

Draft until signed

**Minutes of Battisford Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 21st February 2017 at 7.30pm, Battisford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battisford**

Present: C Knock (Chairman), B Rhodes (Vice Chairman), N Cleaver (Councillor), C Nicholas (Councillor), S Zethraeus (Councillor), T Aspinall (Councillor), C Skinner (Councillor), J Truelove (County Councillor)

Attending: S Meech (Clerk), J Budd (Public), T Durrant (Public), A Burgoyne (Public)

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Whybrow

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Knock – Item 8 (Chairman’s Report) & Item 9 b) i) Planning – Welham Meadow – Declaration of interest book is signed and dated by Cllr Knock

3. Public Forum

Cllr Skinner provides Battisford Parish Council with a letter from a concerned resident regarding the excess straw that is falling from lorries being transported from Sloe Farm in Battisford and especially how the straw is leading to blocked drains and flooding. Photographic evidence is also included with the resident’s letter. Cllr Truelove advises Battisford Parish Council that she is aware of this issue and can advise that a report has been made to the Highways Department at Suffolk County Council prior to Combs Parish Councils meeting last week.

Action – Clerk to produce a letter to be sent to the Chaplin’s Farm to highlight the residents’ concerns and to request a response for feedback to residents and also their suggestion for rectifying this issue. A letter is also to be forwarded to Cllr Truelove for Phillip Wright at Highways to highlight that this is an issue raised by Battisford Parish Council as well as Combs Parish Council.

T Durrant is in attendance to discuss the village green in Battisford and whether there are any plans to tidy up the area before Spring arrives before the end of April, he advises that hedges require trimming and areas such as the wildlife area are becoming overgrown. T Durrant advises that he is happy to create a working party, however, he would require guidelines from the parish council, Cllr Knock advises in order to do this he would like to see a plan of intended work. The work will predominately be coppicing of hedges and some tree removal. Cllr Knock asks Battisford Parish Council how they feel about the works. Cllr Zethraeus feels that surely this will improve the area, Cllr Skinner agrees it will be beneficial and Cllr Nicholas states that it will become a more secure area if the visibility is improved by the works. T Durrant is happy to deposit the cuttings that are created, however, this would be a rainy-day job so he asked Battisford Parish Council if they are happy for him to pile them on the car park, Battisford Parish Council are happy for this.

Action - Clerk to produce a laminated poster for the village green and noticeboard asking for volunteers to help on Sunday mornings from 9.30-10am through February and March. Cllr Zethraeus to also contact the Gardening Club to see if they have any volunteer helpers.

T Durrant tells Battisford Parish Council that a mole has become resident within the village green, Battisford Parish Council advise that they will need to take action and arrange for the mole to be removed.

Action – Clerk to contact Command Pest Control for the cost and how to arrange the removal.

T Durrant also advises Battisford Parish Council that two new oak trees that have been planted are very close to other oak trees, however, T Durrant feels they are too big to move now. Cllr Knock will visit the area and decide on action to be taken. Cllr Knock will also chase up the welding that should have been carried out to the gate.

Cllr Knock thanks on behalf of Battisford Parish Council, T Durrant and L Durrant for all the hard work that they have carried out at the village green and play area.

4. Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2017

Signed as true and accurate copy of the meeting.

5. Matters arising from minutes

J Budd enquires as to whether Battisford Parish Council have heard back from the fire service regarding the checking of fire hydrants in the parish. Clerk advises J Budd that a response was received advising that they have been checked in 2014.

6. County Councillors Report

See Appendix 1

Cllr Truelove advises Cllr Nicholas that following his concerns over the closure of Straight Road without notice, Highways at Suffolk County Council have advised that they had to close the road without notice to fix some potholes on the edge of the highway and the closure would have been limited to a maximum of 25 minutes without notice.

Cllr Truelove also advises that she has had to be in contact with trading standards due to a blue and white van selling fish within the local area. There are many concerns including the fish not being refrigerated, underweight and overpriced. Cllr Truelove would appreciate any details from individuals whom may have purchased fish from this van and advises that if a person or business is unknown then they should be avoided.

