

Draft until signed

**Minutes of Battsiford Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 19th February 2019 at 7.00pm, Battsiford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battsiford**

Present: C Knock (CK) (Chairman), B Rhodes (BR) (Vice-Chairman), C Skinner (CS) (Councillor), P Aspinall (PA) (Councillor), C Nicholas (CN) (Councillor), N Cleaver (NC) (Councillor)

Attending: S Etherington-Meech (SEM) (Clerk), Cllr K Oakes (KO) (County Councillor), J Budd (JB) (Public), Stan Winter (SW) (BVHMC), T Newell (TN) (Applicant for clerk vacancy)

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr S Zethraeus

2. Declarations of Interest

CK declared an interest in Item 7 a) ii) Planning Application for Welhams Meadow, Church Rd – Declaration of Interest book filled out and signed and dated by CK.

3. Public forum

No items were raised for discussion.

4. Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 8th January 2019

CK signed the minutes as a true and accurate copy of the meeting.

5. Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. County Councillor/District Councillor/Parish Chairman Reports

Cllr Whybrow was not in attendance and no apology was received. Councillors raised their concerns that Cllr Whybrow had not attended a parish council meeting for some time now.

KO (County Councillor) Report – see Appendix 1

7.15pm – NC arrived

7. Planning

a. Applications received for consideration

i. **DC/19/00246/00254 – The Forge, Burnt House Lane – Conversion of workshop to detached annexe.** – Councillors unanimously objected to this application as there is already a completely detached annexe on the plot that is bigger than the main property (The Forge) and The Forge was once a detached listed cottage and now is becoming surrounded by other properties. Battsiford Parish Council feel that building a further annexe is overdevelopment adding to an already detached sizeable property, outbuildings should be left as they are. **Action** – Clerk to submit comments to MSDC

ii. **DC/19/00174 – Welhams Meadow, Church Rd – Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act – Variation of condition 3 to allow residential use of Plot 3 & 4** – CK stood up and left the room for this item and BR (Vice-Chairman) carried on conducting the meeting. NC requested the planning application be brought up on the laptop for councillors to view and also to see if a supporting statement was included in the documents, unfortunately a supporting statement was not found. It was discussed that the applicant had had huge difficulty renting/selling the first 2 caravans due to them only being able to be occupied for 10 months in a year. Following discussions and a review of the application, BR asked for any votes for support of the application and no-one voted in support, there was a unanimous vote for objection. Reasoning for objection being that BPC did not have any issues with the previous application 0590/17 and felt it would assist with the promotion of leisure and tourism to the area, however, it is felt that all the benefits that a holiday

dwelling would bring will no longer be relevant if dwellings are to be used for residential purposes. **Action** – Clerk to submit objection and comments to MSDC.

b. Decisions received from MSDC

- i. **DC/18/02751 & 02752 (Listed Building Consent) – Old Stoke Farmhouse, Straight Road – Repairs and alterations – Granted**
- ii. **DC/18/05259 – Land at Bowl Rd – Erection of 9 dwellings and 7 parking spaces for the Punch Bowl Inn – Granted**

Extra planning applications were received after the agenda was produced for this meeting, therefore a decision was made to carry out an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday 12th March 2019 to discuss the applications.

8. Parish clerk vacancy/applications/deadline/interview

TN was interviewed for the clerk vacancy by SEM and CK before the meeting. SEM advised BPC that the closing date for applications for the clerk's vacancy is Thursday 28th February 2019, some applications have already been received and interviews are to be carried out before and after the extraordinary meeting on Tuesday 12th March 2019.

9. BVHMC – Village Hall Signs & floor grant funding request

CN questioned SW as to whether planning permission would be required in order to erect the proposed village hall signs, CS advised that he believed planning permission would be required. BPC explained to SW that they are not against the proposal but just concerned over planning, BVHMC just need to investigate this further before BPC can agree to the purchase of signs, illumination of the sign could be a further issue. KO advised that she will take these queries to Endeavour House on 5th March 2019.

CK feels it is also important that the signs match the current signs for the Punchbowl Inn and there should be a consideration as to whether the signs could be incorporated with current signs that are erected. BPC asked SW to put forward a request to BVHMC for BPC to take over the control of ordering the village hall signs, SW advised that BVHMC have a meeting on Monday 25th February 2019 and he will put this forward. SEM has also gained another quotation from another company for BVHMC information.

