

Draft until signed

Minutes of Battsiford Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 7.30pm, Battsiford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battsiford

Present: C Knock (Chairman), S Zethraeus (Councillor), N Cleaver (Councillor), P Aspinall (Councillor), C Nicholas (Councillor), C Skinner (Councillor – Arrived at 8.30pm)

Attending: S Meech (Clerk), D Whybrow (District Councillor), A Whybrow (County Councillor), J Budd (Public), A Burgoyne (Public), A Maxwell (Public)

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Rhodes

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Public Forum

J Budd asked Battsiford Parish Council (BPC) if anything further had happened with the Housing Needs Survey (HNS). Cllr Knock advised that the advice is to wait to see if a neighbourhood plan will go ahead. Combs Parish Council are interested in a neighbourhood plan and Cllr Knock suggested that a sub group of BPC is nominated to meet with a sub group from Combs Parish Council to discuss this further, MSDC encourage parishes to work together. Cllr Knock advised that the HNS will inform the neighbourhood plan with MSDC showing an interest in possible sites for housing being put forward. Cllr Whybrow highlighted the sooner BPC engage with this process the better and it will assist to inform the housing needs for the area. There is funding available for this process and so even if monies need to be paid costs will not be excessive.

4. Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 28th November 2017

Minutes were signed as a true and accurate copy of the meeting

5. Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes

6. County Councillors Report

See Appendix 1

Cllr Nicholas advised Cllr A Whybrow that one of the new signs at Burnt House Lane had fallen over was re-erected and has now fallen down again. He also advised that the major road out of the village through Combs was closed without any warning.

Cllr Zethraeus raised concerns over changes to school transport for the village and highlights a need to follow up the consultation relating to this, Cllr A Whybrow will attend a workshop for a better understanding of this issue. Cllr Zethraeus advised that a taxi used to come to the village allowing some children access to school but their neighbour not, creating a system that appears to be unorganised and chaotic. Cllr Cleaver advised that means and distance testing does occur with school transport from Battsiford. Cllr A Whybrow will feed this all back if she attends the workshop in January.

7. District Councillors Report

See Appendix 2

Clerk asked Cllr D Whybrow if he had had a response from Arthur Charvonia regarding the letter she sent him regarding concerns with the enforcement at Wonderleir. Cllr D Whybrow advised that he had a brief conversation, however, BPC have never received a formal response from MSDC in this matter.

Action – Clerk to send correspondence to MSDC to request a formal response to the enforcement at Wonderleir

Cllr D Whybrow advised BPC that there is a scheme by where the parish could apply for a tree for every birth that occurs in the parish. Cllr Knock advised that the trees that were planted previously were so small that they were chopped down by the verge cutters.

Action – Cllr Zethraeus and Cllr Aspinall to create a tree planting plan

8. Parish Council Chairman's Report

All items to be discussed are included in the agenda

9. Planning

a. Applications received for consideration

- i. DC/17/05842 - Valley Farm, Valley Rd, Battisford – Erection of one and half storey extension – All councillors agree no objections to planning application – **Action** – Clerk to advise MSDC of decision

b. Decisions received from MSDC

- i. DC/17/05588 – Bevants Farm Barn, Burnt House Lane – Discharge of conditions

13. (b/f) Battisford Tye

A Maxwell (Public) was in attendance to discuss Battisford Tye, she lives within the parish and when she bought her house and was reviewing some historic deeds from when the land was bought in the 1950s she could see that part of the parish where her house is located is called Battisford Tye not just Battisford. Since further investigation she has also noted that Stoke Farm Orchards have Battisford Tye in the address on their labels. A Maxwell wanted to know if any signs could be erected to distinguish the Battisford Tye area separately in the parish, one reason she put forward is to assist delivery drivers.

A Burgoyne advised that Battisford Tye was originally a green area similar to Barking Tye and there were not many houses in the area and that Battisford Tye is a sub area that would have been common ground. Cllr Knock raised the issue that the parish council would require permission from Highways to erect a sign. A Burgoyne suggested a compromise of a Battisford Tye sign being placed underneath the Battisford sign. Cllr Zethraeus felt that there should be caution with splitting the village.

8.30pm Cllr Skinner arrives

Cllr Knock felt that it may assist deliveries if a Battisford Tye sign was tied in with the main Battisford sign. A Maxwell is going to forward over the email correspondence that she received from Highways in regard to signage for Battisford Tye, Cllr Knock advised A Maxwell that the council is happy to have a discussion and BPC will investigate at present without any commitment.

