

Draft until signed

**Minutes of Batisford Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 4th April 2017 at 7.30pm, Batisford Village Hall, Straight Road, Batisford**

Present: C Knock (Chairman), B Rhodes (Vice Chairman), C Nicholas (Councillor), S Zethraeus (Councillor), C Skinner (Councillor), Cllr Whybrow (District Councillor)

Attending: S Meech (Clerk), J Budd (Public), A Chaplin (Relating to Item 15), V Whitehead (Councillor representing Combs Parish Council for Item 15)

1. Apologises for absence

Cllr Cleaver, Cllr Aspinall & Cllr Truelove

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Knock – Item 9 a) ii) Planning – Welham Meadow – Declaration of interest book is signed and dated by Cllr Knock

3. Public Forum

Nothing to be discussed under this item

4. Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 21st February 2017

Signed as a true and accurate copy of the meeting

5. Matters arising from minutes

No matters arising from the minutes

6. County Councillors Report

See Appendix 1

7. District Councillors Report

See Appendix 2 – Cllr Zethraeus raises the item of NHS equipment amnesty that is included in Cllr Whybrow's report and suggests that it could be easier for people to return NHS equipment to GP surgeries. Cllr Whybrow will feed this back as a suggestion.

8. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Nothing to report that is not included in the agenda

15. (b/f) Straw movements from Sloe Farm, Batisford including correspondence from A Chaplin

Cllr Knock thanks A Chaplin for attending the parish council meeting to discuss this item. Cllr Whitehead is in attendance on behalf of Combs Parish Council as the straw movements are affecting both Batisford and Combs parish. A Chaplin explains that the straw harvest this year has been very dry creating poor quality straw and he opens the discussions with Batisford Parish Council, firstly advising that the previous request of placing a netting over the straw has been rejected by the straw distribution company due to health and safety reasons. Cllr Knock advises one issue is overhanging trees in the village and that some branches have been knocked by straw lorries going out of the village towards the Punch Bowl, some have tree preservation orders so could be trimmed, however, permission would be required. A Chaplin raises that some trees near to the Tannery are a real issue and require

trimming. He also advises that the land owner opposite the play area will not allow him to trim the trees.

To help rectify the issue of straw on the side of the road and in drains A Chaplin has taken his mechanical brush out to clear problem areas of excess straw on the roads. Cllr Zethraeus also queries if cost is involved in the decision not to place sheeting or netting over the straw. A Chaplin advises that it is not a cost issue, legalities mean the distributors are unable to climb on top of the straw once loaded on the lorries due to health and safety. It is also advised that the transporting is not just seasonal as it is mainly supplied to power stations.

Cllr Knock and A Chaplin discuss that if the landowners can be recognised then A Chaplin is happy to carry out the trimming of trees that are affecting his distribution of straw. Cllr Nicholas raises a further issue in that he observed the distribution lorries leave the village the other day and noted that once they were past the houses near the Punchbowl pub on the way out the village they sped up creating more of the straw to come off, A Chaplin will feed this information back to the distributor.

Cllr Knock suggests to Cllr Whitehead that a letter is sent to SCC Highways to request that the edges of the roads are swept at the Tannery and Cllr Skinner also suggests that the gardener whom works for the Tannery could clear some of the dead leaves.

Action – Clerk to write a letter to Richard Prentice of School House, Straight Road requesting permission for the trees outside this vacant property to be trimmed. Cllr Knock has also asked for Cllr Whitehead to ask Combs Parish Council to send a letter to D Windle and request permission to trim his willow tree back that is an issue for A Chaplin. Clerk to email MSDC regarding the tree preservation order on a tree at the village green that is also an issue.

