



BATTISFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE BATTISFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY TUESDAY 30th JULY 2019 AT 7.30 PM IN THE PARISH ROOM, BATTISFORD

Present:

Cllr N Cleaver (Chairman)
Cllr T Aspinall (Vice Chairman)
Cllr P Lambotte
Cllr C Nicholas
Cllr D Wicking
Cllr S Zethraeus

C/Cllr Kay Oakes

and four members of the public

In attendance: Nicola Glading CiLCA, clerk to Battisford Parish Council

79. RECORDING OF MEETING

Clerk to record for minutes

80. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- a) Apologies were received from D/Cllr D Pratt and Cllr J Pope
- b) Council consented to accept the apologies received

81. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

In terms of the Consultation discussions as the Proper officer for Battisford, the clerk has the ability to grant dispensations and it was granted for all members as the probability is that they will be near or be related to somebody that has a site allocated in the Local Plan. This allows all councillors to remain in the meeting and falls under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 (2a). See reference Appendix 1.

82. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) A resident will speak at item 8 (car sales at The Lodge) as previously notified.
- b) The Chair allowed a resident to address the Council about the recent crime levels in Battisford. A transcript is attached at Appendix 2. It was noted that there was no longer a police presence due to lack of funding, and the local officer does not attend Parish Council meetings. The Suffolk Police website does provide information, but it is two months out of date. The `Battisford Nextdoor` website shares local information and could provide a mechanism for warning residents of suspicious behaviour. Setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme is thought to be overly bureaucratic and complicated. Local residents are meeting on Wednesday evening to discuss a way forward, possibly the formation of a local action group.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Cleaver will collate information on the recent spate of crimes in the village in order to write to make the Police aware of the escalating crime in the village and ask for a meeting with the lead SNT officer. The clerk has invited the delegated PCSO to attend the September meeting.

It was confirmed by the clerk that notices of ordinary Parish Council meetings must be displayed 3 working days prior to a meeting.

It was unanimously **AGREED** to pay £20 for hire of the Parish Room. The Village Hall is being refurbished.

83. UPDATES FROM COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- a) An update was received from County Councillor Kay Oakes, see Appendix 3. Plug in Suffolk was launched earlier this year: the aim is to install 400 EV charging points across the County. Drivers park, charge and pay using contactless payment. Clerk to progress an application for Battisford. (www.pluginsuffolk.org)
The trial scheme to tackle potholes has been successful and will be rolled out across Suffolk. Site visit for engineer Straight Road/ Deadman's Lane and Church Road/ Valley Road Tuesday 6th August 9.30am, Chair to attend meeting with Justin at junction of Straight Road/ Deadman's Lane.
- b) District Councillor D. Pratt Cllr Pratt had sent his apologies: a report had been circulated by email, see Appendix 4.

84. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS held on 18th June and 25th June 2019

- a) The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th June 2019 were unanimously **AGREED** and the Chair authorised to sign as a true record.
- b) The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th June 2019 were unanimously **AGREED** and the Chair authorised to sign as a true record.

85. MATTERS RELATING TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR BATTISFORD

- a) No planning applications had been received
- b) The Appeals/ Decisions as advised by Mid Suffolk District Council Planning Dept were **NOTED**:
 - (i) **DC/19/01952** Permission refused- date registered: 20-Apr-19 Proposal & Location of Development: Application for Outline Planning Permission (some matters reserved) - Erection of detached dwelling, garage and new vehicular access. Land Adjacent 2 Rosemary Cottages , Church Road, Battisford, IP14 2HF (Permission refused).
 - (ii) **DC/19/02271** Permission granted - date registered: 13-May-19 Proposal & Location of Development: Householder Planning Application - Erection of 3 bay garage building and extension of existing driveway. Lower Manor Farmhouse, Valley Road, Battisford, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 2HW (Permission granted).
- c) The letter from Battisford Parish Council to Mid Suffolk District Council Development Control Committee re. DC/19/00174 Welhams Meadow, Church Road, Battisford, Suffolk was **NOTED**.

