

# **BEDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **(Draft) Minutes of a Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

The meeting commenced at 1930 at the Bedfield sports pavilion

### **02.19 - 01 Present**

- Keith Frost (KF), Jenny Barham (JB – Vice-Chairman), Suzie Carr (SC), Brian Belton (BB) and Richard Pickard (RP).
- Alison Manning (AM) as the (new) play area co-ordinator.
- Geoff Robinson (GR), as Parish Clerk.
- Matthew Hicks (SCC and MSDC Ward Councillor).
- Three members of the public.

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

- Ed Nesling (Approved – unavoidable last-minute home circumstances)
- Mark Howard (Approved – work commitments). MH had also informed GR that he would not be submitting nomination papers for the election on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

### **02/19 - 03 Public Open Session**

Two main areas were discussed by the three members of the public and the councillors, viz:

- *Proposals to relocate the play area to the sports field (see also item 02/19 – 13 below).*
  - The probability of selling the current play area for housing was briefly discussed. However, as this was registered Common Land as part of Long Green, BB stated that this would be highly unlikely to proceed or be granted by MSDC.
- *Ongoing and increased dog fouling on the sports field (see also item 02/19 – 11 below).*
  - A second incident had recently occurred where an off-lead dog had harassed a neighbour's pony. It was unanimously agreed that this was again totally unacceptable.
  - KF apologised that the agreed "dogs under control signs" were still to be sited but assured everyone they were on order. GR explained that they had been previously ordered from a different supplier who at late stage, had ceased trading before delivery.
  - KF and two members of the public stated that they had been walking the field almost daily and that unacceptable amounts of dog waste had been found, especially around the perimeter. This amounted to up to eight deposits on occasions. He also said that he had marked and flagged them, only to find later that the markers had been thrown down.
  - Almost everyone said that they had all too frequently seen dogs clearly not under control, often far out of range of their owners. In addition, owners were often on mobile phones and not watching their pets. Doubt was also expressed that it was almost impossible for owners with several animals to exercise effective supervision.
  - A point of contention was expressed that many owners are not from Bedfield or Monk Soham, quoting Worlingworth where dogs are banned from their own play field. It was agreed that no other recreational fields in the locality allowed dog walking.
  - A similar problem exists on the footpaths to Hungers Green near the school, with up to ten deposits being noted on one visit very recently.
  - It was accepted that most dog owners used the field in a considerate manner, but all these problems show everyone in a bad light. Whilst David Lee and his team were diligent and have done an excellent job as unofficial wardens, this is a long-term problem and something needs to be done.
  - The options available to try and resolve the matter were discussed and included banning dogs altogether, limiting the number any one owner can exercise at any one time, or insisting that all dogs must always be kept on leads.
  - KF summarised the debate by saying that it was proposed to discuss the next step at the Annual Village Meeting and the Sports Club AGM, both to be held in May 2019. He also emphasized that with the impending move of the play area to the sports field, some changes would have to be

made.

- To test opinion, KF then asked everyone at the meeting what their first option change would be. It was unanimously agreed that it should be a requirement for dogs to be always kept on leads. This was seen as sensible alternative to banning dogs altogether at this stage. However, opinion was also unanimous that if this did not work, then there was no real option but to ban dogs altogether from the playing field.

KF concluded the debate by thanking everyone for a very constructive session and opened the rest of the meeting.

#### ***02/19 - 04 Minutes of the Last Meeting (28<sup>th</sup> November 2018)***

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

#### ***02/19 - 05 Matters Arising***

- MH had produced an excellent welcome pack, based on the draft by BB. BB is to clarify a couple of points and return it to MH for completion. GR was tasked to obtain costings from MH for enough copies to supply every Bedfield household.
- The minor repairs required to the play area will be complete during March by Phil Mills (PGM).
- The sports field "dogs must be under control" notice had been delayed by problems finding a supplier. KF, however, has it in hand (see also item 02/19 – 03 above).

#### ***02/19 - 06 Police Report***

GR stated that Suffolk Police crime website checks for October to December 2018 had showed:

- One "other theft on or near the recreation area" in October 2018 where the investigation was complete with no suspect being identified.
- One recorded crime of "violence or sexual assault" at Long Green Bedfield during December 2018. The police were unable to prosecute the suspect.
- The councillors were aware of other crimes in the village during 2019.

#### ***02/19 - 07 Report of District & County Councillor***

MH informed the meeting that:

- The SCC budget was under huge pressure, with the cost of social care for vulnerable children and the number of pensioners increasing. This was now taking up 75% of the total budget.
- Money has been allocated to improve the availability of places in schools for vulnerable children with special educational needs (SEN). This will be achieved by borrowing money and include new builds as well as increasing existing facilities.
- £9.6m has been obtained from Central Government for road repairs, which will include potholes and drainage, etc. It must be spent before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and will include the use of a machine that can excavate, fill and repair potholes in one operation, thus saving time and road closures. Some would be permanent, others temporary.
- A grant of £350 had been made to Bedfield School as part of dyslexic reading project.
- From the May election, the MSDC ward will lose the parishes of Kenton and Ashfield-cum-Thorpe and gain Hoxne.

