

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 5 March 2015

Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland Cllr Rosemary Jones
Cllr David Lister Cllr Sally Smith

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
District Councillor Sara Michell
County Councillor Jessica Fleming
15 Member of the public

7.30pm The Vice-Chairman welcomed those present and opened the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Geoff Short
2. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 5 February 2015.** The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.
3. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Smith.
4. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.** None.
5. **Public Forum:** 7.33pm RESOLVED, with all in favour, to adjourn the meeting for the public forum. The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 8.07pm.
6. **Planning:**
 - 6.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 6.1.1 **The Old Workshop, West Hall Road, Rickinghall.** Ref: 0450/15. Retention of galvanised palisade security fence (2.1m in height). The Parish Council considered the application after a public discussion with 15 local residents, all of whom objected to the application and had related concerns about further development of the site. These included reports of additional roadways made up of tarmac road planings laid onto agricultural fields, which were considered to be toxic and harmful to local watercourses, flora and fauna; septic tanks; and caravan hook-ups. In response to the request for comment on application 0450/15, all councillors present visited the site and viewed the fence in its setting, of agricultural fields, hedges and heritage assets, which includes Priory Farm House, a Grade II Listed building approx. 100 yards from the site, and Westhall Wood and Meadow SSSI, which is a short distance from the site. It was agreed that the NPPF was clear in its commitment to the protection of heritage assets, including listed buildings and their settings, and advised that harm to their significance should be assessed against the public benefits of the proposal. Sustainable development dictated that substantial harm to or loss of significance should be refused unless it was demonstrated that it was necessary to deliver substantial public benefits that outweighed that harm, but also that any harm required clear and convincing justification. The PC felt that the application did not meet the criteria for sustainable development, as there were no public benefits and the benefits to the applicant could be achieved with less or no harm by an alternative design. It was agreed that the fence was of an aggressive design when viewed in its setting, introducing a development of an industrial character which did not respect the local distinctiveness of an area of open countryside, fields and natural boundaries. The materials and finishes were not traditional and did not maintain the open character and natural appearance of the area. Finally, the proposals had increased the area of hard standing within the field and as such did not encourage the conservation of agricultural land. On the grounds above, Rickinghall Parish Council RESOLVED, with all in favour, to object to the application, commenting further that the parish had a very low incident of crime, based on monthly reports from the police, and this approach was an excessive response to the actual level of threat. It was felt that the aim of the application could be achieved by natural security hedging, as had been

used on nearby properties. Additionally, the PC commented that any other reported development on or near the site should be investigated by MSDC.

- 6.1.2 **Rose Cottage, Water Lane, Rickinghall.** Ref: 0355/15. Erection of new conservatory following demolition of existing; replacement of window to south-east elevation with new oak flush casement window with floating mullion. Listed Building Consent. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to have no objection to the application.

6.2 **Notice of Intent works to tree(s) in the Conservation Area:**

6.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.

7. **Progress Reports:**

7.1 **Chairman:** None.

7.2 **Clerk:** None.

8. **General Items:**

8.1 **Standing Orders and Financial Regulations:** The Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations were reviewed and no changes were made.

8.2 **Notice Board:** It was noted with thanks that Cllr Lister had negotiated a £100 reduction and the notice board had been ordered.

8.3 **Annual Newsletter:** It was agreed to ask St Botolphs school children to draw a picture for the front of the Rickinghall News, to be ready for consideration at the May meeting. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to offer a prize of one £20 book token.

8.4 **Internal Controls Review:** Cllr Smith had reviewed the accounts procedures, based on the internal controls checklist provided by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, and had signed off on them. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to accept the review.

8.5 **Internal Auditor:** It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to appoint SALC as internal auditor for the year-end accounts.

9. **Correspondence:**

9.1 **SCC:** The PC noted the information about LED Lantern Project which would replace all SCC high energy lights – those that stayed lit all night on main routes – with LED lights.

9.2 **MSDC:** It was noted that the Suffolk Walking Festival was on from 9th - 31st May 2015. More information and the full programme of walks could be found on the festival website: www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk.

9.3 **RVHMC:** The PC received the request for funding for new tennis nets. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to pay the full cost of the nets at £150 in recognition of the Village Hall Management Committee's significant contribution to the community.

10. **Finance:**

10.1 **Account Balances:**

Current Account	£	1,058.21
Deposit Account	£	20,908.91

10.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

L Jackson-Eve	£	521.38	Sal/Exps Feb 15
T Gaddis	£	133.99	St Clean Feb 15
HMRC	£	4.80	PAYE for LJE
SCC	£	861.26	Street Lights Maint & Energy 2014-15
Botesdale PC	£	352.70	Contribution to Xmas tree – s137
J Canning	£	31.00	Cost of Remembrance Sunday Event

RESOLVED, with all in favour, to approve payment of the accounts above.

11. **Highways Issues:** It was noted that the bottle banks area had recently been thoroughly cleaned. It was suggested that the sign at the base of Snape Hill should read just "Bottle banks" to discourage other waste disposal.

12. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Barwoods:** Thanks were extended to Maurice Smith, the Allotments MC Chairman, for helping haul a load of wood chippings to Northfield Wood.
- **PC Surgery:** It was suggested that Rickinghall and Botesdale attend on alternate months. Cllr Crossley-Holland agreed to do the Surgery in March and Cllr Jones would do April.

13. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council / Matters for the next meeting:**

Nomination papers were passed out to councillors who wished to stand for election on 7 May and the Clerk explained the procedure for filing papers. The completed papers were due by 9 April but would not be accepted by Mid Suffolk before 23 March.

14. **Next Meeting:** 2 April 2015 (to note APM prior to meeting at 7pm)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.14pm.