

# **BEDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**(draft) Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at the Bedfield Community Pavilion. The meeting commenced at 1930.**

## ***02/22 - 01 Present***

- Alison Manning (Chairperson - AM), Keith Frost (Vice-Chairman – KF), Richard Pickard (RP), Jenny Barham (JB) and John Dixon (JD).
- Matthew Hicks (MH) as SCC and MSDC Ward Councillor (for Item 02/22 – Item 10 below)
- Geoff Robinson (GR) as Parish Clerk & Community Club Secretary.
- Five members of the public, including MW (see item 02/22 – 03 below).

## ***02/22 - 02 Apologies for Absence***

- Steve Harvey (Approved absence).

## ***02/22 - 03 Cc-option of Councillor***

- GR had widely advertised the Parish Council vacancy and displayed the required legal documents. One expression of interest had been received and their application had been circulated. Accordingly, by a unanimous vote, Maureen Whiteman (MW) was co-opted to the Parish Council and signed the Acceptance of Office form. The Declaration of Members Interest forms will need to be done on-line within one month (GR to facilitate).

## ***02/22 - 04 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.

## ***02/22 - 05 Public Open Session***

- Clarification was requested on the item on the agenda regarding an approach for the sale of Long Green. Assurances were given that this would be fully explained in “Any Other Business” later in the meeting.
- It was asked if horses could be ridden on Long Green. GR to research vis a vis Common Land and Right to Roam legislation.

## ***02/22 - 06 Minutes of the Last Meeting (24<sup>th</sup> November 2021)***

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

## ***02/22 - 07 Matters Arising from the Minutes***

- The MSDC tree planting initiative has resulted in the planting of trees on the community field and in the old play area. The partnership with the Bedfield Town Estate in allowing the former was very much appreciated. All the volunteers that had taken part were thanked, as was Paula Booth without which, none of this could have been achieved. A Conservation Group had been formed to manage the old play area and a bid for funding was to be made for power tools to support their activity.
- The new dog-waste bin for Long Green had been obtained and was with KF, who would fit it shortly.
- JB and KF had attended a meeting of the Eye Grammar School Fund and JB was now the liaison point. Two applications from the village had been received, considered by the fund committee, and approved.
- GR explained that MH had agreed to fund in full the replacement signs for the new play area.

## ***02/22 - 08 Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> December 2021)***

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

### **02/22 - 09 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- The views of the councillors had been notified to SCC Planning by GR.

### **02/22 – 10 Report of District & County Councillor**

Councillor Hicks attended; his latest report having been previously circulated. He introduced two main updates, viz:

- There had been a noticeable increase in scams during the pandemic and he drew attention to a website called “Friends Against Scams”, which he recommended joining as a parish council (GR to scope).
- He also drew attention to a website which encourages people to register “white goods” in their homes. This was essential to avoid accidents through faulty items and was particularly appropriate to old appliances and potential recalls.
- SCC had waived the cost of street closures for any Queen’s Platinum Celebrations.

MH agreed to consider an application for part funding of the power tools to be purchased for the Environmental Group (see item 02/22 – 14 below) in the region of 50%. He also stated that he was happy to be funding the new signs for the play area and had given £1500 to Bedfield School and £2000 towards a replacement community bus. He was warmly thanks for everything he has done for the village.

### **02/22 - 11 Financial Update**

- There had been no receipts since the last meeting, although the £160.00 wayleave payment from UK Power network had now been banked.
- Payments that had been through the bank were £35.00 to the ICO (annual fee), £22.08 to MSDC for the additional dog waste bin emptying for the new bin near the church (half year only), and £120.00 for the playground inspection (Dave Bracey).
- Anticipated payments were the Clerk’s second half year salary, PAYE and Expenses amounting to £637.83, £147.0016 & £88.00 respectively, plus £100.00 for the refurbishment of the two notice boards, and all were authorised by the councillors. Already paid but not yet on the bank statements were £278.00 for the new Long Green dog waste bin (Glasdon), £60.00 for the website (2022 subscription - CAS), plus payment of £673.82 to B&MSCC 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 £2742.00. However, this was without prejudice to unforeseen expenditure and income. He emphasized that all the CIL money received for the two houses at Edale had now been spent.
- It was agreed to ask Paul Burrows to be the local auditor for the 2021/22 accounts.

### **02/22 - 12 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.

### **02/22 - 13 Police Report**

- GR stated that the Suffolk Police crime website for the period for October to December 2021 showed one crime of” Criminal Damage and Arson” at the Community Field in December although no further details were available. He will research details of a car theft in September 2021 which did not appear to have been included in the statistics.

### **02/22 - 14 Community Club Update**

GR and AM introduced several salient points, viz:

- The traditional fete will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and the first planning meeting was to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022.
- The Tennis Club has stated that payment of the outstanding rent (two years, £250.00) was imminent and that a new Committee had been formed. The Club had circa 60 members and they looked forward to working closely with the Community Club in the future.

- Potential improvements to the kitchen are still being considered and scoped. An architect (via CAS) will shortly do a feasibility study in return for a small donation. At the end of the day “feasibility” will also include financial considerations, yet to be explored.
- The improved lighting and controls had been installed in the pavilion and the blinds would be fitted shortly.
- The need for the removal of the old haystack on the community field was a problem and must be achieved when the weather conditions were right. AM stressed that all offers as to how to realistically achieve this would be greatly appreciated. JD stated that perhaps a controlled burning exercise may be the best and simplest way.

***02/22 - 15 AOB and Correspondence Etc***

- GR had addressed several issues with SCC Highways regarding potholes, verges, footpaths, and other highways matters. Dealing with their responses was in hand.
- It was agreed to accept Julian Sayer’s offer to renovate the two notice boards at a cost of between £60.00 to £100.00.
- GR had received a letter from Connells Estate Agents asking if the Council would consider selling Long Green to a developer. In a telephone conversation with Connells, he had informed the agent that it was Registered Common Land, in an area bordering a Visually Important Open Space and was certainly not available for development, but that he would formally ask the Parish Council. Connells then withdrew their interest. GR stated that he had received a similar verbal enquiry from a builder a few years ago. GR’s summary to Connells was firmly endorsed by the councillors as being correct!
- A request from Healthwatch Suffolk had been circulated and placed on the website etc, with a request that villagers complete it regarding their own experiences of hospital waiting times.

***02/22 - 16 Date of Next Meeting***

The date of the next meeting (AGM) was fixed for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at the Bedfield Community Pavilion, commencing at 19:00, to be followed by the Annual Village Meeting at circa 20:00.

The meeting ended at 0840.

**Chairman.....**