

**MINUTES OF THE BATTISFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19th
NOVEMBER 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, BATTISFORD**

Present:

Cllr N. Cleaver (Chairman)
Cllr S. Zethraeus
Cllr P. Lambotte
Cllr D. Wicking
Cllr C. Nicholas
Cllr J. Pope

In attendance: Nicola Glading, parish clerk; D/Cllr D. Pratt; C/Cllr K. Oakes and 4 members of the public.

135. RECORDING OF MEETING

Clerk to record for minutes only

136. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- a) Apologies were received from Cllr P. Aspinall
- b) Councillors consented to accept apologies received

137. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Members' declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (as defined by the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012) -

Cllr P Lambotte - Item 7 (i)

Cllr D Wicking - item 7 (iii)

138. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) A member of the public raised two issues:
 1. Suffolk County Council usually clear/ cut the grass gulley's; this has not happened this year, causing extra water which could cause a problem during the Winter months. Item to be added to next meeting agenda.
 2. Would the Councillors consider asking for Tree Protection Orders to be placed on the ten trees that will remain at the Punch Bowl Meadow site. To be discussed under the TPO report and added to next agenda.
- b) The representative from the Parochial Church Council will be available to answer any questions at the relevant agenda item 8b/ Minute 142 b).
- c) A member of the Village Hall Management Committee reminded the councillors that three directional signs for the Village Hall are to be placed next to the Punch Bowl directional signs. Clerk to ask the Punch Bowl directors to confirm which organisation supplied the existing signs, to encourage uniformity. It is thought that the previous Chairman had obtained permission for the erection of the Village Hall signs.

139. UPDATES FROM COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- a) Update from County Councillor K. Oakes:
C/Cllr Oakes informed the councillors of a new initiative to supply outdoor ping pong tables, "PING" - a partnership between Table Tennis England and Suffolk County Council to improve physical activity and social connections. Units have been installed at Mendlesham and Oulton Broad. Clerk to look into.

Cllr Oakes updated the councillors on the road junction, she has met with Justin and he is progressing the proposal. The councillors expressed their thanks for the new sign which has been installed quickly.

Cllr Oakes confirmed that she has been speaking with Paul West as the Stowmarket refuse dump is no longer adequate, given the increase in houses and population. A new site is being actively sought. Councillors asked C/Cllr Oakes to pass on thanks to the workers at the Stowmarket Refuse Collection site, who were very helpful.

- b) Update from District Councillor Dr D. Pratt (Report at Appendix 1, previously circulated by email). Additionally, D/Cllr Pratt informed the meeting that a cross party task force has been set up to examine ways in which climate change can be addressed: he will keep BPC informed on progress. Free sessions on reducing waste are available, contact the Suffolk Recycling website.

140. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS held on 15th OCTOBER 2019

- a) The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th October 2019 were **unanimously APPROVED** with the following amendments:
 - (i) Minute 128. b) Change to Cllr Wicking, given his experience, would work with the clerk
 - (ii) Minute 134. e) The Japanese knotweed is at Valley Road, not Straight Road as reported
 - (iii) The Chair was authorised to sign the same pending further comment on page 2 from Cllr Pope.

141. MATTERS RELATING TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR BATTISFORD

- a) Appeals and Decisions (previously emailed to all councillors)
 - (i) **Cllr Lambotte had declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion of the next item**
Notification of Planning Appeal - AP/19/00169: Holly Farm, Deadmans Lane, Battisford, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 2RP.
Councillors **AGREED** to stand by the original BPC comments. Cllr Cleaver will respond.
 - (ii) Notification of Planning Appeal - AP/19/00179: Land to The North of Straight Road, Battisford, Suffolk.
Councillors **AGREED** to comment that the need for development is understood, but feel it is necessary to re-emphasise their concerns about infrastructure capability have not been addressed, specifically the potential overload on waste water removal have not been a six-inch sewerage pipe is inadequate. Cllr Cleaver will respond.
 - (iii) **Cllr Wicking had declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion on the next item**
NOTED Decision Notice - DC/19/0243 : Planning Permission Refused- Field Cottage, Straight Road, Battisford, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 2HP
 - (iv) **NOTED** Decision Notice - DC/19/04228: Planning Permission Granted- Plantation House, Mill Road, Battisford, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 2LR.
 - (iv) It was **unanimously AGREED** that the new development at Land North East of Bowl Road Battisford Stowmarket should be named Bowl Meadow, in keeping with local custom and history. The name should not be a form of advertising. Clerk to respond.
It was further **NOTED** that councillors sought a policy that outlines the BPC stance on such

matters, to ensure that any development should not be named after living persons or currently operating commercial companies. Clerk to bring to next meeting.