10. Finance

- a. **Accounts review to date** – Community account balance of £20,681.93 on 14th December 2017 and Premium Savings account balance of £2,359.03 on 14th December 2017. BPC feel that there is a lack of flexibility with Barclays and making payments is very difficult, therefore

they would like the clerk to enquire as to changing bank. Two more keys are required to replace lost and broken keys for the noticeboards, BPC are happy to pay for two more keys to be cut.

Action – Clerk to contact SALC to request recommendations for parish council bank accounts

b. **Payments received** – None received

c. **Payment to hand**

- i. N Cleaver – Bear Necessities Reimbursement - £TBA – N Cleaver has forwarded receipts to clerk for an additional spend of £75.12 to the £2,000.00 already issued. All councillors agree an additional payment of £75.12 and cheque number 100944 is signed and issued by Cllr Knock and Cllr Skinner. It was also agreed by BPC that N Cleaver should receive a cheque for the remaining monies of £924.88 that she received as a donation for the project in order to purchase more supplies. N Cleaver to provide clerk with receipts as soon as purchases have been made. Cheque Number 100945 for £924.88 is signed and issued by Cllr Knock and Cllr Skinner.
- ii. S Meech – Overtime and Expenses - £56.41 – Payment is agreed by all councillors. Cheque Number 100943 was written and issued by Cllr Knock and Cllr Skinner. *Local Government Act 1972, S.112.*

11. Precept Form

It was agreed at the previous meeting that due to reserves in the bank account it would not be necessary to increase the precept for 18/19. Precept is agreed by BPC at £10,725.00. Precept upon charging authority form is filled out and signed by Cllr Knock, Cllr Skinner and Cllr Cleaver and countersigned by the clerk.

Action – Clerk to submit precept form to MSDC no later than 31st January 2018

14. (b/f) Punchbowl donation/email from SALC

Clerk received an email from SALC advising of conditions of a grant payment to a village pub and forwarded this to councillors before the meeting. Concern is raised by BPC that the Punchbowl pub is no longer community owned and the Battisford only own about a 13% share and the rest is owned by a private individual.

Action – Clerk to contact SALC to ask advice for grant payments if pub is no longer 100% community owned.

12. (b/f) Play area including slide donation/ROSPA report

Battisford Parish Council have been contacted by the resident whom kindly donated £3,000.00 for the installation of a slide in the village play area. The residents are keen to see an embankment slide mounted into the mound. It is agreed by all councillors that further to email correspondence from Cllr Cleaver a stainless-steel slide from Playdale model ESL (21) 2.1m high and 5.65m long is to be purchased. Cllr Knock is happy for the slide to be delivered to him ready for erection when the weather improves. The quotation price is £3,739.20 and with £2,702.20 currently being held in BPC bank account for the play area BPC are happy to pay the additional £413.80 and pay the £623.20 VAT (which will be claimed back). BPC are also happy to meet the installation costs of the slide.

Action – Clerk to email play group working party details of the slide to be ordered and invite them to the next parish council meeting in February to discuss this item.

23. (b/f) Cemetery – marking new graves

A Burgoyne advised BPC that he has resurveyed the cemetery and has noted that the gravedigger has left too much space in between the graves. He also noted that there is a lot of spare space in the old part of the cemetery and the new extension is a large area.

Action – Cllr Zethraeus and A Burgoyne will attend the cemetery and attempt to mark out the vacant plots for the future.

15. Defibrillator training seminar – 24th January 2018

Clerk has organised a defibrillator training seminar at Battisford and District Cricket Club for Wednesday 24th January 2018 at 7.30pm and notices have been placed in the noticeboards and information forwarded to T Bamber clerk for Combs Parish Council. Investigation into the use of social media for events such as this is also suggested

Action – Clerk to contact the East Anglian Daily Times to see if they can put something into the newspaper to see if they can run an article to show the defibrillator locations in Battisford and Combs. Cllr Cleaver has a contact she will provide to the clerk.

Action – Contact EADT and investigate social media

16. GDPR – data protection

Clerk explains to BPC that the appointment of a data protection officer will be required from May 2018 and the person appointed cannot be the clerk or a councillor and must have a knowledge of data protection law. The DPO have put forward some fees for an external appointment for this role, clerk has registered an interest via SALC for this service.

17. Headway Suffolk Donation Request

Clerk to advise Headway that donation requests will be considered in April and September.

18. External Auditor Appointment

Clerk advises BPC that she has received notification of the external auditor appointment for 18/19 and it will be through PKF Littlejohn.

