

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 1 February 2018
Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Robin Brown
Cllr Nick Free
Cllr William Maskell
Cllr Sally Smith

Cllr Dominic Ebert
Cllr Rosemary Jones
Cllr Geoff Short

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
District Cllr Derek Osborne
6 Members of the public

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Gillian Crossley-Holland and Nic Joubert.
2. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 4 January 2018:** The minutes of the meetings were agreed and signed.
3. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Free.
4. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
5. **Public Forum:** The owners of Bell Hill House thanked the PC for its support in objecting to the planning application for conversion of the newsagent/post office premises to a takeaway. Thanks also went to the Chairman, Geoff Short, who attended the Planning Committee meeting in Ipswich only to find the application withdrawn before it was discussed. This was due to the need for significant alterations to plans for the interior of the shop area to avoid damage to the joists of the adjoining property. It wasn't known whether another application would be made.
6. **Planning:**
 - 6.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 6.1.1 **Priory Farm, West Hall Road.** Ref. DC/18/00020. Use of agricultural building built for straw storage as a piggery. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection to the application subject to adequate consideration of odour control measures.
 - 6.2 **Notice of Intent works to tree(s) in the Conservation Area:**
 - 6.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**
 - 6.3.1 **Land to the Rear of Willowmere, Garden House Lane.** Ref. 2798/16. Application for outline planning permission for the demolition of existing garage and stores associated with builder's yard and erection of 10 dwellings and associated garages with offsite associated highway works. Planning Permission GRANTED.
 - 6.3.2 **White Horse Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/17/05854. Planning Application - Sub-division of site and erection of 1No dwelling. Planning Permission GRANTED.
 - 6.3.3 **Crooked Cottage, Water Lane.** Ref. DC/17/05971. Fell 1 no. Atlas Cedar. NO OBJECTION
 - 6.4 **Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr Brown reported that a NP Forum meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 21 February at the Botesdale Village Hall.
7. **Progress Reports:**
 - 7.1 **Chairman:** A card had been sent to Monty and Pam Cornell thanking them for their hard work at the village hall over many years. They had replied sending thanks.

- 7.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk reported that:
- The Traffic Restriction Order for double-yellow lines at the Co-op and Garden House Lane junctions would be advertised for public comment sometime in the next few weeks.
 - The report to SCC concerning possible anti-speeding measures near the site of a recent accident at Garden House Lane had received a reply. The Safety and Speed Management team at SCC had advised that having investigated the location, it appeared that all the available traffic signs and road markings that could be installed on the highway to identify the carriageway layout were already in place.
 - MSDC were going to hold workshops on Community Infrastructure Levy and how it could be spent. The nearest event was at Elmswell Community Centre at 10am and 6pm on 19 February. The Clerk and Cllr Brown would attend the morning session.

8. **Correspondence:**

- 8.1 **Post Office:** The PC noted the update on the local post office closure which confirmed that there was no imminent realistic possibility of a new Post Office service being established within the locality. It was agreed to highlight the matter to Jo Churchill MP.
- 8.2 **Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association:** The PC noted the transfer of "ownership" of local NHW from the police to the SNWA. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to give the SNWA a donation of £25 for initial set-up costs.
- 8.3 **St Nicholas Hospice:** The PC agreed to accept the offer to hold a fundraising carolling event in the village over the weekend of 14-16 December, subject to co-ordination with the local group RAHOF.
- 8.4 **Age UK:** It was agreed to consider this together with other donation requests in May.
- 8.5 **MSDC:** Councillors noted the request from MSDC to update their Registers of Interest.

9. **General Items:**

- 9.1 **Rickingham Village Hall:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to sign the new hall hire agreement.
- 9.2 **Annual Newsletter:** It was agreed that councillors would consider a theme, to be discussed further in March, and note the deadline for councillor reports (Tree Warden, Footpaths, Litter Pick) by 18 April.
- 9.3 **Internal Audit Review:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to appoint Cllrs Short and Smith to carry out the annual review.
- 9.4 **Dog Bins:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to purchase a 35L dog bin to install at the entrance to Low Meadow.
- 9.5 **Community Housing Fund and Community Land Trusts:** The PC noted the availability of funding for community housing projects and agreed that it would be useful to consult with the community on setting up a Community Land Trust to pursue local projects, possibly as an element of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 9.6 **Data Protection Regulations:** The PC noted that new regulations will apply from 25 May 2018 and the steps the Council needed to take to be compliant. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to appoint a third-party Data Protection Officer in the first year to support the Clerk as it was currently unclear whether the Clerk could act as DPO. It was agreed to accept a quote from the Local Council Public Advisory Service for £650 for a combined service to Redgrave (£150), Botesdale (£250) and Rickingham (£250).
- 9.7 **Vehicle Activated Sign:** Councillors noted the January data, which revealed that 8500+ vehicles entered the village each week and approximately 63% were over the limit with one top speed of 70mph. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Police Commissioner Tim Passmore to see if anything could be done.

10. **Finance:**

10.1	Account Balance:	£28,235.83	
	Income:	£ 351.44	Transparency Fund

10.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

L Jackson-Eve (£878.03)	£ 641.27	Sal/Exps Jan 18
	£ 236.76	Additional Hours/Exps (NH Plan)
T Gaddis	£ 143.32	St Clean Feb 18
Botesdale PC	£ 360.00	Xmas Tree Contribution
Bryant Bros	£ 166.00	Paint Bus Shelter
Mill Lane Allotments	£ 400.00	Eco Toilet Installation (agreed 5/10/17)
Alison Farmer Assoc	£ 1,500.00	NH Plan Landscape Appraisal Inv.2

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

11. **Highways Issues:** The Clerk to follow up on street light issues again.
12. **Welcome Pack:** None.
13. **Councillors' Reports:**
 - **Barwoods:** The group had new health and safety equipment.
 - **Public Rights of Way:** Cllr Free had now walked all the footpaths and would send the Clerk information on work that needed to be done.
 - **Village Hall:** There was a jumble sale coming up in February.
14. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** There was concern about two sites within the village – the footway in front of Jubilee House which was overgrown with brambles and the hedge near the White Horse. The Clerk would get quotes for trimming, etc. The bus shelter also needed some attention including removal of ivy, re-seating roof tiles and new guttering. The Clerk would get quotes.
15. **Next Meeting:** 1 March 2018
16. **To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 for consideration of the following items:** Personnel Issues – Clerk's Pension. The PC approached this with the desire to keep costs to a minimum for the parish versus the provision of an adequate pension as a responsible employer. Quotations were obtained and the figures debated in the meeting. It was noted that the Clerk, Leeann Jackson-Eve, was a contributory employee and her contract stated that she was eligible to be enrolled in the Local Government Pension Scheme, under LG Pension Scheme Regs 1997, SI 1997/1612 (as amended). Therefore, it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to enrol Leeann Jackson-Eve in the LG Pension Scheme with immediate effect. The Clerk would be asked to make the necessary arrangements with SCC, the LGPS fund manager.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.