- (v) The councillors discussed their concerns regarding the capability of services such as sewerage, electricity, water, broadband which are approaching limits. It was **unanimously RESOLVED** to inform the providers. Cllr P Lambotte undertook to inform UK Power, BT Open Reach and the Environmental Agency; Cllr Nicholas to inform Environment Agency, Anglia Water and Mid Suffolk District Council.
- (vi) Councillors discussed the parishioners email dated 9th November 2019: Objection to 18/03787 and 18/03788. Battisford Parish council was not given sufficient notice to form a view and feel that there was an abuse of process by the District. It was **unanimously RESOLVED** that Cllr Cleaver would write to the District Council. The clerk will reply to the parishioner, thanking him for bringing this to our attention: BPC are as aggrieved as (the resident) about the lack of consultation. D/Cllr Pratt told the meeting that he has spoken to P Isbell and the resident about listing the Barns via the Historic England initiative. We were assured that if (the resident) were looking to take this forward, he will be listened to. We would suggest the best course of action would be the resident going straight to Historic England. This is a free service, although it is possible to pay for fast tracking.

142. MATTERS RELATING TO GRANTS/ DONATIONS

- a) Battisford Punch Bowl Inn storage facility: Councillors thanked D/Cllr D Pratt for the contribution of £1,000 from Locality Budget funding. It was **unanimously RESOLVED** that BPC would purchase the storage facility: additional £895 clerk to supply 3 quotations to the December meeting. BPC to purchase this and it remains a PC asset.
- b) Representatives from St Mary's Parochial Church Council explained that £400 is sought towards the cost of maintaining the grounds the Cemetery. It was **unanimously AGREED** that the PCC would pass on the invoice from David Windle and that this would be paid by BPC as a pre-approved administration action. It was further **NOTED** that BPC would discuss a wildlife strategy in 2020.

143. HASCOTT HILL NATURE RESERVE and TREE PROTECTION ORDERS

- a) It was RESOLVED to defer this item until the December meeting
- b) The councillors NOTED information from Cllr Zethraeus on Information on Tree Protection Orders (**Appendix 2**) The 26 trees on Straight Road are already protected. The verge is classified as a nature reserve and has no special status. It is suggested that TPO status is applied for if the tree(s) are in danger.

Councillors **unanimously RESOLVED** to seek protection orders on the trees at Bowl Meadow: it is anticipated that this will be necessary to safeguard the trees. Clerk to contact Paul Wright and David Bates the developer. The item is to be placed on the December meeting agenda.

144. CONSULTATION RESPONSE: LGBC (England) WARD BOUNDARIES

- a) It was **AGREED** to re-visit the BPC consultation response to The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (Ward Boundaries) once councillors have reviewed the map. Houses at Stoke Farm Drive are in Battisford, but the council tax goes to Ringshall.

145. BUS SERVICE

- a) The proposals from surrounding Parishes to join together to fund the bus service were discussed. It is thought that only two people use the service, which runs on two days a week. It was **unanimously AGREED** not to contribute to the service. Clerk to reply and to disseminate information on the Dial A Ride service. NIKKI PUT dial a ride info on WEBSITE

146. CHAIRS ITINERARY and REPORTS

- a) The Chairs reported a new resident had phoned Cllr Cleaver to find out what the broadband situation is: it is thought that the holiday home is in Ringshall; she has and how inconvenient the helicopters are. Clerk to work on Welcome to Battisford leaflet

- b) Councillors reports

The Battisford & Combs Village fete will take place on 27th June 2020 at Battisford playing Field. The Fete Committee have asked that BPC insure the event. It is not possible to add the event to the existing BPC cover because BPC are not managing the event and therefore cannot undertake responsibility for the liabilities that may arise. Clerk to source three Events cover policies and report to the December meeting. The gardening club would like some support with their fete participation non fundraising free event run by volunteers

147. BATTISFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP

- a) An article about the Battisford Neighbourhood Plan is to be published in the next edition of the Barclif (March). The text has been prepared by Cllr Lambotte.