86. MATTER RELATED TO CAR SALES AT THE LODGE

- a) A member of the public spoke to this. He is concerned that the garden of a private house, The Lodge, was being used as a car sales area. This was **NOTED** and the Councillors concluded that this may incur the business rate of Council Tax.
- b) A further concern was **NOTED** that taxis are often parked along the road causing a road traffic hazard. The Parish Council does have the power to impose Fixed Penalty Notices. Litter is becoming a problem despite the annual litter pick.

87. MATTERS RELATED TO THE VILLAGE GREEN GATES and ROAD CLOSURES

- a) Cllr Nicholas took this item. The numbers on the locks of the gates to the Village Green should be made known to Councillors; this had caused an issue on the day of the Fete. Councillors now have been informed of the number sequence.
- b) Road closures are projected for the next two weeks which means that the bus service will be stopped, although it is believed the scheduling has changed and the roads are open. Agricultural vehicles are allowed through. It is unfortunate that a traffic light system cannot be used, as in the original case.

88. MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEMETERY

- a) Cemetery seat is rotten and in need of urgent repair. Clerk to investigate replacing with recycled plastic which require little maintenance and are durable, compare with traditional design costs. Plaque to be retained. Cllr Lambotte will assist with measurements and transport.
- b) Rights of Exclusive Burial restricted to local people - it was thought that this is written into the current cemetery regulations, Clerk to investigate current policy as councillors thought that this was already written into a Policy. A programme of BPC policy review will take place over the next six months and the newly approved policies put onto the website.
- c) There had been a complaint about the state of the cemetery. An overview of the Cemetery grass cutting etc. is delegated to the clerk. It was **AGREED** that the untidy `old` graves should be trimmed and front part of the newly added area could be left to create designated wildflower/ wildlife areas, and the hedges trimmed back. David Wyndell to be approached to quote for the work.

Charges were discussed and it was **AGREED** that these should remain the same.

89. CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

- a) **Rights of Way Improvement Plan:** The response to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (as previously circulated by email) was discussed. This appears to be common sense. Cllr Pope to be asked if she is willing to act as BPC footpath warden and report back to the parish council if there are any problems such as overhanging trees.
- b) **Town and Parish Council Survey:** The Town and Parish Council Survey (as previously circulated by email) was discussed. Councillors to fill in the questionnaire individually if they so desire.
- c) **Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Consultation:** The response to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (as previously circulated by email) was discussed. Two members of the Council to attend the 7pm - 8.30pm information session at Stowmarket, on 6th August. It was **AGREED** that Cllrs Lambotte and Wicking should attend.

It was **NOTED** that Cllr Aspinall had attended the Mill Mount field enquiry (Notes are attached at Appendix 5) Approximately 50 members of the public had attended each day, despite the very warm weather conditions. Noted that the District Council have not produced up to date information.

90. BUS SERVICE

- a) The cessation of the local bus service, as previously advised by email, was discussed. Cllr Oakes had been advised that this did not affect Battisford: Clerk to forward the email.

91. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW/ SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY (PAPER F)

- a) The District Council has been informed of the Parish Council intention to recommence the community governance review as previously requested.

92. BATTISFORD S106 FUNDS (PAPERS at G)

- a) The purchase of two outdoor ping pong tables using s106 money was discussed: however, not all councillors have received the email describing the Playcrete details, Clerk to send to Cllr Lambotte

