

BEDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a the AGM Held on 15th May 2019

The meeting commenced at 1900 at the Bedfield sports pavilion

05/19 - 01 Present

- Keith Frost (KF), Jenny Barham (JB – Vice-Chairman), Suzie Carr (SC), ED Nesling (EN) and Richard Pickard (RP). Geoff Robinson (GR), as Parish Clerk.
- John Dickson (JD) and Brian Belton (BB) – see Item 05/09 –04 below).
- Fourteen other members of the public.

05/19 - 02 Welcome to Elected Councillors

- The required declarations were signed and witnessed by the Clerk.

05/19 - 03 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

- KF and JB were elected unanimously as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. They accepted their posts.

05/19- 04 Co-option to Fill Vacancy

- JD and BB were unanimously co-opted to the Parish Council, signed the appropriate declaration and then joined the councillors.

05/19 - 05 Declaration of Members Interests & May 2019 Election.

- GR reminded the councillors of the need to occasionally review and keep their declarations up to date. GR to arrange for BB & JD to complete theirs online within a month.

05/19 - 06 Public Open Session

KF welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He explained that although no debate would be allowed, all points made will be duly considered in any later decision making by both the Sports Club and the Parish Council.

Issues surrounding dog walking on the sports field was raised by several villagers, the salient points of which were:

- Not everyone agreed that there had been an increase in dog fouling as stated in the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting.
- The value to the community of the sports field was often undervalued and was a tremendous asset to be used by everyone. It was also a very valuable social asset.
- KF was thanked for keeping the whole area in such good order and that it currently looked excellent.
- About 75% of Bedfield households own a dog, many of which use the field for exercise and they behave in a responsible manner.
- Dogs need to be exercised and allowed to play off-lead for their recreation. The sports field currently provides a wonderful place to do that and also acts as social meeting point for their owners
- David Lee asked to be told when fouling was found and agreed to walk the perimeter more often. He stated that he always picked up dog waste when he found any. It was agreed that little, if any, was ever found in the centre of the field.
- Some examples of suspected “rouge” dog walking had been noted such as at dusk, which was impossible to effectively police. Disgust was also expressed at a recent incident when full waste bags were placed in the bottle bank.
- Almost all dog walkers had a very responsible attitude and overall were the main users of the sports field.

- Notices state that “dogs must be under complete control at all times”. It was agreed that the expression “complete control” can still mean that they are under “complete control”, even when off-lead.
- There was general agreement that the potential threat of having to have all dogs on leads or, banning them altogether may have raised awareness and cut the amount of fouling.
- The new policy of leaving the gates open was explained by KF as the need to provide better access to everyone, especially the cPAD and bottle bank. Feedback has indicated that it was an improvement that benefited all users.
- The recent incidents of dogs escaping on to the land of a near neighbour was agreed as being totally unacceptable and better fencing may be needed. A post and rail fence is dog proof but may unfortunately still be jumped. It was queried as to who owns the ditch between the sports field and the adjoining land (GR to make enquiries with The Bedfield Townland Trust).

KF summarised the session by stressing that everyone wants a clean field and this is possible if everyone pulls together in support of what is already being done by David Lee and his friends. However, dog fouling was an ongoing problem almost everywhere in the village. He stressed that it was time to move on and no decisions have been made, despite what has been said by some villagers. KF again thanked everyone for attending and for the points that had been made. He repeated that they would be considered at the AGM of the Sports Club to be held on 4th June 2019. and urged everyone to attend.

05/19 - 07 Minutes of the Last Meeting (20th February 2019)

- After a brief debate, two small amendments were agreed and signed by KF as Chairman, following previous circulation.

05/19 – 08 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- BB apologised that the completion of the welcome pack had been delayed due to the need to provide additional photographs, but stated that it would be complete in time for the next meeting.
- The minor repairs required to the play area will be complete during June by Phil Mills (PGM). This needs to include the ongoing problem of the catch to the gate.
- As discussed earlier, the sports field “dogs must be under control” notices were now in place.
- The cPAD refresher and CPA seminar by the CHT had taken place with about 19 people present.