7. District Councillors Report

See Appendix 2

8. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Cllr Knock advises Battisford Parish Council that the complaint letter received regarding the shooting of geese within the parish has now been dealt with and the complainant appears satisfied with the parish council's responses. All councillors agree that they are happy with how the complaint was dealt with and the outcome reached.

9. Planning

a. Application received for consideration

- i. 0230/17 – Bray Cottage, Bowl Corner, Battisford, IP14 2LH – Erection of single storey front extension – All councillors agree no comments to be made for this application

b. Decisions received from MSDC

- i. 3855/16 – Welhams Meadow, Church Road, Battisford IP14 2HF – Use of land for stationing 6 holiday caravans. Installation of septic tank – Application withdrawn by applicant

10. Finance

- a. **Accounts review to date** – Community Account balance as of 14th February 2017, is £12,942.64 and Premium Account balance as of 15th December 2016, is £2,358.62
- b. **Payments received**
 - i. BVHMC – Santa’s Float Donation – Defibs - £673.70
- c. **Payments to hand**
 - i. Re-issue of lost cheque to Graham Card – Carnival Expenses - £163.67 - All councillors agree payment – Cheque Number 100909 written and signed.
 - ii. SALC – Councillor Training for Cllr Aspinall - £132.00 - All councillors agree payment – Cheque Number 100910 written and signed.
 - iii. S Meech – Overtime and Expenses - £35.36 - All councillors agree payment – Cheque Number 100911 written and signed

11. Noticeboard cheque drawn at last meeting – permission sought

Clerk advises Battisford Parish Council that before the noticeboard at St Marys church can be purchased and erected permission must be sought from the Diocese. Size of the noticeboard we have agreed to purchase has been forwarded to the Diocese for a decision to be made. Cheque Number 100908 that was raised at the last meeting is destroyed and disposed of and another cheque will be drawn up once permission is received.

12. Clerks change of circumstances

Clerk advises Battisford Parish Council that at the end of March she will be relocating to Cambridgeshire, clerk is happy to continue her role as Parish Clerk from her new location. All councillors are in agreement for clerk to continue her role from her new location.

13. Financial Regulation review

Clerk has forwarded an up to date model financial regulations from SALC to all councillors before the meeting for their review. All councillors agree that the regulations need updating and after review they are all happy to proceed with the model. Cllr Knock as chairman signs and dates the up to date financial regulations.

14. Standing order review

Clerk has forwarded an up to date standing order model from SALC to all councillors before the meeting for their review, the document includes relevant text in red that can be amended as relevant to suit individual councils. Cllr Knock goes through the document page by page and relevant amendments are made to the red text, document is then signed and dated by Cllr Knock as chairman.

15. Minibus – see email from Red Gables

An email was received by the clerk from Red Gables in Stowmarket regarding the hire of a minibus from them for community use and forwarded to all councillors prior to the meeting.

Action – Cllr Cleaver is to investigate this service further

16. Women on Wheels – refreshments for Sunday 9th July 2017

Clerk has received an email from the Women on Wheels charity asking if Battsford Parish Council would be happy to host a refreshment stop again for them this year. Cllr Cleaver advises that she would be happy to do this again on Sunday 9th July 2017.

Action – Clerk to reply to email to advise that we are happy to host again and also send an email to Luke Rainbird at the Punchbowl pub to confirm he is happy for us to host this again at the Punchbowl.

17. Definitive Footpath Maps

Cllr Knock advises that David Wilson has been investigating definitive maps for Battsford in the hope that they would tell him where the footpaths are within the parish. However, Cllr Knock has checked the definitive maps and although they are electronic they are unfortunately not up to date. David Wilson would like a map to show circular walks in Battsford and is happy to produce a map and contact landowners in the parish for help with this. Cllr Knock asks Battsford Parish Council if they are happy for David Wilson to carry this out, all councillors are happy and think it is a great idea.

18. Mobile Post Office – letter from Royal Mail

Clerk advises Battsford Parish Council that she has received a letter from the Royal Mail regarding her query for a mobile post office service in Battsford and they have advised that as there is already a post office within half a mile of the village it is not a service they could offer. Cllr Knock advises that the Punchbowl had already considered having some services available there.

