

Draft until signed

**Minutes of Battsford Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 30th June 2015 at 7.30pm, Battsford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battsford**

Present: C Knock (Chairman), B Rhodes (Vice Chairman), C Skinner (Councillor), J Olley (Councillor), C Nicholas (Councillor), S Zethraeus (Councillor), A Hand (Councillor), J Truelove (County Councillor) and D Whybrow (District Councillor)

Attending: S Meech (Clerk), J Chown (Suffolk County Council for item 4), P Ingram (Broadband for item 4), I Tippett (Mid Suffolk/Babergh District Council for item 5), S Osbourne (Community Action Suffolk for item 5), J Pope (for item 6), J Budd (Public), J Myers (Public), D Wicking (Public), B Skinner (Public), C Brown (Public), S Lewsey (Public), S Winter (Public), S Winter (Public), J Pope (Public), L Durrant (Public), I Bell (Public) and R Brunning (PCSO Suffolk Police for item 7, left at 7.45pm)

1. Apologies

None received

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr J Olley declared an interest in item 15c

Cllr A Hand declared an interest in item 15b

3. Public Forum

4. Jonathan Chown from Suffolk County Council – Broadband

Peter Ingram was attending with Jonathan Chown for broadband discussion. On 31st October 2014 a contract was signed to address the lack of broadband locally. A second contract is currently being drawn up with planning due to be finished in the autumn 2015. The planning process is looking into the maximum and best coverage and will consider all current wiring. A variety of structures and technology are to be fitted, with various physical locations being investigated in order to provide optimum performance. New cabinets are to be installed which current exchange only lines will be served from, fibre will come from the cabinet to remote nodes and then on to distribution points. The plan is for 99% of properties in Battsford to be covered with the new cabinets. Communication will occur between BT and the remaining 1% that are not served to find a solution. The existing ducting work is being test rodded this week as part of the planning contract for this year with plans to start building from July onwards. The hope is that the first customers benefiting from better broadband will occur around the end of December 2015 and the hope is that everyone in Battsford is served by the end of 2016. Peter Ingram shows a map for potential sites of locations of new cabinets. Peter Ingram advises that expected broadband speed is dependent on how close the residence is to the cabinet with the closest person expecting to have 80mbps download and 20mbps upload. The further away a residence is from the cabinet the lower speed they will expect. Aim is to get everyone in Suffolk to at least 15 mbps. The top retail package from broadband suppliers requires you have 15mbps or higher, which is why this is the aim for at least that in the whole of Suffolk. They are trying to get people on to the best speeds that they can. Jonathan Chown and Peter Ingram were invited to come back in November 2015 for a further update on broadband and the second contract.

5. Mid Suffolk District Council – Ian Tippett

Ian Tippett (Strategic Housing Officer for Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council) was joined by Sunila Osbourne (Community Action Suffolk) to explain what a housing survey for Battsiford village would entail and why it would be useful. Cllr Knock (Chairman) explained about a specific site within the village, Bowl Meadow beside Cobbold Close has potential consideration for affordable development and also there is interest in what housing need there is in Battsiford. People eligible for affordable housing is anyone that cannot afford to buy a property on the open market and in Battsiford Ian Tippett advises the average house price is £308,000.00 with most rental houses being above the social rent level also. The council housing register for Battsiford has only a couple of people registered who want social housing rental but it is usually found that because of a shortage of affordable housing more people come forward with need. A housing survey may show a higher level of need than the register indicates. If there is a need next steps involve – identify sites, quite often in villages these will be rural exemption sites (RES) – site abutting settlement boundary or good relationship to existing development if don't have settlement boundary. These sites wouldn't normally be available for any form of development but if a need is proven and all other criteria are acceptable in council planning policy these could be acceptable for affordable homes. A small amount of market homes could also be applied for if the financial viability of scheme requires that and developers would have to prove this to planning. Example of this could be some bungalows being built for elderly residents downsizing.

Sunila Osbourne explained that the housing survey consists of 3 parts. Firstly it will collect generic information such as ages, how many people live there, type of household, if the household knows of any potential sites, if residents are in favour and is there a need for social housing. Secondly the survey will consider if there is anyone in the parish with housing needs by considering areas such as employment, combined salary and types of housing. Thirdly it also looks at who lives in the village with a need for social housing and also if anyone needs or wants to return to the village. Mid Suffolk District Council would work with Battsiford Parish Council to carry out the survey. The survey would have to be hand delivered around the village to all households. A publication date in 3 months' time is appropriate for advising all households when and why the survey is being carried out. Once the survey is completed it would then be returned directly to Community Action Suffolk and not to the parish council. A deadline of two weeks is advised as sufficient time to fill out and return the survey. Two reports would then be drawn up following the survey, firstly an executive summary report that is circulated to all residents in the parish and then secondly a full report would be issued to the parish council, local authority and any potential landowners.