BVHMC have approached BPC for further grant funding towards the replacement of the village hall floor, KO advised that a £1,000 offer has been sent from her to Jenny at the BVHMC. **Action** – Clerk to email BVHMC to request more information as to the current position they are in to progress this project such as how much money they have managed to raise so far and what the shortfall is and the expected date for when the project is likely to begin.

10. Cllr Oakes - Highways re: Deadmans Lane/Straight Road junction

KO had requested a mirror for this junction further to a resident email, however, highways advised that they do not erect mirrors so KO has requested highways to come out for a site visit she is awaiting a response. CN advised that there is no give way at this junction, KO will investigate this also.

11. SID – resident letter/contract for MSDC/purchase

Highways are processing BPC request to erect a SID and now just require a letter from residents at Bowl House confirming their approval to a post being erected in close proximity to their house for a SID and also a Memorandum of Understanding completed and signed by BPC. CK filled out and signed the Memorandum - clerk to submit to Highways. KO also advised that for SCC to fund the purchase of the SID a proforma invoice will be required.

Action – CS to hand deliver the approval letter to Bowl House and send back to clerk once complete.

Action – Clerk to contact Radarlux for a proforma invoice for the SID purchase and then forward over to KO.

12. BDCC – grant funding request – email from Julia Stephens-Row

Clerk received a letter from BDCC requesting grant funding for various projects to improve and restore the pavilion, they are currently £1,500 short of their target. A unanimous decision was made

by BPC to grant BDCC £1,300 towards their project. **Action** – Clerk to advise BDCC of decision and add item to the next agenda for payment to hand.

13. Neighbourhood plan

NC advised that Paul Bryant at MSDC has provided so much information that a meeting with him will not be required however the working group are best to have a meeting to move forward with the neighbourhood plan (NP). TN advised that Haughley Parish Council are currently undertaking a NP and she will be able to forward over details. **Action** – NC to arrange a neighbourhood plan meeting with the working group.

14. Village Green/Play Area/electricity supply

CK advised BPC that the application that was put in for the prospective purchase of the village green cannot be transferred to apply for the installation of an electricity supply to the village green so another application cannot be submitted till May. CK will liaise with Lucy Durrant regarding more details for the fete that is to be held at the village green this year.

15. ROSPA inspection – play area

Clerk has received an email from PlaySafety to advise that the ROSPA report is due to be carried out on the play area and they will be in the area in April and can offer a very reduced price for the inspection. A unanimous decision was made by BPC to instruct Playsafety to go ahead with the inspection in April. **Action** – Clerk to instruct PlaySafety as soon as possible for an April inspection.

16. Settlement boundary review Bowl Meadow

This is an ongoing issue with no update at present.

17. Tesco funding

NC advised BPC that she does not have a project in mind at the moment for this funding source, however, other councillors can consider possible areas that need funding.

18. Suffolk School Transport Changes Sept 2019

This was circulated by email, clerk to check if this is uploaded to the website.

19. Historic England Advice for Neighbourhood Plan

This was circulated to councillors and NC will ensure that it is taken to the Neighbourhood Plan meeting once arranged.

20. Spring Litter Pick

Combs Parish have a litter pick on Sunday 10th March and Ringshall 9th March. All councillors agree to arrange a litter pick in Battisford for Sunday 10th March at 10am till 12pm at the village green. **Action** – Clerk to contact the parish clerk for Ringshall to ask if the litter picking equipment can be borrowed from them after their litter pick. CS to enquire as to whether the litter can be sorted at BDCC.

21. Freedom of Information Request

Clerk advised BPC of the Freedom of Information request that had been received and has been liaising with the chairman as to the response. Councillors all agreed to the response and clerk is to reply to the request before the deadline for a response tomorrow.

22. Elections/nomination papers

The email received from MSDC has been forwarded to the current councillors for their information and provides all the paperwork and details for the May elections.

23. Parish clerk email/web provider email

All councillors agreed that with GDPR and data protection the clerk and chairman require an appropriate specific and secure email address and feel this is best achieved with an email provided by SuffolkCloud the website host. **Action** – Clerk to arrange with SuffolkCloud for email addresses for clerk and chairman to be set up.