Action – Cllr Cleaver is to liaise with the Punchbowl and Royal Mail to investigate what options are available.

19. Battsford Cemetery Plans

Clerk informs Battsford Parish Council that she attended the cemetery recently to meet with the gravedigger to discuss where he had to dig plots and unfortunately the cemetery plan that we have is very dated and requires updating. Battsford Parish Council recognise that the plans do require updating and A Burgoyne is happy to carry out the update and draw up some up to date plans if clerk can provide him with the current plans. Cllr Knock explains that the cemetery is active and therefore our responsibility and the all-weather surface needs some improvements which would have to be considered to be carried out in the Summer. It is agreed that Battsford Parish Council could meet at the cemetery for the June 2017 meeting.

20. New dog waste bin – Straight Road

The new dog waste bin has now been erected on a post just up from the Punchbowl on the Straight Road.

21. Defibrillator's fitting progress

Cllr Skinner advises that the defibrillator is now fitted at the other telephone kiosk outside Woodvale on Straight Road and just a few final bits need sorting which he will advise clerk of once completed so that she can arrange for the defibrillator to be commissioned.

Action - Cllr Knock will ask local residents to the telephone kiosk if they are happy to carry out the regular checks on the defibrillator.

Action - Cllr Skinner is to arrange the fitting of the final defibrillator at Battsford and District Cricket Club on Moats Tye.

22. Better Broadband

J Budd queries as to why Combs are now able to receive fibre optic broadband and Battsford are still unable to. Cllr Knock advises that hopefully B Skinner will be able to attend with an update soon.

23. Wonderleir

This item is to be added to the next agenda as Cllr Whybrow is not in attendance.

Action – Clerk to email Cllr Whybrow to advise that it will be added to the next agenda for an update.

24. Housing Needs Survey Report

Cllr Knock advises that there is a White Paper coming out in April which could have significant changes to a report being produced as the expert is likely to reference this and the report could be more cost effective. It is felt that the results need to be available for parishioners.

Action – PDF of results from MSDC of questionnaire that clerk input is to be uploaded onto the parish website and also something placed in the village noticeboards.

25. Correspondence

Cllr Knock opens discussion for Battsford Parish Council to consider the need for a speed indicator device for the village and it is agreed by the council to apply to Cllr Truelove for a grant from her locality budget towards this.

Action – Clerk to send a letter to Cllr Truelove requesting funds from her locality budget towards a Speed Indicator Device.

Meeting closed at 9:42pm

BOSMERE DIVISION REPORT FEBRUARY 2017

County Councillor Julia Truelove

Budget Proposals 2017/18

The Budget proposals for 2017/18 will be debated at Full Council on February 8th 2017.

- a) Whilst having regard to savings of £31.3M, there is a budget requirement of £436,355,298 to be made.
- b) A freeze in general council tax for 2017/18 so that the Band D council tax for County Services remains at £1,126.53.
- c) An increase in the Social Care Precept that was ring-fenced to help fund Adult Social Care. This increase was equivalent to 3% of the total Band D council tax. Therefore the 2017/18 Band D Social Care Precept would be £56.97.
- d) A council tax requirement/total precept on the collection funds of District and Borough Councils of £289,151,087 which includes the precept to fund Adult Social Care of £13,918,832.
- e) A capital programme for 2017/18 totalling £97.7M.

Sizewell C Proposals – Joint Response – S.C.C. & Suffolk Coastal

Each of the two authorities held a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 31 January to discuss the joint report amongst elected members that offers a full response to current plans as part of the long awaited Stage 2 consultation, ahead of any potential development of a new nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast. The Cabinet report will be forwarded to EDF Energy before the consultation ends on Friday 3 February 2017 alongside the views of many local community groups and individuals who have taken time to offer important feedback on this subject.

The response makes it clear that both authorities support the principle of a new nuclear power station and recognise the benefits for the local economy; including jobs, skills and business. However, at this point there is a lot more work required on the part of EDF Energy to provide much greater detail and demonstrate how they plan to mitigate many of the significant concerns.