19. Speeding Device

Clerk has contacted Judi Hallett the parish clerk for Hollesley Parish Council for information regarding the speeding device that they have purchased. All details have been circulated to councillors before the meeting. BPC are very keen to move this item forward and would like clerk to contact Suffolk County Council to discuss the location the device can be erected. Locations to be requested are the village green, village hall, Mill Road, the Punchbowl and Sloe Farm. Cllr Skinner has marked the positions onto a map.

Action – Clerk to forward device locations to Suffolk County Council

20. Wonderleir

There is no further update since the new residents have moved in.

21. Broadband

There is no further information at present.

22. Review standing orders, financial regulations, risk assessment and financial management

Clerk has circulated all the documents to the councillors for review. There are no amendments to be made, however, after review of the internal audit for 17/18 internal controls must be reviewed.

Action – Clerk to review the internal controls

24. Litter picking

This has not yet been carried out but Cllr Knock advised that this normally occurs around Easter time. It is agreed to be carried out on Saturday 24th April at 10am starting at the village green.

25. Bear Necessities

Cllr Cleaver advised BPC that she managed to produce some packs before Christmas and will be purchasing more soon.

26. Tree Protection

An email was received asking who the tree warden is.

Action – Cllr Aspinall to investigate who the tree warden is for Battsford

27. Correspondence

All circulated via email.

28. Any other business for inclusion at the next meeting

Cllr Zethraeus suggested that the meeting starts at 7pm rather than 7.30pm to ensure clerk does not have to leave too late, all councillors agree to this new time.

29. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 20th February 2018 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 9.50pm



Anne Whybrow

Bosmere

January Newsletter

Covering Badley, Barking, Battsford, Baylham, Combs, Great Bricett,

Little Finborough, Needham Market, Nettlestead, Offton, Ringshall, Somersham, and Willisham



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Suffolk school travel consultation launched

Suffolk County Council has called for unity in efforts to find a long-term solution to providing affordable home to school transport as a major public consultation gets underway.

People who give their views as part of a consultation on the future of school travel in Suffolk will be listened to carefully and have the opportunity to influence the final outcome, the council has said.

The two and half month consultation, which starts today (Tuesday 12 December), invites people to help the council shape the future of school and post-16 travel policies.

Suffolk County Council has already listened to headteachers and included additional options in the consultation document. The pledge today is to do more of the same as the authority seeks help to find a long-term solution to the funding issues facing home to school transport. In Suffolk, £21 million of taxpayers' money is spent per year getting children to and from school. Suffolk County Council has already introduced a number of efficiency changes to the service saving around £2.6 million.

Now, like many other councils across the country, the authority needs to consider making more significant changes. It is therefore consulting on changing its school and post-16 travel policies so the service can be affordable, sustainable, and capable of meeting growing demand in the future.

The council's current school and post-16 travel policies go above legal requirements, which means around 2400 children and young people receive free/subsidised school or post-16 travel that Suffolk County Council is not legally required to provide and that they wouldn't get in many other parts of the country. In addition, around 2400 children receive free travel to schools further away than legally required to provide. The proposed consultation seeks views on changing these policies and includes three alternative options, pre-and post-16.

Option 1: In September 2019, change the school travel policy so that it is in line with the legal requirements. This would mean implementing all the changes in one go, including ceasing free travel to the transport priority area schools where it is not the pupils' nearest.

Option 2: From September 2019, introduce the changes year by year as a child joins or moves school so that it is in line with legal requirements. This means that we would introduce all the changes on a phased basis. This option would cost Suffolk County Council an estimated £8.8 million to implement.

Option 3: Make no changes to the school travel policy but make savings from other services provided by Suffolk County Council.

Suffolk County Council is also asking for feedback on several other matters, including using Rights of Way as part of the way distance to a school is measured and a range of local solutions, such as Local collection hubs and opt-in to travel, which we have developed with a range of schools.

Further details on these options can be found on the consultation website:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel (link to go live at 5.00pm)

To have your say from 9.00am on 12 December please fill out the consultation survey, alternatively you can download a hard copy from the website and return to:

Suffolk County Council – school and post-16 travel consultation
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP1 2BX

The consultation will run from 12 December 2017 to 28 February 2018 and there will be a full programme of events and opportunities for discussion. This includes consultation workshops where you can consider themes from the consultation, the proposals and general questions and answer sessions.

