the fact the GCSE and Advanced level results were above the national average, with Debenham High School heading the Suffolk county table. Tourism was also booming in Suffolk adding a significant amount in terms of income and employment. Finally, he reported that Superfast Broadband was behind time with Openreach missing their agreed targets, which had been renegotiated. However, all but 2% of premises would have it by the end of 2020. In addition, a list would be available in autumn of those who will still have the misfortune to be in the remaining 2%, whilst a solution was sourced. A general discussion then took place regarding village Broadband problems, with the best advice being to regularly check the BT website to see what was available to individuals.

09/18 - 12 Financial Update

- GR stated that he had checked with the national auditors, who had confirmed that the 2017/18 exemption certificate had been approved. The accounts were therefore complete.
- He also explained expenditure since the last meeting had been payment of £40 to the local auditor (Don Hughes), £35.32 VAT refund on Sports Club purchases (from HMRC) and £793.56 to PGM Home & Garden Services for the play area, plinth and seat refurbishment, etc.
- Payment of the Clerk's first half salary, PAYE and expenses (£432.00, £82.00 & £93.05 respectively), was approved, as well as £500 towards improvements to the sports field carpark (see item 09/18 – 16 below), plus £120.00 to Greenfuture Energy for the Jewsons cPAD electrical installation.
- There had been no income in the same period other than interest from Barclays of £0.05.
- GR produced and circulated an estimate of spending for the rest of the financial year.
- The 2018/19 Financial Risk Assessment had been circulated and was approved during the meeting.

09/18 - 13 Planning Update

- DC/17/03435 (Detailed planning for one house - The Rabbits) – No objections raised. .
- DC/18/03010 (Daisy Cottage roof improvements) – No objections.

09/18 -14 Defibrillator Project

- After many problems, the mains permanent feed has been installed to the Jewsons cPAD and will be connected imminently through a transformer. Thanks were expressed to Greenfuture Energy.

09/18 -15 Sports Club Matters

- GR stated that despite the England football game, the fete had raised a net profit of £1380, on a footfall of only 57% when compared with 2017. A debrief had already been held and plans for improvements for 2019 we already being discussed. The 2019 fete will be on the 6th July.
- Andrew Manning had offered to be Club Treasurer and will commence with the new financial year on the 1st October 2018.
- The current accounts will be completed by GR and edited by Don Hughes. This will be followed by an AGM at which the Gardening & Tennis Clubs will be invited to attend in order to fully participate in the activities of the Club.

09/18 - 16 Sports Field Car Park Improvements

- KF updated the meeting on the progress towards commencing the first stage of the project, which was improvements to the carpark, better access and the provision of a bottle bank. The field would then be secured from vehicles by hoops similar to the system used at Worlingworth.
- He explained that the work would cost circa £5000 (excluding VAT). The Sports Club had agreed to provide £2500, MH had arranged grants of £1900 and Monk Soham Parish Council £100, leaving £500 to be funded. It was unanimously agreed that Bedfield PC would allocate this figure

- from its funds. GR to also enquire as to the possibility of the Bedfield Town Estate contributing.
- Subject to the approval of the Bedfield Town Estate trustees, work would now start very shortly.
- GR to enquire with MSDC regarding the practicalities surrounding the provision of the bottle bank.

09/18 - 17 Relocation of the Play Area to the Sports Field

- KF introduced AM and thanked her for attending the meeting. He explained that AM had experience with play areas with SCC and had offered to assist with the project.
- AM responded by saying that she was very happy to help but will need the assistance of others as a shared project. This would include asking children of all ages and adults what they wanted. They would be consulted in full by feedback and a site visit to the current play area. The Friends of Bedfield School were already very supportive of the plans. Everyone must be able to feel part of the process and volunteers sourced. AM will start the process of bringing people onboard with the project and liaising with Bedfield School.
- AM continued by saying that it needed to be a phased project, with early enquiries made regarding the source of funding.
- GR stated that he was already researching funding but more concrete enquiries could only be made once plans had been produced. BB agreed to draw up outline plans for the area on the sports field where it is now proposed to site the new play area.
- BB also explained that he had been unable to gain any insight as to whether or not MSDC would allow planning permission for housing on the current play area. He continued by explaining that the consultation document for the new planning policy had received 14,000 responses which would considerably delay the next stage, probably until April 2019. An application at the moment would not be wise as the current criteria would still apply and the area is part of the village VIOS.
- It was generally agreed that the new play area would need to be enclosed for safety reasons and to exclude dogs. Various options were provisionally discussed and overall, it was felt that separate areas for toddlers and older children should be adjacent to each other. On safety issues, although the project will have this as a high priority when planning the layout, the ultimate responsibility will remain with the parents of the users.

09/18 - 18 AOB and Correspondence Etc

- It was agreed to recommend that the War Memorial in Bedfield Churchyard should be “listed” in accordance with the national WWI Commemoration Plan as recently advised by Historic England. Bedfield Church PCC had raised no objections. GR to advise Historic England.
- SCC Highways has forwarded a paper that stated that they no longer intended to replenish grit-heaps but would fill bins if we purchased them. After a brief discussion it was decided that the cost of providing these at up to the current four locations would be prohibitive, with little proof that they would ever be used. In addition, it was suspected as a prelude for charging for the grit in due course. The matter was therefore deferred.
- An application had been received from HM Land Registry in respect of an application to register rights of easement over Long Green from the owner of Orchard Cottage. GR to inform HM Land Registry that in any case, the Green is Common Land and that the PC have no objections, provided it is only in respect of pedestrian usage.
- GR to write to Andy Driver regarding the overhanging hedge on his property between Bedfield School and Church Lane corner, which is a hazard to large vehicles.
- GR stated that Barlow and Sons had apologised for the time been taken to complete the wayleave application for Long Green, which was due to a problem with UK Power Networks.

09/18 - 19 Date of Next Meetings

- The next meeting will be held at Bedfield sports pavilion commencing 1930 on Wednesday, 28th November 2018.

The meeting closed at 2055.

Chairman