Particular aspects of the feedback offered by the authorities focus on the challenges of accommodation, construction, transport, environment and effect on local communities.

The report confirms that some of the proposals are sound; including the temporary extension of rail links and park and ride bus site. The positive economic outcomes are also welcomed.

In regards to road improvement the councils have made it clear that the preferred option is for the 'SEGway' (the Suffolk Energy Gateway including a 4 village bypass) to be built in time for the development. This means that within EDF Energy's current stage 2 consultation, the option for a two village bypass for Farnham and Stratford St Andrew is the absolute bare minimum mitigation that they must fund. The authorities will strive to deliver a SEGway by seeking government funding to add to what EDF Energy must provide for a two village bypass.

There are a number of areas of EDF Energy's proposals that simply require much more detail.

BOSMERE DIVISION REPORT FEBRUARY 2017

continued

The Chair of Sizewell C Joint Local Authorities Group (JLAG) said: "With this formal response to the consultation I want to make our position very clear. Whilst we understand the need to address the UK's future power needs and we broadly support the principal of a new nuclear power station being built in our community in Suffolk, we are not able to support the specific proposals put forward at this time. We believe that the impacts of the development planned in its current guise are as yet, not fully mitigated or evidenced.

The Cabinet report can be viewed on S.C.C.'s website at:

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/>.

Key Points from the Police and Crime Panel Meeting – 31 January 2017

For your information, in advance of publication of the formal minutes, the following is a note of some key points from the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel meeting, held in Ipswich.

The Panel considered the PCC's proposed Policing Precept for 2017/18, and unanimously supported the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal to increase the precept by 1.972% in 2017/18. Further detail is in the Panel's formal report, available on the [Suffolk County Council website](#).

The Panel questioned the PCC about Cybercrime, and heard details of cybercrime investigations resulting in eight convictions. The PCC is continuing to invest in the cybercrime unit based in Halesworth, and there was investment last year in cyber investigators working within neighbourhood support teams, and PCSOs working with schools. The discussion covered: raising awareness of cybercrime, the expertise available in Suffolk, the vulnerability of young and also older people, the statistic that 80% of cybercrime is avoidable, the need for joined up working and sharing of data, the good working relationship with the Crown Prosecution Service, the global nature of the threat, how the PCC will measure success, and how to get more advice out to the public. The Panel **recommended to the PCC** that there should be a further update to the Panel on cybercrime performance in six months.

Appendix 2

Councillor David Whybrow (Conservative)

Mid Suffolk District Council Member for Ringshall Ward

Report to Battisford Parish Council

Full Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 21st February 2017

Planning (since 9th January 2017 to date of report)

1.1 Validated (awaiting Decision) -

- 1.1.1 Bray Cottage, Bowl Corner, Battisford IP14 2LH
Reference 2301/17
Erection of single storey front extension
Validated 20 Jan 17
Consultation Expiry 24 Feb 17
Target Determination 17 Mar 17

1.2 Decisions –

None in reporting period.

1.3 Permitted Developments –

I'm not aware of any PD's within the parish during the reporting period.

1.4 Other Planning matters -

- Welhams Meadow, Church Road, Battisford IP14 2HF
Reference 3855/16
Use of land for stationing of 6 holiday caravans. Installation of a septic tank . .
Validated 01 Nov 16
Consultation Expiry 05 Dec 16
Target Determination 27 Dec 16
Withdrawn

2.0 Right to Buy revenue reinvested locally

MSDC have recently used RTB receipts to purchase an additional affordable home for rent to local people within the Ringshall Ward. Investments of this kind in our community will help provide excellent accommodation options for those who do not own their own homes and may have to move elsewhere if such opportunities were not available.

3.0 Changes to Garden Waste Collection

Mid Suffolk have carried out a review of their Garden Waste Collection Service. The service has grown over the years they have sometimes struggled on certain days during the summer to complete the rounds on the correct day.

The aim is to continuously improve the service for customers and accordingly have therefore reorganised collection rounds to cope with this extra growth. The affected households should have received a letter last month informing them of the change.

