

BEDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

(draft) Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th November 2021 at the Bedfield Community Pavilion. The meeting commenced at 1930.

11/21 - 01 Present

- Alison Manning (Chairperson - AM), Keith Frost (Vice-Chairman – KF), Richard Pickard (RP), Steve Harvey (SH), Jenny Barham (JB) and John Dixon (JD).
- Matthew Hicks (MH) as SCC and MSDC Ward Councillor (for Item 11/21 - 07 below)
- Geoff Robinson (GR) as Parish Clerk & Community Club Secretary.
- Two members of the public.

11/21 - 02 Apologies for Absence

- Ed Nesling (EN - approved absence).
- From two members of the public.

11/21 - 03 Declaration of Members Interests

- GR reminded the councillors of the need to occasionally review their declarations and keep them up to date. No changes were notified.
- EN had submitted his resignation with immediately effect, which was accepted. He was thanked for his contributions over the last fifteen years. GR to commence the vacancy filling procedures.

11/21 - 04 Public Open Session

- No comments were made.

11/21 - 05 Minutes of the Last Meeting (8th September 2021)

- These were agreed as accurate and were signed by AM as Chairperson.

11/21 - 06 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- The MSDC tree planting initiative has resulted in acceptance by MSDC of most of the proposals and the tress/bushes etc will be delivered to Paula Booth on Friday 3rd December 2021. Andrew Manning has asked for volunteers via the newsletter and the planting will be coordinated by Paula. Paula was thanked for her contribution to this successful outcome.
- The new dog-waste bin in Church Road was now in place and JD was thanked for its installation. This should also lead to a drop in dog fouling problems in the nearby churchyard.
- JB will take over the role on the Eye Grammar School Fund with effect from next year and KF will help complete the handover.

11/21 - 07 Report of District & County Councillor

Councillor Hicks attended, the salient points of his presentation being:

- Ipswich had been successful in obtaining a government grant under the Enhanced Response Area scheme during a period when COVID infection rates were amongst the highest in the country. This had been very successfully used, cutting rates almost immediately.
- SCC has bid for a £5m share of a central government initiative to improve bus routes in the county. It is intended to concentrate most of this on improving services on the key corridors and in the evenings.
- The lorry route consultation needed to be considered (see Item 11/21 – 12 below).
- He is in contact with SCC Highways regarding the cost and funding of the new signs on Long Green for the new play area. Despite explaining the rationale for what seems excessive charges by SCC Highways, the councillors were extremely sceptical about the process and

business model. He was thanked for offering a contribution towards the cost from his MSDC budget and he will be in contact with GR.

11/21 - 08 Financial Update

- PKF Littlejohn had approved the 2020/21 accounts, but with a caveat regarding the inclusion of money paid in error by MSDC and a small clerical error. The required certificate had been displayed on the notice board and website.
- Receipts since the last meeting has been a £160.00 wayleave payment from UK Power Networks in respect of a telegraph pole of Long Green and a VAT refund from HMRC of £1833.38.
- Payments so far since the last meeting (September) have been the Clerk's first half year salary, PAYE and Expenses amounting to £637.83, £147.16 & £78.08 respectively, plus £1263.92 to Came and Company (insurance renewal), £360.00 to PKF Littlejohn (national audit fee), £6396.00 to Suffolk Groundworks (Splay installation) and a refund of £673.82 to B&MSCC of in respect of their share of the VAT refund.
- GR had produced a projected account for the rest of the 2021/22 year which showed a possible carryforward figure of £3269.00. However, this was without prejudice to unforeseen expenditure and income.
- GR had also prepared a projection of income £4,125.00 and outgoings of £4,060.00 for the 2022/23 financial year. Accordingly, it was agreed the 2022/23 precept will remain at £4,100.
- GR expressed dissatisfaction that the insurance renewal with Cane and Company had increased from circa £900.00 to £1263.00 and that it had not been received until the last day of the current year. He had tried three alternative companies, two of which could not quote and the third was higher. It had therefore been agreed that we had had little choice but to renew with Came and Company, now called Gallaghers. He will revisit the renew situation before the insurance becomes due in 2022.

11/21 - 09 Planning Updates

- SCC/0075/19MS (Poplar Farm Worlingworth) Appeal against refusal – still with Inspector.
- DC/21/03896 (Willow Cottage- Various Home Improvements) Approved by MSDC.
- DC/21/04692 (Hall Farm - Dog Grooming Salon) – Approved by MSDC.

11/21 - 10 Police Report

- GR stated that the Suffolk Police crime website for the period for August and September 2021 showed one recorded crime of "burglary" in the vicinity of Bedfield Hall.

11/21 - 11 Community Club Update

GR and AM introduced several salient points, viz:

- The splay has been completed.
- The event held on the 11th September 2021 to officially open the new play area had gone extremely well, having been blessed with good weather. It has been decided to hold a similar event in 2022, together with a return to the traditional fete in July
- There are concerns about what is happening with the Tennis Club as the rent for 2021 remains outstanding and they appear not have held their planned AGM in September. Graham Mobbs to write to their chairman.
- Improvements to the kitchen are being considered and scoped. This will consist of moving it to either where the toilets currently are or the storeroom/referee room area. This would make more room in the main room. CAS has offered the services of an architect and Greenfuture Solutions will produce a ballpark figure in the near future. More detailed plans can then be considered, if appropriate.
- The new seats had been installed on the field and CCTV was fully operational.
- A grant had been received under a green initiative to update the pavilion with improved lighting and controls and it was hoped that installation work would start very soon. The grant also includes funding for new blinds in the main room.

09/21 - 12 AOB and Correspondence Etc

- GR stated that he had finally received £160.00 from UK Networks as arranged by Barlow and Sons. This was for a fifteen-year lease.
- GR had addressed several issues with SCC Highways regarding potholes, verges, footpaths, and other highways matters. Dealing with their responses were in hand.
- GR stated that both the PC noticeboards required renovation and that Julian Sayer of Monk Soham would assess them very soon.
- SCC Highways review of lorry routes was discussed but not thought to be significantly appropriate to Bedfield.
- KF to scope a replacement bin for the current one at the entrance to Long Green, which is too small and badly worn.
- It was agreed to retain the gates at the old play area on Long Green
- GR explained that a planning application for land at Edale, Long Green (DC/21/6226) had been received too late to be included on the agenda for this meeting. Accordingly, an extraordinary meeting was agreed for 19.30 on Wednesday 2nd December 2021. GR to facilitate the required agendas etc.

09/21 - 13 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting (AGM) was fixed for Wednesday 16th February 2022 at the Bedfield Community Pavilion, commencing at 19.30.

The meeting ended at 0840.

Chairman.....