93. CLERKS REPORT (on the night)

- a) To receive the Clerks report and in particular:
 - (i) Actions under delegated powers: none
 - (ii) Update on the purchase and deployment of the speed monitor: the clerk had collated reports from other parishes that had purchased Westcotec SIDs and the overall impression was encouraging. Cllr Lambotte will visit the Westcotec premises in Dereham and report back, should the fact finding prove positive, it was **AGREED** in principle that the device should be ordered.
 - (iii) Update on the purchase of the wall mounted sign at the Village Hall: Clerk to order without the anti vandal coating. Clerk
 - (iv) Update on the work at the playground mound slide. The clerk reported that the slide would have to be closed off for several weeks to allow the new grass to grow through. It is thought that the current situation is a result of the grass seeds being worn away when the project was first completed. Clerk to investigate rubber covering/ wet pour
 - (v) Repair to pirate ship slide / warranty: it was **AGREED** to ask Mr J Pope to effect a repair Clerk to ask Mr Pope
 - (vi) Provision of a car charging point: this was covered at minute 83.
 - (vii) Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Nextdoor.co.uk and contact with Suffolk Police had been covered at minute 82.
 - (viii) Planning training to take place prior to next meeting at 7pm. Clerk to arrange
 - (ix) The update on the method of Agenda and Minutes delivery was **NOTED (PAPER I)**
 - (x) Lightweight laptops for Parish Councillors: Clerk to purchase three laptops from PC World, with cases, as described. **(PAPER J)**
 - (xi) Councillors thanked Mr Jonathan Pope for his efficient and knowledgeable repair of the Birds Nest swing

94. FINANCE/ AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

(i) Finance

- a) The itemised expenditure/ invoices for payment listed at Appendix 2 were unanimously **APPROVED** and signatories authorised to sign the same to sign the same

- b) The itemised expenditure/ invoices for payment listed at Appendix 3 were unanimously **APPROVED** and signatories authorised to sign the same to sign the same, apart from the £104.78 MSDC payment for election recharge, councillors are convinced that this has not been paid in the past and clerk asked to query this payment demand.
- c) It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to pay £20 to Battsford Church for hire of Parish Rooms.

95. CO-OPTION POLICY (PAPER K)

- a) The Battsford Parish Council Co-option Policy was unanimously **AGREED**

96. GDPR IMPLEMENTATION: Presentation by Clerk on Beaches

This was deferred until another meeting.

97. CHAIRS ITINERARY and REPORTS

- a) Chairs report: Both the Chair and Cllr Lambotte are to attend training courses at SALC, Clerk to organise.
- b) Councillors reports: Cllr Nicholas advised that the defibrillator at the Cricket Club is inactive and needs new pads and a new battery. Cllr Cleaver will advise the Cricket Club Secretary.

98. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

It was **NOTED** that there had been issues with dog mess and litter. BPC to look at the potential imposition of Fixed Penalty Notices.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Appendix 1

Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 33 Dispensations from section 31(4)

(1) A relevant authority may, on a written request made to the proper officer of the authority by a member or co-opted member of the authority, grant a dispensation relieving the member or co-opted member from either or both of the restrictions in section 31(4) in cases described in the dispensation.

(2) A relevant authority may grant a dispensation under this section only if, after having had regard to all relevant circumstances, the authority-

(a) considers that without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business,

(b) considers that without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the body transacting any particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business,

(c) considers that granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area,

(d) if it is an authority to which Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000 applies and is operating executive arrangements, considers that without the dispensation each member of the authority's executive would be prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business to be transacted by the authority's executive, or

(e) considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

(3) A dispensation under this section must specify the period for which it has effect, and the period specified may not exceed four years.

(4) Section 31(4) does not apply in relation to anything done for the purpose of deciding whether to grant a dispensation under this section

Appendix 2

<u>Item</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mid Suffolk District Council invoice for litter and dog bin emptying	Mid Suffolk District Council	16 th July 2019	£324.00
Fete 2019 Expenditure BPC signs for the fete Leaflet printing fete	Cllr P Lambotte Cllr N Cleaver	6 th July 2019	£ 41.00 £ 21.00

Appendix 3

(Payments on the night)

Clerk employment costs April, May, June as SALC payslip	£966.42	
SALC Internal Audit charge	£270.00	
MSDC Election re-charges	£104.78	NOT PAID PENDING QUERY
Stationery, postages £8.92 clerk's expenses April, May, June £54.00	£62.92	
Battisford Church	£20.00	