******B****ATTISFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

<http://www.battisford-pc.gov.uk>

**clerk@battisford-pc.gov.uk**

**MINUTES of BATTISFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held at Battisford Village Hall on 21st January 2025**

**Present:**

Cllr J Cook (Chairman) Cllr J Pope Cllr J Wilson (Vice Chair) Cllr Durrant

District Cllr D.Pratt

Clerk: Julia Stephens-Row

Resident: Andy Prentice

**Apologies:** County Cllr K Oakes and Cllr Card and Cllr S Greenwood (received after the meeting)

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| **2025/01**  a.  b.  c.  **2025/02**  a.  b. | **MEETING ADMINISTRATION**  Meeting opened by the Chair and it was established that no recordings were to be made.  To consider & Approve Apologies for absence.  Apologies were accepted from County Cllr Oakes and Cllr Card.  Cllr Greenwood received after the meeting.  To receive Declarations of interest on agenda items  Declarations of Interest on agenda item 2025/08 – from Cllr Pope in respect of Mallard Cottage Mill Road and Cllr Durrant in respect of land east of Hascott Hill .  **To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 19th November 2024 and for the Chair to sign as a true record.**  Slight amendment in relation to item 2024/94 arising from the minutes of 22nd October.  Minutes agreed proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Pope  The chair to sign in due course  Matters arising not on the agenda. The chair advised that he had attended a meeting regarding the Community Newsletter where he expressed the council’s support for Combs parish council taking the lead regarding production and editing of the newsletter. It is hoped that there will be an increase in advertising revenue. He asked for a representative to be part of the editorial group going forward and it was agreed that Cllr Durrant would represent the council.  Cllr Cook advised that he has now taken on the role of tree warden and will update in due course  Cllr Cook and Cllr Oakes still to discuss the information needed to install white gates by the 30MPH limit signs  There were no other matters arising. | **ACTION**  Cllr Cook  Cllr Durrant  Cllr Cook, County Cllr Oakes |
| **2025/03**  a.  b.  c. | **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - For members of the public, County Councillors & District Councillors to speak.**  Public invited to speak – Mr Prentice was invited to speak to 2025/06a: possibility of 20mph speed limit to be introduced. Mr Prentice expressed his concern about the narrow roads in the parish and the overgrown footpaths in other parishes which makes walking quite unsafe at times. He advised that car insurance could reduce if you live in a 20mph area. He also referred to the 20 mph in Wales and the impact of injury on a pedestrian being much less the slower the speed of an accident. He gave examples of other villages in the area operating a 20mph speed limit eg Bildeston. Reference was made by Cllrs to the information of speeding on the SID device, the increase in traffic when the Barking Road was closed recently and that there had been no real impact of the quiet lane in reducing speeding. There was a comment made that even if a 20mph was introduced that it wouldn’t be conformed to. Mr Prentice advised that the change in the Highway Code in relation to distances that cars should be from pedestrians and cyclists doesn’t seem to be understood. It was suggested that the Community magazine could include an article on this information. A proposal was made that anywhere that is currently 30mph where there is no footpath should be made 20mph. It was considered that more information would be helpful from the County Councillor as to what the next steps could be.  Cllr Pope proposed that the council should investigate further and Cllr Kerry seconded. It was **AGREED** by unanimous vote to accept the proposal. Cllr Cook to liaise with County Cllr Oakes.  To receive Suffolk County Council monthly report from Cty Cllr K Oakes  Cllr Oakes had provided a report by email.There were no questions  To receive District Council monthly report from Dst Cllr D Pratt –  Dst Cllr Pratt spoke and added to the November report, that all residents in Bowl Meadow should have received a letter from the contractor advising them that necessary work to comply with Planning Conditions was being undertaken this week.  He explained that he had been involved in discussions regarding work to be undertaken at Battisford Hall to discuss the development issues on the plot and how to minimise the impact.  He also gave some more information with regards to devolution including the potential impact and timescales, more will be known by end of January. | **ACTION**  Cllr Cook |
