

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 3 December 2015
Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland Cllr Dominic Ebert
 Cllr Rosemary Jones Cllr Geoff Short
 Cllr Sally Smith

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
County Cllr – Jessica Fleming
5 Members of the public

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

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr David Lister
2. **Casual Vacancies in the Office of Parish Councillor:** None.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 5 November 2015.** The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed with a correction to item 9.7 clarify that the Rickinghall churchyards would each receive a grant for £300.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Jones.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.** None.
6. **Public Forum:** 7.43pm RESOLVED, with all in favour, to adjourn the meeting for the public forum. The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.58pm.
7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:** None.
 - 7.2 **Notice of Intent works to tree(s) in the Conservation Area:** None.
 - 7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
8. **Progress Reports:**
 - 8.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman reported that the bricks near The Street/Hinderclay Road junction had finally been removed and the area paved over to great improvement. He noted that he would be attending a policing event on 10th December to receive an update on the future of policing in Suffolk. He had attended the Village Hall AGM and was impressed with their annual turnover and number of bookings. It was noted that Cllr Lister did not want to continue as councillor but had not yet resigned in writing as required. The PC would be sorry to lose him and would need to find a replacement Village Hall representative. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the parish magazine if it could accommodate an extra page for a vacancies advert, which could also include Botesdale and Rickinghall.
 - 8.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk reported that free anti-dog mess stickers were available from Environmental Health at Mid Suffolk District Council and it was agreed to take up this offer. It was also agreed to purchase a pack of 10 "There's no such thing as the Dog Poo Fairy" A4 posters from Keep Britain Tidy at a cost of £5.00. These would be laminated and put up around the village.
9. **Correspondence:**
 - 9.1 **MSDC:** The PC noted the information from the District Council about next year's Parish Precept and Local Council Tax Reduction Grants. The LCTR grant scheme was designed to compensate each parish and town council in Mid Suffolk for any negative movement in that town or parish's tax base as a result of changes to the Council Tax base in 2013. 2015-16 was the final year that the LCTR grant would be received.
 - 9.2 **SALC:** Following the introduction of the Transparency Code for smaller authorities with a turnover of under £25k, all local authorities could choose to have an auditor appointed to them by a "sector-led body" or they could procure

their own. The PC felt that that there would almost certainly be savings to be made from a group contract and it was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to opt-in to the new arrangements.

9.3 **W Maskell:** It was noted that the Chairman had replied directly to this complaint about speeding in the village. It was agreed to look into a number of options including a Speedwatch group, a vehicle activated speed sign and even 30mph stickers for litter bins. It was felt that village-wide consultation would be helpful in determining the degree of local involvement and interest in these options that could be expected. The Clerk would draw up a simple questionnaire which could go as an insert in the February parish magazine.

9.4 **SCC:** The County Council would be leaving all of its lights on all night on the nights of 24th December and 31st December. This would enable the expected increase in overnight celebrations to pass with as few incidents as possible. It was agreed to ask SCC to leave on all parish-owned lights as well on those two nights.

10. **General Items:**

10.1 **Low Meadow 5-year plan:** The Low Meadow project started in 2007 with a long-term plan of maintenance which included mowing and raking hay regularly, new planting and pollarding willows. The PC noted the new plan, which set out a schedule of those activities through 2019.

11. **Finance:**

11.1 **Account Balances:** £ 28,421.94
Income: £ 1.69 Bank Credit Interest

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

L Jackson-Eve	£	468.84	Sal/Exps Nov 15
T Gaddis	£	197.35	St Clean/Leaf Clearance Dec 15

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

12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **PC Surgery:** Cllr Crossley-Holland had agreed to do the November surgery.

14. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** None.

15. **Next Meeting:** 7 January 2016

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.