17. (b/f) Housing White Paper

Cllr Whybrow advises Battisford Parish Council that he feels this is a positive thing and that opportunities will be created for parishes such as Battisford, it would add strength to a neighbourhood plan if one was to be carried out as district and local planning authorities could be overridden by a neighbourhood plan. Cllr Zethraeus asks Cllr Whybrow if funding will be available to assist parish councils in producing a neighbourhood plan. Cllr Whybrow advises that the councils will have a statutory responsibility to provide support with processes and procedures. Cllr Zethraeus suggests it could be beneficial to link with other parishes for time and costs saving. Cllr Whybrow tells Battisford Parish Council that he knows that this has occurred previously making the process more cohesive with benefits in terms of size and cost.

Cllr Knock advises that this item was included on the agenda due to the relation of the Housing Needs Survey and this is the paper that made Battisford Parish Council wait to get an expert opinion on the housing needs survey until this has been issued. Cllr Knock questions whether MSDC would assist with any funding towards a professional report of the housing needs survey and Cllr Zethraeus asks Cllr Whybrow how much a neighbourhood plan would cost. Cllr Whybrow advises that he can get someone to come out from MSDC to discuss neighbourhood planning as the district council has a statutory duty to support the parish council in this process, the percentage of their budget that is needed for the neighbourhood plan is very high as it will cover a much wider spectrum than the housing needs survey to include items such as employment.

Action – Cllr Whybrow to email clerk a contact at MSDC to invite them to our next meeting to discuss where we are with our housing needs survey and to find out how they can support us.

20. (b/f) Wonderleir

Cllr Whybrow advises Battsiford Parish Council that the deadline for removal of birds at this property was mid-March and MSDC visited the property on 17th March 2017. There is still a considerable number of birds at the property although the amount has reduced, MSDC now need to decide on what action they are going to take to move forward and are seeking legal advice. Cllr Whybrow would like the opinion and views of Battsiford Parish Council and any parishioner views that may have been raised. Cllr Zethraeus raises an issue that new residents to the parish had to change which side of the house their bedroom was on due to the noise and being unable to open windows in warm weather, Cllr Knock advises this affects the amenity of a house if windows cannot even be opened. Cllr Knock asks Cllr Whybrow if Battsiford Parish Council can have exact confirmation of what reduction has occurred and how many birds there now are.

Cllr Whybrow is happy to feedback the comments from Battsiford Parish Council that everything that has been raised previously is still relevant and unacceptable and that it is felt that extending the notice is not acceptable and enforcement is required. Cllr Knock thanks Cllr Whybrow for his involvement in this issue and for moving things forward.

9.

Planning

a. Applications received for consideration

- i. 0613/17 - Sunday School Cottage, Church Road, Battsiford, IP14 2HE - Erection of a Summerhouse – All councillors agree that they have no objections to this planning application and all are support of it. **Action** – Clerk to advise MSDC of decision made
- ii. 0590/17 - Welhams Meadow, Church Road, Battsiford, IP14 2HF - Use of land for the siting of four holiday caravans with associated caretaker's office and store room with WC facilities for member of the angling club. Installation of new septic tank – Cllr Knock explains that the difference between this application and the previous one is that the amount of caravans has reduced from six to four. All councillors are happy for Cllr Knock to hear their discussions of this application and all agree they have no issues with the revised application as the number of caravans is reducing from six to four. **Action** – Clerk to advise MSDC of the council's decision.

b. Decisions received from MSDC

- i. 0827/17 - Star Cottage, Mill Road, Battsiford, IP14 2LJ - Non-material amendment sought following grant of planning permission 1454/06 – Application granted
- ii. 0230/17 - Bray Cottage, Bowl Corner, Battsiford, IP14 2LH - Erection of single storey front extension – Application granted

Cllr Whybrow advises Battsiford Parish Council that another application has come in for consideration for The Oldings but unfortunately it has missed this agenda

10.

Finance

a. **Accounts review to date** – Community account balance as of 14th March 2017 is £12,384.76 original bank statement is signed and dated by Cllr Nicholas and Business Premium Account has not yet issued a statement since 15th December 2016 when the balance was £2,358.62.

b. Payment received

- i. Burial fee – T/L Hugh Hayward (Full burial) - £231.00
- ii. Burial fee – T/L Janet Jensen (Full burial) - £115.50

c. Payments to hand

- i. S Meech - Clerks Overtime and Expenses – £40.26 - All councillors agree payment – Cheque Number 100912 written and signed.

- ii. D Windle – Cemetery Maintenance - £115.50 - All councillors agree payment – Cheque Number 100913 written and signed

11. Bank account change of address letter

Letter has been produced by the clerk for two signatories to authorise a change of address on the bank account to the clerk's new address. Cllr Knock and Cllr Skinner both sign the letter.

12. Play area bank account opening letter

The play area planning group have approached Battsford Parish Council requesting a letter confirming their involvement with the play area in order for them to open their own bank account. Some concerns are raised by councillors such as how the VAT would not be able to be claimed back for purchases if these were not made through the parish council and also how the monies would no longer be in public view. Battsford Parish Council would like the play area group to attend a parish council meeting to discuss this. Cllr Knock suggests some other options are for Battsford Parish Council to open a separate bank account just for the play area monies or make the play area group a committee linked to the parish council.

Action – Cllr Skinner to advise the play area group of our discussions and invite them to a meeting

13. Clerks annual increment from 01/04/17 – standing order amendment

Clerk advises Battsford Parish Council that she is due her annual salary increment from 1st April 2017, her current spinal column point is 19 at £9.647 per hour. From the 1st April 2017, spinal column point 20 which clerk is to move to is £10.099 per hour. All councillors agree for clerk to receive her annual increment and Cllr Knock (Chairman) and Cllr Skinner (Councillor) sign and date the increment form. Cllr Knock and Cllr Skinner also sign and date an amended standing order mandate to amend clerk's monthly salary to reflect her increase from £209.02 to £218.81 from 20th April 2017.

14. Annual return/audit/VAT refund

Clerk advises Battsford Parish Council that the period for the exercise of public rights accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017 has been given from BDO as 5th June 2017 until 14th July 2017 and the annual return and supporting info is to be submitted to BDO by 24th July 2017. It is agreed by Battsford Parish Council that the clerk will have the annual return completed by the next parish council meeting on Tuesday 16th May 2017 for approval by the council.

16. Speed Indicator Device

A letter has been received from SCC advising that in order to obtain a vehicle activated sign such as a speed indicator device policies need to be followed. Policies such as the parish identifying where they would like to erect the SID and have this agreed by SCC as suitable and then follow the correct procedures to purchase the SID. Another option SCC propose is the Temporary Vehicle Activated Sign programme which Combs have followed. This would give the parish a vehicle activated sign for 2 weeks before it is moved to another village and can be used 2-3 times a year.

Action – Clerk to contact SCC to find out the costings for the Temporary Vehicle Activated Sign programme

19. Litter Pick

J Budd advises that he has already cleared up some litter from the end of Battsford where he lives and Cllr Knock states that he is happy to have a clear up along Deadmans Lane. Cllr

Skinner advises that there is litter being dropped at the village green so we need the extra bin to be chased up.

Action – Clerk to chase MSDC for the additional bin for the village green as it is now needed urgently

21. Post Office Services

This item was for discussion by Cllr Cleaver so will be carried forward to the next parish council meeting.

22. Better Broadband

Cllr Knock has not had any update recently, however, if any information is received he will forward this around to the council.

Action – Clerk to email Jonathan Chown for an update and to ask for information of any grants that are available to residents.

23. Donation request for the Four Parishes Magazine

Clerk advises Battsford Parish Council that she has received a letter from the Four Parishes Magazine that covers Barking, Battsford, Great Bricett and Ringshall requesting a donation towards their running costs. Battsford Parish Council have supported the Four Parishes Magazine previously and are happy to support it again.