| **2025/04**  a.  b.  c. | **Chair and Councillor Reports / Updates** (on the night not requiring a decision)  Chairman’s report – Cllr Cook reported that he was going to be attending a hedge laying course. He has undertaken some work around the pond and has been checking trees on the village play area.  The handover to the new clerk had been the focus of his time over the last month. He is in the process of resolving the administrative changes which need to be made to the bank account to enable access by the Clerk.  Councillor report(s) –  Cllr Pope reminded the meeting that cleaning work was required on the Village Green play equipment and offered to liaise with Mr Wicking to identify a date.  Cllr Wilson advised that the notice boards had been tidied up. One hadn’t been closed properly which meant some information had blown away and been damaged.  Cllrs Kerry and Durrant had no reports.  Clerk report –  The Clerk gave a verbal update and advised that she was attending an electronic briefing organised by Mid Suffolk District Council on devolution and the planning framework and would update Cllrs afterwards | **ACTION**  Cllr Cook  Cllr Pope  Clerk |
| **2025/05**  a. | **Administration and Governance**  VE Day celebrations  As Cllr Card was not at the meeting this item was deferred to the next agenda | **ACTION**  Cllr Card |
| **2025/06**  a.  b.  c.  d.  e.  f. | **ENVIRONMENTAL/ FACILITY / ASSET MATTERS**  To discuss update the possibility of introducing 20mph limit  This has been discussed under item 2025/03  To discuss new date for topple tests and Cemetery Working Party  Cllr Card had suggested a range of dates and it was agreed that this working party would take place on 10th February 10am -12noon.  To discuss Cemetery Gates  Deferred to the next Agenda. Three quotes are required. The one received may now be out of date.  To discuss the Woodland Plan: Cllr Cook  Deferred to the next Agenda.  Bowl Meadow Maintenance (discussed at previous meeting)  Cllr Kerry to request the contractor to look at the Ash tree as suffering with ash die back. Concern was expressed that vehicles are driving over the pavement which goes across the ditch to access the road. There is no lighting. It is believed that DAB construction company still own the land. Cllr Cook to discuss with Punch Bowl directors and check planning agreement.  Annual Playground Report  No report been received.  The Clerk had followed this up with Mid Suffolk however no reply been received. District Cllr Pratt offered to follow this up. Clerk to send details and also examine sent items as Cllr Cook and Cllr Wilson recalled requesting an inspection be undertaken.  Request has been made to purchase a padlock to replace the one that had been broken on the outer gate of the play area. Agreed a cost of up to £100. Clerk to liaise with resident. | **ACTION**  Clerk to liaise with Cllr Card  Clerk to liaise with Cllr Card  Cllr Cook  Cllr Kerry  Cllr Cook  Clerk  Clerk |
| 2025/07  a.  b.  c. | **FINANCE**  To agree the parish council precept  Cllr Cook introduced this item and shared what the position was for the financial year 2024/25. He explained that the Office for National Statistics advised that the average inflation rate was 2.53%. He commented that there was no major expenditure anticipated. However that it might be advisable to think about IT costs in the budget for 2026/27.  He proposed that the precept should be increased by 2.53% which would give a total precept of £14,791 and be an increase on council tax bills in band D of £1.37p.  It was proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Pope that this be **Agreed**. This was supported unanimously.  To discuss and authorise payments of invoices payable in December 2024.     1. SALC payroll administration fee £54.00 2. Clerks expenses of £188.73 3. Grass cutting of £356.40   These were unanimously **AGREED.**  To review the third quarter accounts.  Cllr Cook and Cllr Kerry to meet to prepare these. Deferred to next meeting | **ACTION**  Cllr Cook and Cllr Kerry |
| **2025/08**  a.  b.  c.  d. | **Planning Consultations Received**  DC/24/05247 Mallard Cottage Mill Road Battisford. Annexe for family.  There has been a planning application in the past. It was agreed that the council would be happy to support the application as per the design statement. Cllr Pope abstained  DC/24/05499 Gibbons Farm Hascott Hill Battisford. Cart Lodge  This was supported unanimously  DC/24/05388 Straight Road Battisford. 2 bungalows  The parish council unanimously did not support this application. The previous application was far more in keeping with this part of the village and the potential for low cost housing. There are a number of bungalows for sale in the village which have been on the market for some time. There was also concern as to the amount of car parking spaces for the 2x 3 bedroom properties  DC/24/05573 Land East of Hascott Hill Battisford. Exercise area for dogs  The parish council make no comment on the substantive application however have concerns as to access for the number of car parking spaces and access to what can be a very fast part of the road. Cllr Durrant abstained | **ACTION** |
| **2025/09** | **Items for next Agenda**  Deferred items from today’s meeting. Depreciation model for assets. Authorisation of invoices from January 2025. | **ACTION**  Clerk |

Planning Link: <https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Meeting closed at approximately 8.53pm