24. Finance

- a. **Accounts review to date** – Finance spreadsheet was circulated before the meeting. As of 14th January 2019, the current account balance was £18,439.76 and the savings account balance £2,363.75.
- b. **Payments received**
 - i. **Memorial Fee – T/L Janet Jensen - £49.50**
- c. **Payments to hand**
 - i. **S Meech – Clerks Overtime and Expenses - £150.27** - Payment agreed by all councillors. Cheque Number 100 signed and dated by CK and BR. *Local Government Act 1972 s.112 & s.151.*
 - ii. **D Windle – Grass Cutting (Cemetery & Village Green) - £530.80** - Payment agreed by all councillors. Cheque Number 100 signed and dated by CK and BR. *Public Health Act 1875, S.164, Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9-10, 12 & 15.*

25. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 2nd April 2019 at 7pm

It was agreed that an extraordinary meeting is to be arranged for Tuesday 12th March 2019 due to all the planning applications that have been received and require comments to be made.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Appendix 1

Suffolk County Council report February 2019

Suffolk's roads warming to £300,000 thermal patching technology

Suffolk Highways is celebrating road repair success following a £300,000 investment in Nu-phalt Thermal Patching technology.

The investment, which has been funded from the extra £9.67 million received from central government in the autumn, has aided the county's Highways teams to carry out more effective, longer-lasting repairs to Suffolk's road surface.

Over the last month, Suffolk Highways has deployed three thermal road repair machines which have repaired approximately 1,700 potholes county-wide.

The process includes an eight-minute heating cycle of the road surrounding the defect allowing for the existing road surface to be heated to 200 Celsius. The surface is then raked, topped up with bitumen binder and pre-heated material, then compacted. This all takes place within the service's much-favoured 15-minute temporary closure.

The process does not require excavation of the highway, meaning no dust or noise, and better still, no waste material. The result also means there are no surface joints, which can be prone to faster deterioration.

Following its success, Suffolk Highways is now looking to accommodate this technology by adapting some of its own fleet to self-deliver this repair technique from March.

On rural roads, when preparing roads for next summer's surface dressing, the funding will allow for work to clear drains and gullies, cut back hedges, cut grips and clean signs.

Department for Education recognises outstanding performance by Suffolk students

On 24 January 2019, the Department for Education published revised GCSE and A Level results.

GCSE

Suffolk has risen in national league tables for students in the county achieving the standard GCSE pass in English and Maths.

Today's validated figures from the Department for Education confirm that 1% more students in Suffolk are achieving the expected standards in English and Maths at GCSE compared with last year.

Since 2015 there has been a change to the way that English and Maths GCSEs are graded. Results are now graded from 9 to 1, (previously A to G) with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest.

The expected standard for pupils to achieve is now a grade 4 (a standard pass) and above (previously a C grade and above), with grade 5 considered a 'strong pass'. These changes will be phased in to cover all subjects by 2020.

64% of students in Suffolk are now achieving the expected standard in English and Maths, putting Suffolk in the top half of authorities achieving this standard.

GCSE progress remains above average and Suffolk students have seen a steep increase this year with a Progress 8 score of +0.08, compared with -0.02 nationally. This figure puts Suffolk in the number 1 position in our statistical neighbour group.

Progress 8 measures how well pupils of all abilities have progressed by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country. Suffolk is in the top half of authorities for this figure, ranked 42nd out of 151.

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils in the county achieving the standard pass in English and Maths is in line with national figures. The Progress 8 figure for disadvantaged pupils is also above the national level and is in the top half of authorities, ranked 42nd out of 151 (up from 67th in 2016).

A Level

The validated A Level figures confirm that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A*- E grades remaining above the national average figures.

The figures show that 98.1% of A Levels taken in the county have been awarded an A*-E grade, compared to 97.6% nationally. A Level attainment is measured by the Department for Education using a points system. Points are given based on the type of A Level and the grade achieved. For example, an A Level at grade A is worth 50 points, whereas an AS Level would be worth half of this.

Suffolk's A Level average points per entry this year has risen by 0.3 to 30.3 compared with this time last year.

10,000 Suffolk homes say 'no' to cold callers on their doorsteps

Suffolk Trading Standards recently gave out its 10,000th No Cold Calling sticker, just four years after launching the campaign.

The stickers are placed on a homeowner's front door to declare that the resident does not want uninvited traders to call at their property.

The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, state that traders who approach a resident after having seen the sticker, are committing an offence.

Further details on No Cold Calling zones and how to get a No Cold Calling sticker can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk.