

BEDINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on Monday 27th November 2023 in the Village Hall.
A draft summary of the minutes follows:

Present: Councillors R Housley, M Booth, P List, A Lawrence and few parishioners.

1 Everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

The order of the agenda was altered to allow the District and County Councillors to speak at the beginning.

14 Report from District Councillor.

The report was circulated and placed on the website.

As a result of the serious flooding, especially in Debenham, caused by storm Babet a public forum is being organised with the EA (Environment Agency) and JPEU (Joint Partnership Emergency Unit) at Debenham Community Centre.

Public participation.

Have the dog bins been forgotten? There are still problems with the footpath at Bedingfield House. The ground will be levelled when the weather improves. Large potholes in Hall Road. All residents can report potholes on the SCC website.

15 Report from County Councillor.

The report was circulated and placed on the website.

850 premises were flooded in storm Babet. Funding from SCC could be very drawn out. Section 19 deals with this and is quite long winded and complicated. Further funding has been received for improvements to A12 for access to Sizewell. The minimum wage increase announced by the government will require an extra £5.5 million to fund. Lorries in Debenham and the surrounding area are causing problems since the Lorry management trial 7.5 tonnes weight limit in Eye. A consultation runs until the end of January for the continuation of the restriction. SCC have launched a consultation giving residents opportunity to say what they would like from the library service.

2 Apologies. None

3 Declaration of interest. None

4 Minutes.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. They were then signed and dated.

5 Matters arising. None

6 Correspondence

MSDC have conducted a review of Polling Districts, Polling Places, and stations.

Pride in Your Place has funds for general upkeep in the parish.

CAS are offering to provide domain names for parish councils.

High Suffolk Community transport will be running a bus from Bedingfield Street to Stowmarket on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursday of the month starting 1st December.

MSDC have a questionnaire to share views on local listed building consent orders.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MUEQAA>

MSDC are running an £2 million initiative for free home insulation upgrades for those who qualify.

The following are asking for donations:

Headway Suffolk www.headwaysuffolk.org.uk

CAB www.midsuffolkcab.org.uk

7 Planning

Conversion of and extension to barn complex to form 4 residential holiday rentals at Flemings Hall. There was much discussion regarding this application. It is only a single track road also used extensively by agricultural machinery particularly harvest time and late at night. The road is also used by lorries servicing the farm and poultry units nearby. Flemings Hall is Grade 2 * listed building which is very close.

8. Internal Audit and Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment is comprehensive and was approved.

The Internal Audit was reviewed and adopted.

9. Finance

A Lawrence studied the insurance quotes and advised Zurich to be the best and cheapest policy.

The following payments had been made:

Zurich Insurance £196

Community Action Suffolk for website hosting £60.00

RBL for the poppy wreath £19.99

The budget for 2024/25 was circulated with the agenda. Following a brief discussion, the councillors agreed the precept should remain at £1620 for 2024/25.

The clerk's salary was discussed and agreed.

Thanks to the persistent work of the signatories the mandate has been updated to include the clerk and internet banking is now in operation.

10. Church Clock

An estimate has been received from Haward Horological Ltd, Felixstowe to make, supply and fit a 24-volt winding unit and leave the clock in good working order. £5880 + VAT. This is considerably cheaper than the previous estimate. Are there any capital grants available? The electricity required to run the mechanism would be minimal. Permission would be required from the church.

11. Highways

Residents may report any potholes or problems on the highway using the SCC website.

Flooding continues on Plash Road near the Village Hall junction. The drain may be blocked. There is a lot of vegetation in the ditches. Further investigation to take place.

12. Dog bins

The siting, number of bins and their effectiveness was discussed. MSDC empty the bins at a cost of £46.53 + VAT per bin, per year.

All councillors agreed to purchase two. It is hoped by installing 2 dog bins, one each end of Little Lane that the footpaths will be free of dog mess. The clerk will get exact size and price to circulate to councillors.

13 Councillor Vacancy

The public were asked to leave the room while the applications were discussed.

Two applications have been received. The chairman summarised the information from the candidates. Discussion followed. A secret ballot was taken and Julie Jakeways was co-opted as a member of the council.

16. AOB

Community Policing in the area has been reorganised. Details on the police website.

17. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 19th February 2024 7:30pm

Everyone was thanked for attending.