

**Draft until signed**

**Minutes of Battsiford Parish Council Meeting  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 at 7.30pm, Battsiford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battsiford**

**Present:** C Knock (Chairman), B Rhodes (Vice Chairman), C Nicholas (Councillor), C Skinner (Councillor), N Cleaver (Councillor), J Olley (Councillor), J Truelove (County Councillor), D Whybrow (District Councillor)

**Attending:** S Meech (Clerk), C Brown (Public)

**1. Apologises for absence**

S Zethraeus (Councillor)

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Olley – Item 13 – Wonderleir

Cllr Skinner – Item 21 – Funding letter from Battsiford and Combs Cricket Club

**3. Public forum**

C Brown (Public) attending meeting for Items 6, 17 & 24

**4. Minutes of meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 & 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 signed as a true and accurate copy.

Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016 signed as a true and accurate copy.

**5. Matter arising from minutes**

Cllr Nicholas has investigated without success as to why some properties maybe voting under one parish but pay council tax to a different parish.

**Action** – Cllr Whybrow to liaise with Cllr Nicholas and MSDC to investigate this issue further

**6. Better Broadband update – Ben Skinner**

Jonathan Chown has advised Ben Skinner that BT are still working within the time frame that they had planned and that relevant investigation work has been carried out. BT are currently in Phase 3 where they are going into planning and investigating what resources they will be needing for the better broadband project. Phase 4 will be the work being carried out, BT will contact Battsiford Parish Council once it has been established exactly what they need to do.

**24. (b/f) Tesco Grant**

Cllr Cleaver explains that a funding application for the Tesco 'Bags of Help' scheme was submitted by Battsiford Play Area Group Committee in order for an exciting new play area to be installed within the parish of Battsiford. Cllr Cleaver advises that Battsiford play area has been awarded a grant of either £8,000, £10,000 or £12,000 depending on how many in store customer votes are received. Voting will start on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in local Tesco stores for one week only until 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Cllr Whybrow also advises Battsiford Parish Council that £1,500 has been awarded from his budget for Battsiford play area.

**19. (b/f) Play area gate**

An email has been received from one of the volunteers in the village that opens and shuts the gate at Battsiford village green to advise that the gate has been levered off its hinges. Cllr Knock has offered to re-weld the gate in order for it to be open and shut again by volunteers.

**Action** – Cllr Knock to arrange welding on the gate hinge and Cllr Skinner to source a chain and padlock for the gate

**17. (b/f) Additional dog waste bin requested by resident for Straight Road near Punch Bowl Pub**

Clerk advises that she received a phone call from a resident of the parish of Battsiford asking for the council to consider placing an extra dog waste bin near the Punch Bowl pub as currently there are only two on the village green and one down Mill Road. All councillors agree to the purchase and ongoing costs of another dog waste bin for Straight Road near to the Punch Bowl Pub.

**Action** – Clerk to check with MSDC about location for the bin, down the side of the Punch Bowl Pub on Straight Road

**7. County Councillors Report**

See Appendix 1

Suffolk County Council officers have followed up complaints of speeding school buses through the village to Cllr Truelove advising that they require dates, times and direction of travel in order to investigate further.

**23. (b/f) Defibrillation machine**

The clerk and Cllr Truelove advise that the application of £2,000 from Cllr Trueloves locality budget has been accepted and Cllr Skinner advises that Santa's float raised approximately £675.00 for a defibrillation machine for Battsiford. All councillors agree to go ahead with the purchase of a defibrillation machine for the phone box in Battsiford outside Silverstones, Straight Road.

**Action** – Clerk to liaise with Community Heartbeat Trust to arrange purchase of defibrillation machine

**8. District Councillors Report**

See Appendix 2

**13. (b/f) Wonderleir**

Local residents are concerned that no monitoring or enforcement is being carried out for removal of the birds at Wonderleir. Cllr Whybrow advises that an enforcement notice has now been placed for removal of the birds by 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**Action** – Cllr Whybrow to liaise with MSDC to confirm that monitoring of the enforcement is taking place

**9. Parish Council Chairman's Report**

Nothing to report

**10. Planning**

- a. **Applications received for consideration** - No planning application received for consideration
- b. **Decisions received from MSDC** –
  - i. 0029/16 – 5 Bowl Road, Battsiford IP14 2LG – Erection of single storey extension to front elevation – Planning permission granted

- 11. Finance**
- a. **Accounts review to date – Action** – Cllr Knock to request bank statements from January 2016 to date
  - b. **Payments received**
    - i. D & R Williams – Play area fundraising - £283.00 – Battsford Parish Council have agreed to match this amount and the £500.00 already raised by Dean Williams for the play area in Battsford
    - ii. Burial Fee – John Frederick Mallett - £57.75
  - c. **Payments to hand**
    - i. P Rushbrook – Rental of village green 2015 & 2016 - £650.00 – Standing order for future payments. All councillors agree to payment. Cheque Number 100866 – written and signed. **Action** – Clerk to send cheque together with standing order form to P Rushbrook
    - ii. S Meech – Clerks Overtime and Expenses - £52.90. All councillors agree to payment. Cheque Number 100867 – written and signed
    - iii. Adopt a kiosk - £1.00. All councillors agree to payment. Cheque Number 100868 – written and signed.
    - iv. David Windle – Village Green Maintenance - £68.75. All councillors agree to payment. Cheque Number 100869 – written and signed.