Action – Clerk to see what amount has been donated previously and include this in the payments to hand on the next agenda

24. Stowmarket Carnival

Cllr Knock advises Battsford Parish Council that the organisers of the Battsford float last year for Stowmarket Carnival have told him that they will not be managing a float this year and are enquiring as to whether this is something Battsford Parish Council would be interested in taking on. All councillors agree that this is not something that they would be interested in taking over.

25. Defibrillators

Clerk advises Battsford Parish Council that both defibrillators, the one at Straight Road and the one at the cricket club have been installed and the contact details for whom will be checking them forwarded to Community Heartbeat Trust. Cllr Nicholas advises that the phone number of the person responsible for checking the defibrillators can be put on the inside of the cabinet.

26. Correspondence

Cllr Knock advises Battsford Parish Council that in 1271 Battsford was granted a royal charter for a medieval fair and in 1971 a fair was held at Manor Farm in the field. In 2021 this will be the 750th Anniversary so Cllr Knock would like the council to consider a medieval fair for then and maybe hold it at the village green and the play area group may also be interested.

Cllr Skinner hands the clerk a letter received from Battsford Village Hall Management Committee requesting a donation towards the replacement of the village hall floor. This will need to be added to the next agenda for discussion.

27. Any other business for inclusion on the next agenda

Cllr Zethraeus and Cllr Nicholas will not be in attendance at the next parish meeting.

28. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 16th May 2017 at 7pm Annual Meeting of Battsford Parish Council and Annual Assembly of the Parish meeting at 7pm and Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.41pm

DRAFT

BOSMERE DIVISION REPORT APRIL 2017

County Councillor Julia Truelove, Liberal Democrat.

Boundary Commission – Second Public Consultation

The above concluded at the end of March, 2017.

Following a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650, and to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is equal, the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has been asked to make independent recommendations about where the revised boundaries of English constituencies should be.

Following the second consultation, the BCE's assistant commissioners will look through all comments received during both consultations, considering all the evidence submitted. They will then advise the Commission on where they think the proposals should be revised. Revised proposals will be published as part of a final consultation in late 2017/early 2018 and any further changes made based on comments received. BCE must report to Parliament with its final recommendation in September 2018. If agreed by Parliament, the new constituencies will be in use at the next scheduled General Election in 2020.

There will be a further round of consultation in late 2017/early 2018, and the Commission must make its final report and recommendations to Parliament in September 2018.

Ofsted Inspection – Ringshall School

Ringshall School is one of three Primary Schools in our Bosmere Division so children's achievements locally are important. They are our stake in the future.

At a previous Ofsted inspection, in 2016, the overall effectiveness was rated 'good'. However, the results of a more recent inspection, 8th to 9th March 2017, show that the school's overall effectiveness 'requires improvement'.

Details of the key findings are fully described, importantly those detailing the School's strengths. The full Ofsted report can be accessed at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report>.

Police and Crime Panel Meeting

Some outcomes of their recent meeting included discussion of 'Exploitation - Protecting Vulnerable People'. The Panel:

- Commended the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Constabulary and partner agencies for the successful joined up work that is now beginning to be seen on protecting vulnerable people, with some aspects in Suffolk regarded as 'best practice' by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

- Recommended that the PCC give early visibility of his planned public engagement meetings around the County in 2017, and resolved that Panel members would encourage people to attend.

BOSMERE DIVISION REPORT APRIL 2017

continued

- Recommended to the PCC that a progress update on the work of the three School Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) be provided to the PCP meeting in October 2017.

Support for Foster Families

A new direction has been launched, based on the idea of an extended family. It uses a 'constellation' where 6 to 8 fostering 'satellite' households living near each other are offered support from a dedicated 'hub home' fostering household of specially recruited and trained carers. The hub home carer offers regular planned respite care and emergency respite care to the satellite carers. They will also assist with peer support, regular joint planning, and social activities. Relationships are central to the model, with hub carers and foster carers providing frontline care, and with social workers able to concentrate on successful relationship building.

