

BUXHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st November 2016 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr David Steed (chair) Cllr Jackie Taylor Cllr Chris Hall
C Cllr Malcolm Manning Cllr Hubert Mitson Cllr Arthur Hicks
Paula Gladwell – Clerk County Cllr Penny Otton
0 member of the public District Cllr John Matthissen

- 2016/938 **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Anne Hicks
2016/939 **Declarations of Interest** – Cllrs Steed and Mitson declared a pecuniary interest in item 6a (minutes no.2016/948) No dispensations were requested.

Extreme sadness was expressed by council on the death of former councillor Derek Gant, a moment of reflection was taken by the meeting, Derek will be sorely missed and remembered with fondness.

- 2016/940 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – It was proposed by Cllr Steed that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 19th September and the Planning Committee minutes of 1st November 2016 were signed as a true record.

Meeting adjourned.

Public Session – No questions.

Meeting resumed:

- 2016/941 **Clerks Report** – It was confirmed that the Transparency funding had been received for the software and a further year for admin of the website.
- 2016/942 It was confirmed that the steps up to the footpath adjacent to Brook Farm had been replaced.
- 2016/943 The cabinet for the defibrillator has been ordered with acknowledgement to all contributors added to the cabinet. One quote at £75.00 has been received to carry out the electrical install of the cabinet at the village hall. Further quotes will be sought.
- 2016/944 Contact has been made with Housing Enabler, Paul Bryant at MSDC regarding the progression of the project to provide Local Needs Affordable Housing. Paul has confirmed that there are currently only 6 people with a connection to Buxhall on the Choice Based Letting housing list who are looking for affordable housing in the village. This is much lower than the survey results. Of these, 2 are over 55 looking for a 1 bed property, 2 have family in the village and are looking for a 3 bed. Paul's conclusions are that it is unlikely that MSDC Planning will support some market value housing units as part of an affordable scheme which would facilitate a financially viable sale of land for a vendor and MSDC would not be willing to forge ahead with a scheme of their own without a higher demand evidenced and with no other sites financially viable. It was suggested that any land owner looking to sell land with a view to possibly providing scope for affordable housing should contact MSDC directly. Without the possibility of land purchase for affordable housing at a financially viable level it will prove impossible to engage a Housing Provider. It was noted that until an alternative site could be identified the project could not move forward.
- 2016/945 Temporary traffic orders for the closure of U4955 Rattlesden Road and U4508 Mill Road were noted.
- 2016/946 The clerk confirmed that it is with regret that she has tendered her resignation and is very sad to be leaving however the additional work load of a primary job has had to take priority. Assurance is given that in the lead up to her departure she will be committed to facilitating a smooth and efficient handover to a new clerk.
- 2016/947 **Planning** – It was resolved to submit the following response to MSDC for applications: 4581/16 and 4580/16 Works Installation of below ground swimming pool, erection of changing room facilities and parkland machinery store, Buxhall Vale, Purple

Hill - – "Buxhall Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"

Cllrs Steed and Mitson left the room, Cllr Hall took the chair.

2016/948 2602/16 and 2603/16 (reconsultation due to additional information) Conversion of 2 No. agricultural barns to 2 no. dwellings. Demolition of agricultural buildings, erection of a car port, installation of package treatment plant, Barns at Leffey Hall, Brettenham Road – "Buxhall Parish Council have taken into account all additional documents submitted and continue to have NO OBJECTION to the this application based on the information available"

Cllrs Steed and Mitson returned

2016/949 The following MSDC Decisions were noted; 3346/16 Erection of a three bay cart lodge (with storage above) Alterations to existing driveway, Noahs Ark farm, Brettenham Road – GRANTED

2016/950 It was noted that application no 2900/16 Outline Planning Permission sought for the erection of a 1.5 storey dwelling with all matters reserved, Oaklands, Rattlesden Road had been put to APPEAL for non determination.

2016/951 **Finance** – The Finance Report for November 2016 was approved.

2016/952 The following payments were approved, proposed by Cllr Manning, Sec Cllr Taylor with all in favour: Clerk's salary & exp Sept & Oct 2016.

2016/953 Hall Hire £25.00

2016/954 HMRC Q2 Payment,

2016/955 Anglian Water £82.64

2016/956 Andy Gooderham £300.00

2016/957 Harry Smith Aggregates £1104.86

2016/958 D Davison £760.22

2016/959 Eon DD £28.23

2016/960 MSDC Play inspection £55.64

2016/961 Vertas grass cutting £240.41

2016/962 Defib Cabinet £615.00

2016/963 The clerk provided proposals and a draft budget for 2017/18. It was suggested that funds be taken from reserves in order to ensure the parish council part of the council tax was not increased significantly. An additional £500 was added to the play equipment budget heading. Further consideration of the budget will take place once the tax base calculations are available from MSDC and the precept request can be agreed.