**18. Adopt a kiosk – application form and cheque**

All councillors agree to adoption of the telephone kiosk outside Silverstones for housing of the defibrillation machine. Cllr Knock (Chairman) signs contract from BT in order for kiosk to be adopted. **Action** – Clerk to send off contract and cheque to BT in order for kiosk to be adopted by Battsford Parish Council

**20. Neighbourhood Watch**

Item postponed to next meeting as item proposed by Cllr Zethraeus and she was not in attendance

**21. Funding letter from Battsford and Combs Cricket Club**

Clerk forwarded letter via email and then advises that Battsford and Combs Cricket Club (BDCC) have requested a grant of £200.00 from Battsford Parish Council for repair works and maintenance costs at the cricket club. All councillors agree to the £200.00 funding request. **Action** – Clerk to advise BDCC of decision and request an invoice in order for Battsford Parish Council to raise a cheque for their next parish meeting.

**22. Housing Needs Survey**

Ian Tippett at MSDC is currently developing cheaper versions of housing surveys and he is keen to come along to our next parish council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

**16. Queen’s Birthday Event – June 2016**

Dates to be considered for the Queen’s birthday event are the 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and Cllr Skinner suggests that maybe an event could be arranged at the Battsford and Combs District Cricket Club. **Action** – Cllr Skinner to investigate availability of the cricket club for that weekend and Cllr Cleaver to investigate ideas for event but feels it is best to keep it as an informal event

**25. Refreshments stop for Women on Wheels charity bike ride**

Email was circulated by email and also read out by Cllr Knock advising of the request for a refreshment stop at Battsford on a charity bike ride. Cllr Knock proposes that Battsford

Parish Council contribute £50 towards the refreshments for this charity event. All councillors agree to the payment.

**Action** – Cllr Cleaver to liaise and arrange with the Punch Bowl Pub for the refreshment stop to be organised at the Punch Bowl Pub

**26. Correspondence**

Clerk advises Battsiford Parish Council that the transparency fund application has been accepted. All councillors agree for clerk to purchase a laptop for Battsiford Parish Council

**27. Any other business raised by councillors for inclusion on the next agenda**

- Telecommunications mast
- Housing Needs Survey
- £200 cheque for BDCC
- Change of bank for current & savings account
- Anglian Water update
- SALC – Cllr Zethraeus
- Neighbourhood Watch

**28. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Meeting closed at 9:37pm

## PARISH REPORT FEBRUARY 2016 BOSMERE DIVISION County Councillor Julia Truelove

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### BUDGET PROPOSALS

SUFFOLK C.C.S Cabinet met on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Amongst agenda items presented were the revenue Budget 2016-2017 and the capital program for 2016-19. The level of savings being targeted over the next two years totals £73 million. Major issues which have be addressed include the implementation of the single state pension from 2016, the cost of the new demand in adult care services due to the increasing complexity of care needs and the new, 'National Living Wage'

Amongst the savings proposals concerning the public , are the Fire Authority's proposals to close one fire station and remove some functional fire engines at others. This proposal is under consultation as is the closure of the Park and Ride at Copdock.

County Councillor's locality budgets will be reduced from the present annual £12,000 to £10,000 in 2016/17 and £8.000 in 2017/18.

S.C.C.'s Council Tax 2% increase, specifically to fund increased social care costs is proposed, whilst the freeze on general council tax rates has been maintained. The County Council input into the council tax will be £17-50 a year for a Band B property.

The Budget Proposals will be debated at the forthcoming meeting of the full council on Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup>.

### NEW SCHOOLS IN SUFFOLK

The Cabinet agreed the proposals to build seven new primary schools for nearly 1,500 pupils to be opened in 2018 or 2019. Two new schools are proposed for Ipswich, others across the County

including Stowmarket where the Cedars Park school has long been over subscribed. Two new schools are also proposed for children with special needs.

### INITIAL FEEDBACK FROM OFSTED INSPECTION RELATING TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND THOSE LEAVING CARE.

The inspection started on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov.2015 and concluded on 17<sup>th</sup> December. The report will not be published until mid-February. However all areas were inspected to cover what is working well and what needs improving. Rigour is needed and apparently exercised, as some of the children 'in care' have complex needs.

### SUFFOLK'S G.C.S.E. AND A LEVEL RESULTS RISE

For the first time in several years, G.C.S.E., A level academic and vocational qualifications are above the national average. Suffolk's results have increased by 2.08% from last year. The rise in the overall league table out of 151 Local Authorities is from 125 up to 106.

## Appendix 2

Report to Battsford Parish Council for Full Council Meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 from David Whybrow, Mid Suffolk District Council

### 1.0 Planning (since 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 to date of report)

#### 1.1 Validated -

##### 1.1.1 Bowl Road, Battsford IP14 2LG

Reference 0029/16

Erection of a single storey extension to front elevation

##### 1.1.2 Garden House, Church Road, Battsford IP14 2HF

Reference 0073/16

Erection of two storey side and single storey front extensions. Erection of double garage and workshop with music room above following demolition of existing garage.