#### ***02/19 - 08 Financial Update***

- GR explained expenditure since the last meeting had been payments of £3627.68 to PGM Home Garden Services (first stage carpark improvements), £180.00 to Greenfuture Energy (electricity supply at Jewsons cPAD), £58.45 to MSDC (Playground inspection report), and £237.60, also to MSDC (play area grass cutting 2018).
- Income was £2,600 from The Sports Club (£2500) and Monk Soham Parish Council (£100 via the Sports Club) as contributions towards the sports field carpark improvements.
- Estimates for the rest of the 2018/19 year are the clerks second half year salary/PAYE (£514.00) and expenses (£87.28), both of which were authorised for payment, plus an estimated £1400.00 to PGM Home Garden Services to complete the carpark project. This includes VAT which will be reclaimed in the 2019/2020 financial year.

- The agreed 2019/2020 precept had been acknowledged by MSDC and this included an additional £600 towards the proposed new play area on the sports field.
- Don Hughes was appointed internal auditor for 2018/19.

#### **02/19 - 09 Planning Update**

- DC/17/05873 (New Access to Chapel House plots) – Has been approved by MSDC.
- DC/18/Crown Farm Barn – Archaeological Survey) – Approved by MSDC.
- DC/18/02538 (Autumn Meadow – application for lawful development) -Approved by MSDC.
- DC/18/03010 (Daisy Cottage roof improvements) – Approved by MSDC.
- DC/18/03931 (Land at School Road – various) - GR to notify no objections to MSDC.
- DC/18/04288 (Oakwood – tree pruning) – Approved by MSDC.

#### **02/19 -10 Defibrillator Project**

- The 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 has been agreed for the refresher seminar on the use of the cPADs and Vince Prank is coordinating the event and attendees. It has been advertised in the current (March) parish magazine, with a reminder to appear in the April edition.
- GR will update the villagers on both cPADs via the parish magazine once the carpark project is completed.

#### **02/19 -11 Sports Club Matters**

- GR (as Sports Club Secretary) stated that Sports Club AGM would now be held in May and the Tennis Club, Gardening Club and other facility users would be strongly encouraged to attend in order to ensure everyone's needs for the future are met. He emphasized that Club and the Parish Council both saw the field and pavilion activities as very much as the "hub" of the village.
- An additional meeting with the Tennis Club has been arranged for \*8<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to discuss their proposals for the future.
- SC offered to write to Barbara Lee of the Gardening Club to try and arrange attendance at the AGM and to also notify them of the need that the owl box is urgent need of repair. (since done).

#### **02/19 - 12 Sports Field Car Park Improvements**

- The first part of the project, ie the increased parking space, had been completed by Phil Mills and the new barriers hoops should be in place very soon.
- GR has met with MSDC and a mixed glass bottle bank will be installed very soon and placed just in front of the pavilion, between the kitchen window and hall exit. It will generate approximately £20 every time it is emptied. Concerns regarding wasps etc in the summer were expressed, but GR assured everyone that it could be quickly removed if necessary. BB and others stated that they though it would also be a valuable village amenity.

#### **02/19 - 13 Relocation of the Play Area to the Sports Field**

- AM stated that the project was well underway and included:
  - GR, KF and herself had met Tony Bass of MSDC who had been very helpful and positive regarding both the project and the possibility of grants to fund it.
  - AM had visited Bedfield primary school and had taken ten children to the current play area to see what they enjoyed the most. They had liked best the climbing equipment and swings, also giving written feed-back. Other ideas from the children included leaving the current area for dog walkers after completion of the project and the transfer of any useable equipment to the school!
  - Tony Bass had suggested contacting three reputable play are equipment suppliers and AM had already approached two of them. An appointment with the supplier of the Worlingworth play area had been made for 1100 on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019. He had also suggested a provisional budget for the project of £25,000.

- AM had placed an article in the parish magazine to stimulate interest and this would be developed further through a questionnaire linked to the website. GR stated that he had been in touch with Gillian Hiller of MSDC who had promised to send questionnaires that had been used for similar projects in the area.
- GR had also attended a funding meeting at Elmswell and is now in touch with the local Big Lottery representative and MSDC. The latter will help with our proposed questionnaire based on nearby successful applications. Several CIL options had also been explored.

#### ***02/19 - 14 AOB and Correspondence Etc***

- SCC Highways had finally inspected the overhanging hedge between Bedfield School and Church Lane corner, but stated that it did not justify any remedial intervention action at this stage.
- 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.

#### ***02/19 - 15 Date of Next Meetings***

- The next meeting (AGM) will be held at Bedfield sports pavilion, commencing 1900 Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019, followed by the Annual Village Meeting at circa 2015. The main agenda item for the AVM will be the sports field and play area.

The meeting closed at 2015.

**Chairman .....**