The hub also builds links with other families integral to the children's care plans, and to resources in the wider community which can provide them with enhanced opportunities to learn, develop and succeed.

The model will initially be implemented in the north of the County, with plans to roll this out across the whole County in future.

Suffolk plans to launch its first constellation of foster carers by October 2017.

Suffolk Trading Standards

Phishing plays on the word 'fishing', in that the fraudsters 'fish' for potential victims by sending emails, social media messages or text messages or making phone calls with urgent messages, all in the hope of persuading someone to visit a bogus website, and enter their security details.

The fraudsters will use your details to steal your identity, or simply take the money you've paid, and then break all contact.

Spot the signs of a scam:

- The spelling, grammar, graphic design or image quality is poor. They may use odd 'spe11lings' or 'cApiTals' in the email subject to fool your spam filter.
- If they know your email address but not your name, it'll begin with something like 'To our valued customer', or 'Dear...' followed by your email address.
- The website address or email address doesn't look right; authentic website addresses are usually short and don't use irrelevant words or phrases. Businesses and organisations don't use web-based addresses such as Gmail or Yahoo.

How to report it:

- Report it to Action Fraud online: <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-a-fraud/how-to-report-a-fraud>, or call 0300 123 2040.

DRAFT

Appendix 2

Councillor David Whybrow (Conservative)



Mid Suffolk District Council Member for Ringshall Ward

Report to Battsford Parish Council

Full Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 4th April

Planning (since 21st February 2017 to date of report)

1.1 Validated (awaiting Decision) -

1.1.1 Sunday School Cottage, Church Road, Battsford IP14 2HE

Reference 0613/17

Erection of a Summerhouse

Validated 06 Mar 17

Consultation Expiry 06 Apr 17

Target Determination 01 May 17

1.1.2 Welhams Meadow, Church Road, Battsford IP14 2HF

Reference 0590/17

Use of land for stationing of four holiday caravans with associated caretakers office and store room with WC facilities for members of the angling club.

Installation of a septic tank .

Validated 08 Mar 17

Consultation Expiry 12 Apr 17

Target Determination 03 May 17

1.1.3 The Oldings, Hascot Hill, Battsford IP14 2HL

Reference 1186/17

Erection of wooden cabin on concrete base

Validated 25 Mar 17

Consultation Expiry 25 Apr 17

Target Determination 20 May 17

1.2 Decisions –

1.2.1 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

Decision Date 21 Mar 17

Decision – Grant

1.2.2 Star Cottage, Mill Road, Battisford. IP14 2LJ

Reference 0827/17

Non-material amendment

Validated 20 Feb 17

Target Determination 20 Mar 17

Decision Date 22 Mar 17

Decision - Grant

1.3 Permitted Developments –

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

1.4 Other Planning matters –

1.4.1 Wonderlier Farm, Straight Road, Battisford

The compliance period in the Enforcement Notice expired on 14 March. An Enforcement Officer visited the site on 17 March and spoke to Mr Hammond. The numbers of birds have reduced, but only slightly. The most significant reduction is in the number of macaws – the noisiest of the birds kept at the property. Mr Hammond continues to seek alternative premises to keep the birds.

Given the situation – essentially, Mr Hammond has not complied with the requirements of the Notice – The Council needs to consider their position and how to go forward. Mr Hammond appears, from what he has said, to have put a great deal of effort in to seeking alternative premises, but has been unsuccessful – not least because he is looking for a property which satisfies very strict criteria, and there are, as a result, very few such premises available.

The available options include: a) prosecution for non-compliance with the

Notice, b) variation of the Notice to allow additional time to remove the birds (either by sales or movement to alternative premises), c) seek an injunction, or d) do nothing.

