

**Draft until signed**

**Minutes of Battisford Parish Council Meeting  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.00pm, Battisford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battisford**

**Present:** C Knock (CK) (Chairman), C Skinner (CS) (Councillor), S Zethraeus (SZ) (Councillor)

**Attending:** Paul Bryant (PB) (MSDC – Neighbourhood Planning Officer), J Budd (JB) (Public), 4 members of the public, Cllr C Todhunter (CT) (Combs Parish Council Councillor), Cllr S Scarff (SS) (Combs Parish Council Chairman), Cllr T Whitehead (TW) (Combs Parish Council Councillor)

**1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Cleaver, Cllr Nicholas, Cllr Aspinall

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None

**3. Public forum**

A member of the public spoke about the proposed development of Bowl Meadow. He is the nearest occupant and although he realises it will be developed, he had concerns about the recent application. He claimed that there were inaccuracies in the application such as who has ownership of the land. He feels the proposal was for too high a density of building and quoted MSDC saying 5 houses as a maximum in August 2017. He felt the archaeological value of the site was not addressed satisfactorily and that the land has a high biodiversity thus Suffolk wildlife trust should be involved. He will send an email to the clerk with fuller details for circulation to Battisford Parish Council (BPC).

Another member of the public spoke briefly in support of planning application DC/18/04545. He would be the owner of one of the proposed houses. He currently lives in the village with his family and is active in the community. The proposal would allow them a bigger family home whilst at the same time tidy up a derelict site. He has spoken to other villagers and found no opposition. JB asked if Paul Marriage (Little Finborough) had been invited to the meeting.

**5. (b/f) Neighbourhood Planning (NP) – Paul Bryant (Neighbourhood Planning Officer – MSDC)**

PB presented a power point presentation – see <http://battisford.suffolk.cloud/battisford-parish-council/meetings/>.

Within Babergh and Mid Suffolk 4 NP's have been completed, 1 in Mid Suffolk and an additional 43 are in progress. The NP may not be suitable for all villages - the district councils may provide sufficient plans and policies but if the PC decides to go ahead there is plenty of help on line. There is a gov. website and community led planning tools on MSDC website. Completed NPs are on line and the PC was advised to read some, particularly the examiner's reports.

The process would probably take about 2 years and be valid for about 15 years. However, it will need to be regularly reviewed. The cost of review and modification can be borne by the local authority. A basic grant is available for up to £9,000. However, if 3 or more PCs act jointly, they will only get the one set of funding. Little Finborough could make up a group with Battisford and Combs. The working group would be responsible for applying for grant funding. It is only available in 'chunks' i.e. not all of the £9,000 would be paid-up front. Additional funding of 8k is available if 3 or more parishes work together.

The working group would need to consider other sources of income e.g. lottery funding to make up the total. As a guide - Lawshall Parish Council spent a total of £11,000, although this included employing a planning consultant to assist them. Once in place the NP lifts the CIL payment from 15% to 25%. The NP must comply with district council plans and the working party should ask MSDC for the expected housing in the village. MSDC will publish a new plan in 2019 which is expected to emphasise growth along transport links and in villages (as opposed to town expansion or a new

town). As a hinterland village we will probably be expected to provide 10% growth i.e. 28 new homes by 2036. The plan is adopted after a referendum in the village (funded by MSDC) if 50% +1 villagers vote in favour and even if the turnout is low (30-40%).

Discussion with the members of Combs PC followed. As a result of the Mill Mount Field planning application feelings in Combs are high and they were unsure if they would have support for a NP. There are big differences in the position of the two villages and as a joint plan would not be financially beneficial it may be better to do separate village plans. Combs councillors decided to discuss this at a separate meeting and let Battsford know their decision. As BPC was not quorate no decision could be taken, options are to be discussed at the next meeting.

**4. Planning**

**a. Applications received for consideration**

- i. DC/18/04545 – Lane off, Stoke Farm Drive IP14 2NA – Outline Planning Permission for the erection of 2 dwellings and garages (following demolition of existing outbuildings)** - The councillors present supported the application and other councillors were to be emailed for their response. Once a majority decision is made the clerk would be asked to notify MSDC.

**6. Any other business for inclusion on the next agenda**

No business raised.

**7. Correspondence**

All circulated by email

**8. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7pm**

Meeting closed at 8.50pm