Venue	Room	Date	Time
Kesgrave Conference Centre <i>Twelve Acre Approach, Ipswich IP5 1JF</i>	Orwell Room	16 January 2018	19:00 - 20:30
Eye Community Centre <i>Magdalen Street, Eye, IP23 2DH</i>	Main Hall	17 January 2018	19:00 - 20:30
River Stour Trust - the Visitor Education Centre <i>Dove House, Great Cornard, CO10 0GF</i>	VEC	18 January 2018	19:00 - 20:30
Beccles Public Hall <i>Smallgate, Beccles NR34 9AD</i>	Main Hall	22 January 2018	19:00 - 20:30
Lakenheath Pavilion <u>Eriswell Road, Lakenheath IP27 9AF</u>	Main Hall	23 January 2018	19:00 - 20:30
West Suffolk House <i>Western Way, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3YU</i>	WSH - GFR12 - Meeting Room	26 January 2018	5 sessions between 14:00 - 19:30

Suffolk is chosen as one of only 10 pilot areas to retain 100% of business rates

The amount of money allocated to each Local Authority in England for the next financial year was announced today by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid.

As part of the announcement, Suffolk County Council has been named as one of the pilot areas for a new Government scheme to retain 100% of business rates from Council Tax in 2018/19.

In future, Business Rates will be an even greater income stream for all local authorities and this is an opportunity for Suffolk to influence how it will operate in a two-tier system.

Until more information is released from the Department for communities and Local Government it is not possible to say exactly how much additional income this could generate into the Suffolk system.

Fully funded first-time central heating systems for Suffolk residents

Suffolk's local authorities are now able to provide fully funded central heating systems* to 514 fuel poor households across Suffolk over the next three years. Around 4 million UK households are in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy. As well as being on low incomes many of these households are also faced with the additional burden of relying on heating systems that are inefficient and expensive to run

The local authorities working together as the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership have been successful in securing funding from the first round of the Warm Homes Fund for a project worth £4.3 million.

The Suffolk project is being managed by the County Council, administered by Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People based at Suffolk Coastal District Council and supported with further funding from Babergh, Mid-Suffolk, Forest Heath and Waveney District Councils plus Ipswich and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils. Alongside the first-time heating system, households will also be able to benefit from new insulation measures to make the homes more energy efficient as well as grants from the Suffolk Community Foundation's 'Surviving Winter Appeal' where eligible.

The new £150m fund was established by National Grid using part of the proceeds from the sale of the company's majority stake in its gas distribution business. It will fund the installation of affordable heating solutions in fuel poor households which don't use mains gas as their primary source of heat.

*subject to survey and conditions

DRAFT

Appendix 2

Councillor David Whybrow (Conservative)

Mid Suffolk District Council Member for Ringshall Ward



Report to Battsford Parish Council

Full Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 9th January 2018

1.0 Planning

As noted in Parish Council papers

2.0 A new Council for the heart of Suffolk?

In October last year, simultaneous Meetings of both Mid Suffolk's and Babergh's Cabinets voted on the options for exploring Mid Suffolk and Babergh's future relationship. The Cabinets resolved:

- To provisionally endorse the approach of formally dissolving the two district councils; and creating of a new, larger, District Council;
- That the Councils utilise Transformation Funding to jointly conduct stakeholder, public and staff engagement during Autumn 2017.
- Subject to the outcome of that public engagement a draft (DCLG compliant) business case for the dissolution of BMSDC and creation of a new single district council for the area could be considered by each Council.

The principal perceived benefits of dissolving the two councils to form a new District are as follows –

- The Council's Chief Finance Officer has estimated that this approach should deliver a minimum level of cashable and non-cashable savings of £1m per annum, without the need for any major organisational change. It would also provide overall long term financial stability as a result of combining the strengths of the respective General Funds, Housing Revenue Accounts and Reserves (see Appendix B). It would involve some political change to a single Leader and Cabinet. It should also be noted that electoral equality across the two districts should already be achieved, in any event, through the current Further Electoral Review of both districts.
- As a single district council for both areas it would become one of the largest district councils by population in England and remain on a par with the other 4 Suffolk councils going through this process. It would therefore ensure parity of influence for the area within Suffolk and greater influence nationally and regionally.

On 11th December 2017, the two councils launched the public engagement to comment on the proposals to dissolve both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and form a new, single council

to cover the area in the heart of Suffolk. Responses would help shape the business case for such a change.

The two councils commissioned an independent telephone poll, carried out by ComRes, which will contact a statistically robust sample of 4,000 residents, consisting of 2,000 residents in each district. ComRes will work to ensure that the feedback collected is balanced in terms of age, gender, geography, socio-economic grade and ethnicity, canvassing a representative sample of residents in Babergh and in Mid Suffolk.

