

BEDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

(draft) Minutes of the Bedfield AGM Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th May 2022 at the Bedfield Community HUB Pavilion. The meeting commenced at 1900.

05/22 - 01 Present

- Alison Manning (Chairperson - AM), John Dickson (Vice Chairperson – JD), Keith Frost (KF), Richard Pickard (RP), and Maureen Whiteman – MW).
- Geoff Robinson (GR) as Parish Clerk & Community Club Secretary.
- Four members of the public, including Lisa Crane (LS - see item 05/22 – 04 below).

05/22 - 02 Apologies for Absence

- Jenny Barnham (Approved).

05/22 - 03 Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

- AM was unanimously elected as Chairperson. KF did not wish to continue as Vice-Chairperson and was unanimously replaced by JD.

05/22 - 04 Co-option of Councillor

- GR had widely advertised the Parish Council vacancy and displayed the required legal documents. One expression of interest had been received and their application had been circulated. Accordingly, by a unanimous vote, Lisa Crane (LC) was co-opted to the Parish Council and signed the Acceptance of Office form. The Declaration of Members Interest forms will need to be done online within one month (GR to facilitate). LC then joined the meeting as a Councillor.
- Condolences were expressed regarding the unexpected death of Councillor Steve Harvey, with unanimous grateful thanks expressed for his contribution to Bedfield and the community in general.

05/22 - 05 Declaration of Members Interests

- GR reminded the councillors of the need to occasionally review their declarations and keep them up to date. No changes were notified.

05/22 - 06 Public Open Session

- A villager raised the issue of the ash tree on the proposed building plot at Edale as being dead and asked what had killed it. After a brief discussion it was accepted that nothing further could be done in any case.
- After a request by a resident, GR had researched the right to ride horses on Long Green under the laws relating to Common Land and stated that this was allowable with the (land) owner's permission, i.e. the Parish Council. He will inform the villager accordingly.

05/22 - 07 Minutes of the Last Meeting (24th November 2021)

- These were agreed as accurate and were signed by AM as Chairperson.

05/22 - 08 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- The new dog-waste bin for Long Green had been obtained and KF would fit it shortly. It was subsequently agreed to affix it to one of the entrance barrier posts.
- The new play area signs had still not been installed by SCC Highways. GR to liaise with Matthew Hicks.
- GR had researched the website "Friends against Scams" and will send details to Andrew Manning for possible inclusion in a newsletter.

05/22 - 09 Report of District & County Councillor

All reports received from Councillor Matthew Hicks have been circulated.

05/22 - 10 Financial Update

- Payments since the meeting in February 2022 (during 2021/22) have been the clerk's Second Half Year Salary, PAYE and expenses of £658.57, £152.63 and £125.68 respectively. All had been previously approved.
- Payments during 2022/23 so far have been £191.64 for the SALC renewal.
- An outstanding payment for 2022/23 of £100.00 was due to Paul Burrows for internal audit charges (which includes £50.00 for 2021/22). This was authorised.
- There had been no income for the 2021/22 financial year since the meeting in February 2022.
- Income for 2022/23 so far has been £1,125.00 for the first half precept and a VAT refund of £576.85 (which includes £481.64 appropriate to the Community Club).
- The 2021/22 Accounts had been audited by Paul Burrows, who had found no errors. They had been circulated by GR, with all the associated documentation. They were unanimously approved, together with the accounting statement and signed by AM. As the income and expenditure was well below £25,00.00, AGA2 applies and PKF Littlejohn will be forwarded the Certificate of Exemption.
- The 2022/23 Financial Risk Assessment was agreed.
- The Clerk's Salary Contract for 2022/23 was agreed and signed by AM.

05/22 - 11 Planning Updates

- SCC/0075/19MS (Poplar Farm Worlingworth) Appeal against refusal) – Appeal allowed.
- DC/22/01762 (The Grove – various additions & replacements) – Supported & with MSDC.
- DC/22/01925 (Home Farm – variations to existing plans) – Supported & with MSDC.
- DC/22/02024 (Edale – Revised application to DC/21/0626) – Objection & with MSDC.

05/22 - 12 Police Report

- GR stated that the Suffolk Police crime website for the period for January to March 2022 showed one crime of "Violence and Sexual Offences", which appeared to have occurred in the Tannington Road area, in March 2022, although no further details were available.

05/22 - 13 Community Club Update

GR and AM introduced several salient points, viz:

- The planning for the fete to be held on Saturday 9th July 2022 was well in hand, with three more meetings to be held before that date.
- The Tennis Club was still a cause for concern with little information available regarding its operation or management. It is thought that a meeting of several members will take place in June 2022 and representatives will attend the next meeting of the Community Club on 28th July 2022, hopefully with several proposals for the way forward.
- Potential improvements to the kitchen are on hold pending a visit and advice from an architect via CAS.

05/22 – 14 Any Other Business and Correspondence Etc

- GR had continued to address several issues with SCC Highways regarding potholes, verges, footpaths and other highways matters. Dealing with their responses was in hand.
- Concern was expressed regarding the danger that uncut road verges were causing and the fact that they were not scheduled to be cut by SCC Highways until week commencing 4th July 2022. An offer from JD to cut all the verges for circa £80 was therefore accepted.
- Bob Whiteman had been appointed as Tree Warden and the councillors will look forward with interest to his contributions at future parish council meetings. An application has since been received for the role from another villager. GR has emailed her expressing thanks for the interest but pointing out that the post had already been filled

02/22 - 15 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting for Wednesday 7th September 2022 at the Bedfield Community HUB Pavilion.

The meeting ended at 20:00.

Chairperson.....