This is a very difficult situation. A decision needs to be made as to whether the prosecution of Mr Hammond, an elderly resident, in his eighties, for keeping birds at the property in contravention of an enforcement notice is the most appropriate way forward at this stage. The emerging view is that the Council would get little sympathy from the courts, especially when what Mr Hammond is doing is essentially rare species conservation. For similar reasons, it is also considered that seeking a court order by way of an injunction is also inappropriate. Clearly, it is not acceptable for the Council to do nothing. The most likely next step will be to consider a variation of the Notice to allow more time for compliance. Legal opinion is currently being sought to better understand the options.

2.0 Mid Suffolk budget set for 2017/18

In Local Government, we are facing a big financial challenge, with the central government grant reducing to zero over the next few years. In order to continue providing the services our communities need we are having to look at other options of providing finance to pay for them, and that does include council tax rises, but we are determined to keep any rise proportionate and as low as possible while still safeguarding our services.

We are looking at generating more income to deliver our services: our Waste Team is widening their subscription services and we have taken a fresh look at the assets and investments we as a council hold, with our new Capital Investment Fund alone set to provide £250,000 in income. Every penny of this goes towards supporting the services our communities need, while the Community Infrastructure Levy we introduced last year has already raised over a quarter of a million to invest in key infrastructure.”

At Mid Suffolk’s Full Council meeting in February an increase of 1.64% in Council Tax was approved as councillors voted in favour of the 2017/18 budget. This will mean that residents who live in a Band D property will see a rise in their Council Tax of £2.61.

The key highlights behind the decision are:

- The increase in Council Tax of 1.64% will see the largest properties paying £5.22 more over the course of the year, with the smallest seeing an increase of just £1.74.
- There will be no change to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for eligible residents, with residents most in need paying only 5% of their bill
- There will be no significant change to service levels despite the reduction in government support, as income generation and cost reduction measures have replaced the loss in government grant

- There will be a decrease of 1% on council house rents, equivalent to an average rent reduction of 84p a week as required by the Welfare Reform and Work Act
- Sheltered housing service charges will be increased by a maximum of £4 per week for each scheme, to reduce the subsidy from general needs housing by £80,000. However, there will be no change to utility charges for sheltered housing tenants
- There will be an increase of 10% on garage rents, equivalent to an average increase of 74p per week

Despite Mid Suffolk facing further cuts in core funding from central government we have pledged that those most in need will not pay more than 5 per cent of their council tax bill. Our Council Tax Reduction Scheme allows residents on low incomes to apply for a reduced Council Tax bill, with some paying as little as 5% of their total.

For more information visit our website at: <http://baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/counciltax/exemptions-discounts-and-reductions/council-tax-reduction-low-income/>

4.0 More investment by us in key market towns to provide new homes to meet the needs of local people

Mid Suffolk has recently completed the purchase of two more redundant sites from Suffolk County Council which it will now develop to provide much needed new housing.

One of the sites is located in Walnut Tree Walk, Stowmarket and includes the former Middle School and Community Education Centre located on Childer Road. The other is Paddock House in Wellington Road, Eye, which includes a 30 bed redundant care home and a detached 3 bedroom bungalow in the grounds.

These two latest acquisitions, together with the former Middle School site in School Lane, Needham Market, which was bought last year, demonstrates the determination by Mid Suffolk to invest in its market towns and provide new homes to meet the needs of local people. In addition to this, it is anticipated the construction phase will bring more jobs into both areas and give local businesses a vital boost through increased footfall.

Work to appoint development partners for these sites will begin this summer and any proposals which are drawn up will be subject to a public consultation through the usual planning processes. It is hoped that work on both sites will start next summer.

We firmly believe this sort of investment is crucial in helping to ensure our market towns continue to be sustainable and are able to flourish.

5.0 Attracting external funding to support our communities.

The Communities Team work on developing opportunities to utilise external funding to support the wide range of activity in our localities. The number of awards and total grant sum awarded during 2015/16 to our communities from the 'BIG Lottery Awards for All' for grants up to £10k is 11 Awards in Mid Suffolk with a value of just over £ 90,000.