05/19 - 09 Police Report

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

- One recorded crime of “burglary” on or near Southolt Road in January 2019, where the investigation was complete with no suspect identified.
- One recorded crime of “violence or sexual assault” on or near Tyes Corner in March 2019, which was under investigation.
- One recorded crime of “public order” on or near Tyes Corner in March 2019, which was under investigation.
- One recorded crime of “other theft” on or near Charity Lane in March 2019, where they were unable to prosecute the suspect.

The April 2019 statistic were not yet recorded on the system.

05/19 - 10 Report of District & County Councillor

- The latest report From Matthew Hicks had been received and circulated.

05/19 - 11 Financial Update

- GR explained that income in 2019/2020 consisted of £1800 in respect of the first half year precept payment. He had submitted a claim to HMRC for VAT repayment in the region of £700, of which approximately £125.00 will be due to the Sports Club.
- Expenditure during the same periods had been £180.18 (2019/20 SALC subscription renewal), £1519.05 (Final payment to PGM for the carpark improvements) and £40.00 (Don Hughes – local audit fee). Current liabilities were approximately £107.00 to MSDC for election expenses.

- GR explained the audit procedure and produced the completed, locally audited accounts for 2018/19. He went through the requirements for the accounts to be approved by the Parish Council, which was then done and signed by KF as Chairman. The Exemption Certificate was also signed by KF and will be forwarded to the national auditors, PKF Littlejohn. GR will post details to the website and notice boards in due course, in accordance with legal requirements.
- The 2019/20 financial risk assessment had been circulated by GR and was approved and adopted by the councillors.

05/19 - 12 Planning Update

- DC/19/00801 (Erection of one house at 1 Lodge Farm Cottages). – This had been objected to by the Parish Council and currently with MSDC for a decision (It has since been allowed).
- DC/19/01683 (Erection of detached building at the Beeches). RP declared an interest. Currently with MSDC for a decision but supported by the Parish Council.
- DC/19/02176 (Erection of private dwelling at Mill House Farm). BB declared an interest. It was discussed and supported by the Parish Council (GR to notify MSDC).
- DC/19/02302 (Barn Conversion, Tannington). This was discussed, but the PC did not wish to comment on the application. (GR to notify MSDC).

05/19 -13 Sports Club Matters

- GR (as Sports Club Secretary) stated that Sports Club AGM would now be held on the 4th June 2019 and the Tennis Club, Gardening Club and all other facility users, including individuals such as dog walkers, would be strongly encouraged to attend. This would ensure that everyone's needs for the future are considered and met as far as possible. He emphasized that Sports Club and the Parish Council both saw the field and pavilion activities as very much the "hub" of the village, to be available and used by everyone.
- CCTV may need to be considered at the pavilion to improve security and safety since the "open-gates" policy had been introduced. This would also potentially help identify rouge dog-walkers and in due course, help to protect the new play area when completed.

05/19 - 14 Sports Field Car Park Improvements

- The carpark project had been completed and was accepted by everyone as looking good and a great improvement. In addition, the bottle bank was already well used.

05/19 - 15 Relocation of the Play Area to the Sports Field

- This was the subject of the Annual Village Meeting to follow this AGM (See separate minutes).

05/19 - 16 AOB and Correspondence Etc

- GR stated that Barlow and Sons has again apologized for the time being taken to complete the wayleave application for Long Green, which was due to a problem with UK Power Networks.
- GR stated that the 2019 play area inspection was imminent and had been arranged via MSDC.
- An email from a Worlingworth resident regarding an alleged breach of planning regulations and other complaints about Landsdowne Plant, situated on Tannington Road. A brief discussion took place with one resident present stating that at times there was noise and extra traffic. However, no other complaints, had been received from Bedfield residents. Whilst overall the councillors had sympathy with her views, it was felt that this was not excessive and no worse than everyday agricultural activity. In addition, they were not sure what the original planning consent had stipulated. (GR to respond accordingly to the email).

05/19 - 17 Date of Next Meetings

- The next meeting will be held at Bedfield sports pavilion, commencing 1930 on 04/09/2019.

The meeting closed at 2005.

Chairman

