

BEDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

(draft) Minutes of a Bedfield Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30th November 2023 held at the Bedfield Community HUB Pavilion. The meeting commenced at 19:30

11/23 - 01 Present

- Alison Manning (Chair - AM), John Dickson (Vice Chair – JD), Marion Harvey (MH) Martin Abley (MA) , and Michael Walsh (MW).
- Geoff Robinson (GR) as Parish Clerk.
- Andrew Manning (ANM) as Community Club representative.
- Three other members of the public

11/23 - 02 Apologies for Absence

- Jenny Barham (JB) and Lisa Crane (LC) (Approved absences) .
- Matthew Hicks (MSDC and SCC Ward Councillor).

11/23 - 03 Register of Members Interests

- All the councillors were reminded that they must notify GR of any changes affecting their Register of Members Interests.
- MW, MA and MH had all completed their declarations since being coopted at the last meeting.

11/23 - 04 Public Open Session

- None.

11/23 - 05 Report from Matthew Hicks, County Council and District Council Ward Councillor

- Written reports from Matthew Hicks had been previously circulated.

11/23 - 06 Minutes of the AGM (13th September 2023)

- These were subsequently agreed as accurate and were signed by AM as Chair.

11/23 - 07 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- None.

11/23 - 08 Minutes of and an Extraordinary Meeting (28th September 2023) DC/23/03499)

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

11/23 – 09 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- GR had notified MSDC of the salient points of the meeting.

11/23 - 10 Financial Update (General)

- Expenditure since the last (September) meeting had been payments of £161.66, £705.80 and £164.45 in respect of the Clerk's First Half Year Expenses, Salary and PAYE respectively, plus £133.84 as the May Election Expenses (MSDC) and the Insurance Renewal Premium of £1,653.00 (Gallaghers). A payment of £19.99 to the Royal British Legion was authorised in respect of the Remembrance Day Wreath.
- Income since the last (September) meeting had been the Second Half Year Precept of £2,550.00.
- GR produced an estimate for the rest of the 2023/24 year and said that without prejudice to any unforeseen circumstances, showed a balance at 31st March 2024 of circa £3,848.97. He added that this is a much better amount than the figure at the 1st April 2023 of £1,805.25.
- GR also produced an estimate of projected income and expenditure for the year 2024/25, which showed running costs of £4,930.00 against projected income of £5,225.00. He also explained that whilst a CIL payment of £3,180.00 was due, this must only be set against projects rather than used for ongoing routine expenditure. GR then invited the councillors to consider a small increase in the precept for 2024/25 to cover inflation and/or unforeseen expenses, whilst at the same time preserving the anticipated carryforward figure at 31st March 2024 of £3,848.00. Accordingly, he produced several sets of figures which illustrated that to maintain the £5,100.00 current precept in 2024/25 would actually lead to a reduction of 1.65%, whilst an increase of £500.00 would amount to an increase of 7.99% or £2.41 (based on a Band D household), with various other calculations in between. After consideration, it was unanimously agreed to set the precept at £5,600.00.

- Together with Caroline Berkley (CB), GR attended a positive meeting regarding funding of the Community Magazine and CB had produced a spreadsheet showing the suggested contributions of all participants. This was based on the proportional number of residents in each village. The amount of £90.00 suggested as payable by Bedfield PC was authorised with effect from the 1st of April 2024.

11/23 - 11 Planning Updates

- DC/23/03499 (Willow Croft - Erection of Seven Dwellings). Supported and with MSDC for a decision.
- DC/23/04162 (Next to Edale – Non-material Amendments) – Agreed by MSDC.
- The Inspectors had agreed to the final draft of the new MSDC Local Plan.

11/23 - 12 Police Report

- GR stated that the police website showed recorded crimes of “Two Other Thefts” in the Long Green area during August 2023 and one “Violence or Sexual Offence” in the area in September 2023.
- He explained that no further details would be forthcoming due to DPA restrictions and that as they recorded crimes were generically grouped, they could be fairly trivial incidents.

11/23 - 13 Community Club Update

ANM explained several salient items, namely,

- Another pop-up pub had been held on the 20th of October 2023 and combined with a chilli night, had been very successful, despite the appalling floods. He expressed thanks to AM and LC for their efforts.
- Despite several informal discussions and a meeting, the acting Tennis Club had still not responded to positive proposals for the future of the tennis court.
- The Club was considering if the recently announced new MSDC Warm Winter Grant could be extended to cover current organisations such as the Our Club, the Art & Crafts Club, or even the Pilates. It was thought that the recent “Care and Cared-for Coffee Morning” group could certainly qualify. ANM explained that whilst the previous “Warm Space” initiative had not been a great success last winter, it would probably be worth applying for an amount up to £1,000. He also explained that the downside was that any application would be in competition with many other locations and the result would not be known until late December 2023. If successful, whilst the newsletter and website would be again used to publicise the initiative, use would be made of the village magazine to reach the high proportion of potential users without computers, whom may be interested.

11/23 - 14 Any Other Business and Correspondence Etc .

- Several potholes had been repaired by SCC Highways and GR asked that any other defects noted should be referred to him.
- GR stated that although David Whitham has offered to lead the Thermal Imaging Project, it was extremely disappointing that, despite widespread advertising, no volunteers had come forward. This meant that it was highly likely that the use of the equipment would need to be cancelled. It was agreed to wait a little longer and also until after the forthcoming Monk Soham Parish Council meeting on the 30th of November 2023. GR will also speak to David Whitham
- The inspection of the play area for this year was still awaited.
- Rebecca Waterman of the BTE was still in contact with the Charity Commission to see if the forthcoming new lease of the HUB field could be extended from seven years and was thanked for her efforts. However, there is a little breathing space, as the current lease has nearly a further year to run.

11/23 - 15 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 15th February 2024, commencing at 19:30 at the Bedfield HUB.

The meeting ended at 20:40.

Chair.....