148. CLERKS REPORT

- a) To receive the Clerks report and in particular:

- (i) No items actioned under delegated powers
- (ii) Annie Hands tree `In Memoriam` plaque source and cost: action from previous meeting. Cllrs **AGREED** to purchase Commemorative plaques (number 1) at £18.99 Clerk to speak with Ian Bell about his views on the plaque and the wording.
- (iii) S106 monies to purchase outdoor ping pong tables x 2 have been ringfenced by the District Council. Thanks to Cllr Pope for her help in locating the Deed, which states that the Lessor (Peter Rushbrook) demises the property to the Trustees from 23rd February 1993 for 99 years. Clerk to follow up on C/Cllr Oakes announcement re PING at Minute 139 a).
- (iv) The solar operated wall mounted sign for the Village Hall has been installed. Early reports are disappointing in that it is not particularly bright; this may be because the battery needs to be fully charged, monitor and report back to December meeting. The purchase of three directional signs at the junction of Mill Road, Bowl Road, and the junction of Deadmans Lane and Straight Road had been discussed at 138 c). It was **unanimously AGREED** that these signs would be purchased. Clerk to find out the supplier of the original Punchbowl signs. The member of the Village hall management Committee present at the meeting will check the required background and the lettering colour to be used, reporting back to the December meeting.
- (v) Work at the playground:
 - a) Mound slide- Clerk has written to Tim Durrant to thank him for his help, he replied that he glad to be of assistance cutting the grass and hedge. He does have some soil, but it is the wrong time of year to get it to the mound. Clerk to reply thanking Mr Durrant, start to be delayed until it is prudent. Once this is accomplished, work on stabilising the soil will need to be done. Clerk to get a quotation for seeding and wire mesh from Mortimer Contracts Limited. Imitation grass is not recommended.

- b) Pipe removal/ use- Cllr Pope has obtained a quote of £60 (including VAT) from Mini Skips (aka Bargewell skips) for removal of the pipe from the play area. Clerk has ascertained that the District Council would remove as heavy waste for £40.50, but it would need to be broken up. The councillors discussed using the pipe, held in place with sleepers as a play feature, but it was thought that long term this was not an option as it is not a recommended, tested play item. It was **RESOLVED** to arrange for removal by Mini Skips.
- (vi) The original agreement signed by BPC specifies that the SID must be on the same side of the road as oncoming traffic, therefore it is not possible to turn the SID around. It was **AGREED** that the process should be recommenced; councillors to look at three alternate sites and report back to the December meeting.
- (vii) The mileage allowance for Councillors is £0.45ppm
- (viii) The former Chair of the parish Council has sourced 45 donated trees from the Woodland Trust and has offered to pick up and deliver to BPC. Clerk instructed to thank Chris Knock for his assistance, councillors examine where they should be placed in public areas and report back in December. Possible Community Orchard/ Wood? D/Cllr Pratt confirmed that he would be willing to use locality funding for the planting, mulch, non-plastic guards and stakes. Clerk to find out type of trees.
- (ix) Cricket Club: discussion on clarifying Cricket Club role in defibrillator testing/ maintenance. BPC purchased the defibrillator at the request of (ex-Councillor) Craig Skinner, who tasked Dave Stevens Row with checking the machine. Cllrs Nicholas and Aspinall look after the other two. The Cricket Club machine was found to be inoperative, and Cllr Nicholas got it back into action. It transpired that the electricity supply inside the cricket club, which runs to the defibrillator, had been turned off. The Cricket Club do not want to incur any cost. Cllr Cleaver explained that frequent checking is needed (batteries/ pads); The Cricket Club is unhappy with that level of commitment, that they are simply hosting the device.
BPC had understood that the Cricket Club would take responsibility, given Health and Safety obligations at a sporting facility.
Cllr Cleaver will write to the Committee to ask them to take on responsibility for the device, now that BPC have ensured that it is fully operative; this would appear to be consistent with health and safety legislative requirements at a public facility.

The 30th October check on a second device is overdue; Cllr Cleaver will speak to Cllr Aspinall.

149. FINANCE/ AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) Finance
 - (i) The itemised expenditure/ invoices for payment (Appendix 3) was **unanimously AGREED** and signatories to sign the same. There remains a question on the number of dog bins.
 - (ii) The discussion on the clerk's pension and BPC legal responsibilities was **DEFERRED**

150. PRELIMINARY 2020-2021 BUDGET & PRECEPT REQUIREMENT DISCUSSION

- a) Councillors discussed the Precept for 2020 to 2021.
It was **unanimously RESOLVED** to remain at the same level as this year. Clerk to set draft budget and completed precept request form at 0% increase of precept for signature at the December meeting.

151. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

- a) To exchange any relevant information at the discretion of the Chairman

152. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC - EXEMPT MATTERS

- a) The public left the meeting (Commercially sensitive matters)

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

153. EXEMPT MATTER

- a) The quotation for works at the Cemetery were discussed by the councillors.