A small snapshot of other funding secured is as follows:

The Geoffrey Burton Charitable Trust	2014/15	£ 4,550
	2015/16	£11,000
Suffolk Historic Churches	2014/15	£ 38,000
	2015/16	£ 87,829
Suffolk Community Foundation	2014/15	£ 147,271
	2015/16	£ 173,377

This represents a significant boost to the community capital leveraged to support our communities.

The Communities Team are running as Funding Fair on Wednesday 12th April at Metfield Village Hall between 10.00 and 16.00. It will be a day of information and workshops focussed on fundraising for community groups. Ideal for village hall committees, parish councils, play areas, getting people active, reducing rural isolation, and improving health and wellbeing. The guest speaker will be David Jessup from the BIG Lottery. There will be workshop sessions on 'The Importance of Good Governance', 'How to make a Good Application' and 'Energy Efficiency - Save don't Spend!'. Places are limited and booking is essential – contact josehine.beever@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.

6.0 Open Spaces Assessment – Parish Councils' survey

An assessment of open spaces across Mid Suffolk has recently been commissioned to provide up-to-date evidence on the location, type and quality of existing provision so that it can be identified where surpluses or deficits exist. The study will be used as part of the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan, and to help inform decisions regarding the future of open spaces, including helping to prioritise improvements and to ensure that spaces provided as part of new development relate to needs. The study will also help to support the Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy which is currently being developed.

As part of the work, the consultants, Ethos Environmental Planning, have produced a short survey which will be circulated to all Parish and Town Councils. This will ask for information on existing open spaces within their communities and for information about their aspirations for future improvements. The feedback will be used to supplement the analysis of existing data held by the Councils and other information which Ethos are collating.

I strongly urge you to engage with this survey.

7.0 Town & Parish Liaison Meetings Confirmed

The date for the May Town & Parish Liaison Meeting has now been confirmed as Thursday 18 May. It will consist of a morning meeting which will start at 10am and an evening one at 6.30pm, with venues to be confirmed. The agenda is yet to be finalised but will be sent out much nearer the time.

If you have any specific topics you would like to suggest for the agenda, please contact Jo Beever. Parishes are invited to send two representatives, councillors, and/or clerk. Places are limited for all these sessions, so do please respond asap.

8.0 NHS Equipment Amnesty

The NHS have joined forces with local councils to cut down on unnecessary waste - by launching a month-long medical equipment amnesty for March. Last year alone health services issued over 100,000 items of community equipment to patients in the county at a cost of more than £8.5m. By the end of the year nearly 40,000 items – with a combined value of £3.4m - had not been returned. While some patients undoubtedly need equipment for long periods of time, public services lose thousands of pounds each year because of missing equipment.

Feedback received by the NHS during summer 2016 showed that people want public services to do all it can to reduce financial waste, and to help towards this goal people in Suffolk are asked to return as much 'surplus to requirements' NHS equipment as possible from March 1st to the 31st.

There are three collection points in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Ellough which are usually open during the week and are extending their opening hours on Saturdays during March. The existing collection service number is being advertised too 01473 351805.

This is an initiative we can all play a part in by spreading the news about the equipment amnesty within our own organisations and amongst our friends and family.

9.0 Avian Flue Outbreak

The 3km Protection Zone and the 10km Surveillance Zone have now been withdrawn. The national Prevention Zone introduced in 2016 remains in place and will be reviewed by 30th of April.

The feedback from DEFRA and industry with regards to the local authority response to the Avian Influenza outbreaks has been very positive. The DEFRA disease lead Gordon Hickman attended the National Animal Health and Welfare Panel meeting last week to thank all local authorities for the work they and their multiagency partners have undertaken to both respond to outbreaks and to encourage keepers to house or separate poultry from wild birds.

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.

Contacts details as follows:

david.whybrow@midsuffolk.gov.uk david@dswwhybrow.com

07799 068 926

Or visit me at The Old Rectory, Stowmarket Road, Ringshall. IP14 2HZ

DRAFT