

# RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 7 January 2016

Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland  
Cllr Rosemary Jones  
Cllr Sally Smith

Cllr Dominic Ebert  
Cllr Geoff Short

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve  
County Cllr – Jessica Fleming  
District Cllr – Derek Osborne  
14 Members of the public

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

1. **Apologies for absence.** None.
2. **Casual Vacancies in the Office of Parish Councillor:** None.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 3 December 2015.** The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Smith.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.** Cllr Ebert declared an interest in item 7.1.1 as he lived in Ryders Way, off Garden House Lane.
6. **Public Forum:** 7.35pm RESOLVED, with all in favour, to adjourn the meeting for the public forum. *The meeting was well-attended by the majority of Garden House Lane residents. None of the residents present spoke in support of the application and there were some significant objections. These included the dramatic change the additional traffic and noise would have on what is now a quiet lane; the strain on infrastructure including limited sewerage capacity, limited street lighting and a surface water drainage system which frequently overflowed; a narrow road structure with no passing places or footways; and access to The Street made difficult due to parking on the road at Walsingham Mews and in The Street, poor visibility onto The Street and the sheer number of cars using Garden House Lane (including those from large developments Wheatfields and Ryders Way off Garden House Lane). There was a specific objection to the relocation of the established access road without consideration of an adjoining footpath and dwelling (which was not listed in the application as a property that was affected by the development). After some discussion, it was concluded that residents did not object in principle to development of the site but felt that the proposals were overdevelopment and none of the issues had been addressed adequately by the applicant. District Cllr Osborne reported that a meeting had been set up between the PC and development officers at Mid Suffolk to discuss issues related to the application and other development in the community. County Cllr Fleming reported that the Highways department were working with the developer to address access issues but had not yet commented on the application. Peter Beck, the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator reported on a number of burglaries in nearby villages.* The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 8.13pm.
7. **Planning:**
  - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
    - 7.1.1 **Willowmere, Garden House Lane, Rickinghall Superior.** Ref: 4116/15. Outline planning permission for the demolition of existing garage and stores associated with builders yard and erection of 29 dwellings and associated garages. Associated highway works. The PC noted public comments and agreed on all points of objection. It was therefore RESOLVED, with all in favour, to object to the application on the grounds of overdevelopment, beyond the point where existing infrastructure could cope. This included access difficulties and issues of highway safety, both on Garden House Lane and at the junction with The Street as outlined by residents in the public forum, and insufficient

consideration of the effect further hard-standing would have on surface drainage. Furthermore, it was felt that the location of a new access road directly adjacent to a public right of way would significantly change its character from a quiet countryside footpath to one adjacent to a busy road. Like residents, the PC had no objection in principle to the development of the site, should concerns be addressed satisfactorily, but felt that the scale of the proposed development would not be sustainable in this location. Finally, the PC commented that it would like to see more 2-3 bedroom homes suitable for young families in the mix as there was a shortage of that type of home in the community

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

7.2.1 **Maltby House, Bury Road, Rickinghall Inferior.** Ref: 4410/15. Work to no25 trees in conservation area as detailed in schedule received 17/12/15. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to have no objection to the application.

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

8. **Progress Reports:**

8.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman had attended a meeting discussing policing reform, a highlight of which was the announcement of a four-officer motorbike team to address speeding in the countryside. He had spoken directly to the Police Commissioner, Tim Passmore, about extending its remit to village speeding. It was noted that Suffolk was one of the few remaining counties where the Police dealt with parking violations.

8.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk reported on the draft traffic survey. It would be updated with councillors' suggestions and issued with the next parish magazine. No reply had been received yet from SCC with the requested breakdown of costs for the double-yellow line extension at the Co-op junction.

9. **Correspondence:**

9.1 **Suffolk Constabulary:** It was noted that parishes and towns were to be given the opportunity to fund a PCSO to address issues in their communities. However, this was costly and came too late to be included in 2016/17 budgets.

9.2 **Suffolk Constabulary:** The details of Policing Re-design were noted, including a significant reduction in personnel.

9.3 **SALC:** It was noted that Government would not require precept referendums in 2016.

9.4 **J E Witham:** The comments concerning traffic congestion at Post Office were received and it was agreed that it was a persistent problem. However, as the PC had discovered when addressing problems at the Co-op, double-yellow lines were a costly solution and the Highways department were against adding them if another solution was available. The Chairman would write to reply.

9.5 **SALC:** It was noted that future auditing arrangements would require a fee of £200 for external audits where income was over £25,000. Details were not given for below £25,000.

10. **General Items:**

10.1 **Precept 2016/17:** It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to sign the precept request for £18,834.

10.2 **Litter Pick:** A date was set for Saturday, 16 April at 10am-12pm, to meet in the Village Hall car park (with the VH's permission). It was agreed to leave the waste for MSDC to pick up at the bottom of Snape Hill.).

10.3 **Street Sweeping/Grass Cutting:** It was agreed to advertise the street sweeping and grass cutting contracts in the parish magazine.

11. **Finance:**

11.1 **Account Balances:** £ 27,467.19  
**Income:** £ 1.44 Bank Credit Interest

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

L Jackson-Eve	£	468.99	Sal/Exps Dec 15
T Gaddis	£	163.60	St Clean Jan 16
J Canning	£	38.54	Cost of Remembrance Day Parade
HMRC	£	13.00	PAYE for LJ-E

LCPAS	£	8.33	Rights of Way Training
SCC	£	811.78	Maintenance/Energy for Street Lights 2015-16

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

11.2 **Accounts Paid between meetings:**

CC Tree Services      £      290.00      Cutting back of Jubilee Hedge (14.12.15)

11.3 **Quarterly Budget Report:** The budget position after 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter was noted.

11.4 **Transparency Code Funding Application:** It was noted that £528 had been received towards costs of compliance with the transparency code.

12. **Highways Issues:** A complaint had been received about the confusion to delivery drivers caused by the location of 1-10 Church Meadow directly across the road from 1-10 Hinderclay Road. The Clerk would ask the District Council to look into the problem.

13. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Village Hall:** Cllrs agreed to consider becoming the PC rep on the VH Management Committee.
- **PC Surgery:** It was agreed to discontinue the surgery after two years as public attendance was very poor.

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

The Clerk reported that the new owner of the amenity area at Maypole Meadow had confirmed that the area would be maintained and preferred that the property not be used by the public and the PC for reasons of liability. It was agreed to discuss the matter further at the next meeting of the PC.

15. **Next Meeting:** 4 February 2016

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.