Appendix 1

District Councillor Report Battisford and Ringshall Ward Barking, Battisford, Great Bricett, Offton, Ringshall, Willisham Submitted by Councillor Daniel Pratt for November 2019

New Corporate Plan

The Joint Strategic Plan (2016 – 2020) has been refreshed by the Cabinet members of both Councils. The new corporate plan includes both a vision and a mission statement and is summarised with a graphic representation. This was discussed at the October Council meeting, where the Green Group proposed an amendment to include an all-encompassing theme of environmental sustainability which should underpin all activity within the Council. This was rejected by the administration.

Environment Task Group

A cross party group of councillors from Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils has now formed and agreed a programme of meetings to address the Climate Emergency and hopefully come up with some strategies for the Councils to adopt in due course.

Trees in the District

The Council administration voted against a proposal to increase tree cover across the district in October. To counter this, Green Group Members are considering a range of projects including a community orchard in Stowmarket and we would like to extend this idea to the parishes of the district.

Housing

Mid Suffolk are planning to deliver two completely affordable housing developments on the middle school sites in Needham Market and Stowmarket. Both developments will include homes for affordable rent, social rent and shared ownership. Over the last 4 years Mid Suffolk have built and acquired enough homes to just about keep pace with the loss of properties to the Right to Buy Scheme.

General Election – December 12

As you will be aware, a General Election has been called for Thursday 12 December. MSDC will be sending out the Notice of Parliamentary Election on Friday 8 November, with a request that copies be displayed on parish noticeboards. The issue of the Notice of Election signals a pre-election period which restricts some activities. All MSDC Council and Cabinet meetings will be cancelled, as will Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. Next meetings will be in January.

Free recycling talks for residents

Suffolk's Recycling Centres offer free 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - not a Waste of time!' sessions to interested parties to learn more about ways to reduce waste and recycling. If the Parish Council would like to arrange a session, please let one of us know. Further information is available on the Suffolk Recycling website

Email: daniel.pratt@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Telephone: 07775389193

From: David Pizzey <David.Pizzey@aberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk>

Appendix 2

Sent: 14 November 2019 12:31

To: stella.z@hotmail.co.uk <stella.z@hotmail.co.uk>

Subject: RE: TPOs

Dear Stella

Thank you for your enquiry.

The legally protected status of a Tree Preservation Order can normally only be applied to trees of significant landscape or historical importance that are at risk.

Due to the restrictions it places upon a landowner the making and confirming of a TPO can also be a lengthy process and therefore trees under foreseeable threat throughout the district must take priority. If any of the trees you have mentioned fit this category then I will be happy to advise further.

Strategic TPOs for trees that could theoretically be lost are only likely to be supported when resources permit. Please bear in mind that the requirement for a felling licence from the Forestry Commission and separate wildlife legislation will often safeguard trees in many instances.

I hope this is helpful but please don't hesitate if you have any further queries.

Kind regards

David Pizzey

Arboricultural Officer

Tel: 01449 724555

[<mailto:david.pizzey@aberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk>](mailto:david.pizzey@aberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

Initial enquiry from BPC Cllr S Zethraeus

I am a parish councillor in Battisford and at our last meeting the council asked me to contact you re: TPOs. As far as I can see we have one TPO for 26 oak trees at one end of the Straight Road. Oaks are historically special to Battisford and much of the Royal Exchange in London was built with Battisford Oak. We therefore decided to plant an avenue of oaks the length of the straight rd. (approx. half a mile?) for the diamond jubilee. Unfortunately we could only get consent from the farmer on one side! This line was planted. There were a few older trees already there. Thinking of the future, and possible changes in land ownership, is it worth us applying for a TPO to cover this line of trees?

We also have a roadside nature reserve and wonder whether we should apply for TPOs on a few very old oaks there?

As a pc we are concerned about development in the village and wonder whether we should be doing a more comprehensive survey of the parish with a view to protecting more trees? We appreciate that a selection of tree species may be more ecologically desirable.

Appendix 3

<u>Battisford Parish Council November meeting- Payments</u>	
	<u>Amount</u>
MSDC/ dog and litter bins- additional charge	£55.20
Staff costs (October)	£631.89
Office / admin expenses	£35.00
D. Windle - grass cutting Invoice dated 4th November 2019	£751.00
<u>On the night (received after agenda sent out)</u>	
Staff costs (November)	£322.14

query last mtg