The new collection day in Battisford is Thursday (previously Monday). The changes started from the week commencing Monday 6th February.

4.0 Avian Flue Outbreak

You will have seen media reports of an outbreak of Avian Influenza in Mid Suffolk over the past few days. Suffolk Trading Standards, who are leading the communications response on this, have asked me to share the following briefing on this outbreak.

Briefing –

The UK's Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed H5N8 avian flu at a poultry premises near Redgrave, in the district of Mid Suffolk.

The affected premises are estimated to contain approximately 23,000 birds. A number have died and the remaining live birds at the premises will be humanely culled. A full investigation is under way to determine the source of the infection. A 3km Protection Zone and a 10km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the premises to limit the risk of the disease spreading.

This follows the announcement of an initial 10km Temporary Control Zone around the premises on 13 February after laboratory analysis identified the presence of H5N8. Further investigations into the nature of the virus have now confirmed that it is the same highly pathogenic strain of H5N8 that has been found in wild and farmed birds in the UK since December 2016.

Defra has published [full details of the controls in place](#) and an [interactive map](#). Suffolk Trading Standards are providing regular updates via their social media channels, [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), as well as to all their Consumer Champions via email ([find out how to sign up here](#)).

Starting from Wednesday 15 February, Suffolk Trading Standards commenced working with their colleagues in Norfolk Trading Standards to visit all premises within the 3km zone. All poultry keepers – whether commercial farmers or those with a small backyard flock – are currently required by law to house poultry or otherwise keep them separate from wild birds. This is because a [Prevention Zone](#) is currently in force across the UK. This applies until 28 February 2017.

- [Read the latest advice and information on avian flu in the UK](#), including actions to reduce the risk of the disease spreading, advice for anyone who keeps poultry or captive birds and details of previous cases.
- Detailed [guidance on avian influenza](#) is available on what to do if you keep poultry.
- Members of the public should report dead wild birds - such as swans, geese, ducks, gulls or birds of prey - to the Defra helpline on 03459 33 55 77.

- Public Health England advises the risk to public health from the virus is very low and the Food Standards Agency is clear that bird flu does not pose a food safety risk for UK consumers.

5.0 Public Access and Accommodation Update

Last September both Mid Suffolk and Babergh Councils voted overwhelmingly in favour of a new Public Access Strategy – The All Together project to deliver that strategy is rightly a high priority. At the last Parish Liaison Meeting an explanation of how the Council is moving to fully integrated digital, automated and better services was given. However, the Council is also committed to ensuring face-to-face contact for those who need it: this option will always be available. The Mid Suffolk Customer Access Point will be in Stowmarket at 54 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket. This site will be for face-to-face customer access and for the combined Babergh and Mid Suffolk Call Centre. It is a shared site with Suffolk County Council and the SCC Contact Centre already operates from there.

6.0 Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk update

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk is an independent charity, reliant on local authority grants and donations. Mid Suffolk one of the major providers of financial support. This has enabled them to provide their services to nearly 3,000 clients during 2016 of which 185 were residents from the Ringshall Ward.

In addition to providing this free, confidential and impartial advice to everyone in need on all issues relating to; benefits, debt, employment, consumer rights, legal, relationship and family problems, health and education, they also do the following:

- Organise around 190 food parcels a year for clients and their families, which is one for every day that we are open.
- Provide a Family Law Advice Clinic every month which provides clients with free half hour sessions with a solicitor to assess family law problems and the options available to them.
- Home visits for benefit clients that have difficulties leaving their homes.
- Employment & Benefit Tribunal Representation with our Specialists.
- Mid Suffolk District Council Tenants have a dedicated team of money advisers to help them.
- Run a Multiple Sclerosis project, for families affected by MS .

7.0 Parish Boundary Review 2009 and Council Tax collection.

As before - I have not advanced the outstanding issue regarding potential error in Council Tax invoicing and appropriation post the 2009 civic boundary changes relating to properties on, or off, Stoke Farm Drive since the last meeting – hopefully this can be resolved in time for 2017/18 billing and then the historic errors that may have accrued can be addressed.

8.0 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.

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