Meeting adjourned

County Councillor Penny Otton's Report – Cllr Otton gave her report which will be attached to these minutes.

Meeting resumed

2016/964 **Annual Playground Inspection Report** – Cllr Arthur Hicks reported on the findings of the recent annual playing field inspection. It was suggested that consideration be given to the provision of an information sign. It was agreed that the recommendation to replace the chains and seats on the swings should go ahead, Cllr Hicks will seek quotes for consideration at the next meeting. The main timbers on the multiplay have been recommended as a medium risk and consideration of the replacement of this piece of play equipment should be taken soon as the Multiplay probably has only 2 – 3 years viable life span left.

It was suggested that council consider the provision of outside gym equipment on the playingfield

Meeting adjourned

District Councillor John Matthissen's Report – Cllr Matthissen gave his report which will be attached to these minutes.

Meeting resumed

2016/965 **Allotments** – It was resolved to approve the erection of a poly tunnel on plot E

2016/966 A review of the tenancy agreement was considered. It was suggested that item 8 be amended to ensure any erection of shedding or forcing houses/poly tunnels had permission from the council in order to take account of any possible inconvenience to neighbouring plots or residential properties, likewise for item 7 to ensure control over

the planting of fruit trees. Consideration to be given at next meeting as to whether revised agreements should be issued to existing tenants.

2016/967 It was proposed by Cllr Manning that Allotment rents be increased by £5 per plot for 2017/18. With no seconder the motion failed.

It was resolved that Allotments rents for 2017/18 would remain the same. Proposed Cllr Mitson, seconded by Cllr Taylor with all in favour.

2016/968 **Correspondence** – There were no comments to tabled correspondence.

2016/969 **Consultations - Proposed BT public payphone removals**

It was agreed that no objections would be lodged to the removal of the phone boxes at Edmunds Road IP14 3DT and adjacent to Mayhews IP14 3DJ as neither had been used at all in recent times.

2016/970 **Government 2018 Boundary Review: Eastern Region Initial Proposals** – It was resolved to submit the following comments:

"Buxhall Parish Council is aware that within the 2018 Boundary Review: Initial Proposals for England the village would be transferred to the constituency of South Suffolk. Currently, it comes under Bury St Edmunds.

The proposals, if given effect, would mean that Buxhall has a key change in representation. South Suffolk mainly encompasses towns and villages which have little in common with Buxhall. Our present constituency includes Mid Suffolk District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Both are the geographical and logical focus for the residents of Buxhall - especially in terms of service delivery. It is felt that the proposed change would have a negative impact on the village and its surrounding area.

Representation would rest with an MP whose principal interests, rightly so, would be with the majority of residents in the south of the county who have markedly different interests from those people living and working in the north of the county where Buxhall is located. This loss of influence would be detrimental to the needs of residents who look to the neighbouring towns of Bury St Edmunds and especially Stowmarket for services and facilities, including the delivery of transport, health services and education.

It is felt that the proposal to move Buxhall and its close rural village neighbours would leave the village isolated from its obvious and 'natural' town neighbour, Stowmarket and its current relationship to the A14 and adversely affect its ability to have any sort of meaningful say through its MP."

2016/971 **Suffolk County Council Highways Maintenance Operational Plan** – It was agreed that no response be given

2016/972 **Footpaths** – Cllr Manning had no issues to report.

2016/973 **Staffing Working Group** – It was resolved to set up a Staffing Working Group whose initial remit is to recruit to fill the vacancy for Parish Clerk & RFO including advertising, interview and selection of a suitable candidate for recommendation to full council. The draft Terms of Reference were approved. The group will initially comprise of Cllrs Steed, Manning and Arthur Hicks.

2016/974 **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – It was noted that the hedge on the allotment site boundary was in need of cutting on both sides. A minimum of 6 ft was recommended in order to ensure a wind break remains for plot holders. Quotes will be sought for cutting both sides of the length of hedge between Sorrels and Five Winds reducing to a height of 6ft, with any mature trees left. It was agreed that as soon as the ground was dry enough the ditch should also be cleared out and quotes will be sought for this in the spring.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 16th January 2017 at 7.30pm at The Village Hall