Cllr Knock (Chairman) advised that potential sites (such as Bowl Meadow) would have extra community advantages if they included extras such as a play area and overflow car park for the pub, not just houses. Having a housing survey also provides a chance for villagers and land owners to put suggested sites forward. Cllr Knock (Chairman) put it to the council if they were happy for survey to be carried out, and councillors and members of the public agreed it was a good idea to go ahead with the survey to assess village need.

Action – Item to be included on next agenda for further discussion.

6. Village Green/Playground – Jonathan Pope

Jonathan Pope advises that he went on a ROSPA course and there is some issues that needing addressing regarding safety in the village play area at Battsiford Tye. A few weeks ago a working party was at the village green and work carried out included removing an old slide as it was not fit for purpose, was a poor design and dangerous for small children. Shackles were replaced, renewed hangers on swings, some immediate repairs took place and all fencing was

removed as it was unnecessary, not a requirement and required lots of money to maintain. Some discussions need to occur before more work is carried out at the village green such as what age group is it to be aimed at. Julia has given Jonathan a number for lady at council to assist with raising funds. Jonathan Pope advises that the best way forward is for a committee to be set up to discuss needs and also to assist in fundraising and grants for the play area. A committee should ideally be made up of residents who care for young children. A new slide is the first thing to be replaced which involves a cost of £1,500. A committee must be set up before applying for grants and fundraising. Cllr Hand suggests the slide should be replaced with Battsford Parish Council paying extra towards money that Mr D Williams has already raised for the play area. Cllr Knock (Chairman) proposes that Battsford Parish Council match Mr D Williams's contribution of £500 and all councillors agree with the extra £300 to be raised by the newly created village green committee. It is also discussed that a letter should be written to Combs Parish Council to see if they would be happy to contribute the same amount of money towards the play area as many residents from Combs benefit from the play area.

ACTION – Letter to be drafted to Combs Parish Council re: contribution to improvements to play area.

It was also raised that the latch on the gate at the village green on Straight Road is not strong enough.

ACTION – Jonathan Pope has offered to look into fitting a stronger latch to ensure it is safe.

7. Community Police Officer's Report

Report circulated in PCSO absence.

8. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Nothing raised

9. County Councillor's Report

Report circulated, no matters raised

10. District Councillor's Report

Report circulated, no matters raised

11. Parishioners questions, suggestions and comments

None raised unless within specific sections of agenda

12. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2015

Agreed and signed as a true and accurate copy of the meeting.

13. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters raised.

14. Cllr Zethraeus – SALC feedback

Some local villages have raised money to pay for a police officer on the beat in their village. Tim Passmore is the direct contact for speeding through the village. Shona at SALC has advised for Battsford Parish Council to contact her if the village is not happy with the outcome from BT regarding broadband.

15. Planning

a) Applications received for consideration

- i. 3021/13 – Land, Burnt House Lane – Livery Yard – To extend condition 7 of planning permission – Objection to application due to concerns over light/noise disturbance and traffic. Battsford Parish Council adhere to original decision regarding opening hours
- ii. 2101/15 – Foxes Cottage, Valley Road – Erection of outbuilding (retention of) – No objection
- iii. 1761/15 – Land South of Church Road – Change of use from agricultural land to domestic garden land – No objection

b) Decision received from MSDC

1272/15 – Willow Cottage – Demolition of remains – Granted

c) Wonderleir

No more updates were reported

16. Finance

a) Account review to date

b) Payments received

- i. £49.50 – Memorial for Karen Tomlinson

c) Payments to hand

- i. Clerk's salary and expenses - £191.58 – All Cllrs agreed payment. Chq no. 100841 signed
- ii. HMRC – Tax on clerk's salary - £47.80 – All Cllrs agreed payment. Chq no. 100842 signed
- iii. MSDC (emptying litter and dog bins – annual charge) - £138.00 – All Cllrs agreed payment. Chq no. 100843 signed
- iv. SLCC membership renewal - £51.50 – All Cllrs agreed payment. Chq no. 100844 signed
- v. Mr P J Pope (Playground equipment expenses) - £183.18 (170.58 & £12.60) – All Cllrs agreed payment. Chq no. 100845 signed
- vi. Mid Suffolk District Council (Uncontested election) - £87.50 – All Cllrs agreed payment. Chq no. 100846 signed

17. Correspondence

Correspondence forwarded on through email

18. Any other matters raised by Councillors for inclusion on the next agenda

No matters raised other than in actions above

19. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 28th July 2015