#### 1.2 Decisions -

##### 1.2.1 Bowl Road, Battsford IP14 2LG

Reference 0029/16

Erection of a single storey extension to front elevation Decision - Granted

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

#### 1.4 Other Matters - Wonderlier Farm, Straight Road, Battsford

Discussion and lobbying has been ongoing since my last report. Whilst I've been extremely frustrated with the speed of action I have to acknowledge that the planning and enforcement teams have had to be mindful of minimising the opportunity to challenge their actions particularly with regard to bird welfare issues.

Finally, on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016, the landowner was served with an Enforcement Notice, requiring the use of the land and buildings for the keeping of birds to cease, and for all birds to be removed from the site within

12 months of the date the Notice comes in to effect - i.e. as of 14 March 2016, and by 13 March 2017. It is hoped that dispersal of the birds will happen sooner rather than later to mitigate the continuing loss of residential amenity by neighbours.

It is worth noting that enforcement action is still possible and that if the Environmental Health Team received a noise nuisance complaint from neighbours - that would extend to anyone living in the vicinity that feels they are affected by the noise - they would start the investigation process.

## 2.0 “One-off” Mid Suffolk Locality Award Programme.

I was extremely disappointed at the response to this initiative within the Ringshall Ward. There was up to £5,000 available for award. This was an opportunity for not-for profit groups or organisations to receive direct financial support for their activities – the qualification criteria was very wide and the application process was simple. The only application received from within Battisford parish was for play equipment. A grant of £1,500 will be made.

## 3.0 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

At a Full Council meeting in January Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was adopted. CIL is a framework to collect funds for infrastructure from new developments. From the 11<sup>th</sup> of April this year MSDC will charge CIL on residential and convenience retail developments in the district, collecting between £50 and £115 in CIL per square metre of floor space depending on the type, size and location of the development.

This will work alongside contributions collected under Section 106 of the Town and County Planning Act and will deliver a clearer and more transparent system for funding infrastructure, providing clear information on costs to both developers and the local authority throughout the development process. MSDC will be responsible for managing the CIL funding.

CIL will give the District Council a predictable funding stream that allows councillors to plan ahead more effectively, while giving developers much more certainty from the start about costs they would expect. As a result of development communities will receive a direct allocation of either 15% or 25% of the CIL funds. Battisford Parish Council will receive allocation at 15% of the CIL for development in the parish.

The proposals for CIL in Mid Suffolk have been through a strict planning process, including consultations, engagement and an examination by an examiner appointed by the Planning Inspectorate who described the evidence informing Mid Suffolk’s charging schedule as “robust, proportionate and appropriate”.

Developments on Mid Suffolk’s Strategic Sites will continue to collect funds via Section 106 payments rather than CIL.

## 4. You can leave your cap on.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has launched a campaign to encourage residents to recycle the aluminium screw tops from glass bottles such as wine, spirits and cooking ingredients, along with the glass bottles on which they came.

The ‘Leave Your Cap On’ campaign aims to increase the recycling of aluminium screw tops and collars by encouraging people to screw the tops back onto the empty glass bottles before taking them to one of the 1500 glass recycling banks located throughout Suffolk.

The ‘Leave Your Cap On’ campaign highlights the importance of recycling the aluminium closures which, like all aluminium and glass packaging are 100% recyclable; so every screw top and bottle deposited in a glass bank can be transformed into something new, including more bottles, metal packaging, mobile phones and even car parts.

So when you next recycle your empties remember you can 'Leave Your Cap On.'

#### 5. Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk is an independent charity, reliant on grants and donations. Mid Suffolk District Council provides an annual grant to the CAB to help them provide their important advice services to meet the needs of the most vulnerable within our communities. Mid Suffolk CAB has provided their free, confidential and impartial advice service to nearly 3,000 clients in the past 12 months.

During the first 9 months of 2015/16 they have helped residents living in the MSDC Ringshall Ward resolve 125 issues by providing them with free help and advice.

For your further information I've attached a copy of the Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk News. This issue provides you with a detailed insight into the range of problems they helped the residents and workers across Mid Suffolk resolve during 2015.

#### 6.0 Town and Parish Newsletter for January 2016

I've appended the above to this report for your information.

#### 7.0 Devolution update

Greg Clarke and Lord Hestletine met with Leaders of Cambridge, Norfolk Peterborough and Suffolk councils in Cambridge on Monday. It is now clear that there is currently limited enthusiasm in central Government for single county deals. Greg Clark made clear his enthusiasm, and that of the Treasury, for substantial devolution of responsibilities to joint authorities operating at scale. As a result of this Norfolk/Suffolk are now working closely with officers and Leaders in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as well as Government to explore the possibilities a devolution deal on this geography might offer.

#### 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.

Contacts details as follows:

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#### Appendices

- MSDC Town and Parish Newsletter January 2016
- MSCAB newsletter Jan 16