All the engagement was intended to help inform a business case which would be considered by councillors following the closing date in February. At that point councillors were planned to debate the proposals, including the question of whether a local poll should also be held.

However, subsequently to the launch of the public engagement, there has been a political volte-face at Babergh. They have decided that a binding referendum on the proposal should take place before any further action occurs.

The perceived benefits of dissolving the two councils to form a new District will now be on a longer timeline, assuming agreement to proceed is the outcome of the binding referendum.

With the financial challenge facing all local government, business as usual is not an option. Bold and innovative solutions, such as this one, are needed to protect the services residents need. Since 2011 £13 million has been saved by working closely with Babergh, but with further reductions in central government funding we need to do more – dissolution and forming a new District Council is the largest potential financial saving readily available.

3.0 Mid Suffolk supports Government's plans to curb plastic bottle and packaging waste

Mid Suffolk District Council has unanimously agreed to support the Government's proposals to introduce a plastic bottle return scheme.

It is a well-established fact that plastic is one of the worst pollutants of the environment. Plastic is expensive to dispose of and too much of it ends up at the bottom of the sea, where it is having an increasingly devastating effect on life in our oceans. By supporting the Government's proposals, we can help to make Suffolk the greenest county in the country by joining efforts to encourage residents to reuse plastic bottles and businesses to produce packaging which can be recycled more easily and cheaply.

At a meeting on Thursday 21 December, the Council pledged its support for initiatives being considered by the Government to reduce the amount of plastic waste and to make retailers pay more towards recycling the packaging in which they sell their products.

A report published by Eunomia in the autumn estimates each local authority could save between £62,000 and £495,000 each by reducing waste handling costs.

Suffolk is ranked second of 32 waste disposal authorities in two-tier areas for recycling dry recyclables.

4.0 Mid Suffolk signs up to the Woodland Trust's tree charter

Mid Suffolk District Council has agreed to sign up to the Woodland Trust's Charter for Trees, Woods and People.

At a meeting on Thursday 21 December, the Council backed the initiative by the national charity, which sets out people's rights to the benefits of trees, woods and forests. The charter's ten principles include planting more trees, a commitment to protecting irreplaceable trees and woods, sustaining landscapes rich in wildlife and using trees as the inspiration for cultural projects. Other pledges include planning greener local landscapes and combating threats to the ecosystems which each tree supports.

Trees surely stand at the heart of why we all enjoy living in one of the most rural parts of the country. Signing up to the Woodland Trust's Charter shows our support for the aims of planting, nurturing and protecting our trees, so that not only ourselves, but also future generations can continue to enjoy the benefits they bring to us.

5.0 Mid Suffolk Locality Funding initiative – A reminder

The Mid Suffolk District Council's Locality Award programme is open for applications until 16th February 2018.

Each Mid Suffolk councillor has a £6,250 pot that can be used to award to projects or organisations that have a direct impact on Mid Suffolk communities. Funding awards can range from £250 upwards and each councillor can support up to 15 projects.

Applicants selected for an award must be able to demonstrate that their project, event or group meets one or more of Mid Suffolk's Strategic Priorities and where relevant should be able to demonstrate its sustainability over the coming years.

Any community groups wishing to apply for a share of the funding can do so by contacting me. We have tried to make this a very simple process, in that the form is short and simple to complete. Groups will be asked to supply a record of their spend or a final account at the end of their event or project.

With the move towards paperless working, we are trying to keep this process as electronic as possible.

Awards may be made for a wide range of activities including BUT NOT LIMITED to: Sports tournaments, sports equipment, play equipment, pavilion updates, hearing loops, defibrillators, start-up lunch club, pop up cafes, coffee mornings, energy efficiency projects, promoting exercise and outdoor activities in rural areas, walking leaflets, walking festivals, dance classes, exercise classes, older peoples exercise, one off celebratory events recognising national or regional events. History projects resulting in a lasting benefit for the community. Contribution towards installation of WIFI in rural areas, enhancing local nature sites, training for volunteers, first aid, H&S safeguarding, fire safety training, group leader training, speed watch campaigns, anti-social behaviour and associated prevention activities.

4.0 Conclusion

I trust the forgoing is informative and relevant.

Finally, if there are specific matters that you would like me to investigate or report on – just ask.

Contacts details as follows:

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Or visit me at The Old Rectory, Stowmarket Road, Ringshall. IP14 2HZ