

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 3 March 2016

Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Robin Brown
Cllr Dominic Ebert
Cllr Geoff Short

Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland
Cllr Rosemary Jones
Cllr Sally Smith

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
District Cllr Derek Osborne
County Cllr Jessica Fleming
6 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:** One prospective candidate, Robin Brown, was considered by the Council. It was RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Mr Brown, who was invited to take his seat on the Council.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 4 February 2016:** The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Short.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
6. **Public Forum:** 7.35pm RESOLVED, with all in favour, to adjourn the meeting for the public forum. *Cllr Osborne reported that MSDC had set its budget and a band D property would see its Council tax increase by 2% or 6p per week. Cllr Fleming reported that she was looking for information on abuse of green lanes and byways. Cambridgeshire had been asked to join Norfolk and Suffolk in devolution proposals and an appeal had been set up to support Syrian refugees coming to Suffolk. A member of the public objected to the proposed bollards in front of the post office.* The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.55pm.
7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 7.1.1 **The Walk, Garden House Lane, Rickinghall Superior.** Ref: 0538/16. Erection of detached 3 bedroom dwelling with integrated garage following demolition of existing garage with associated vehicular access to serve The Walk and proposed dwelling. It was felt that this was a good use of the site and it was therefore RESOLVED, with all in favour, to have no objection to the application.
 - 7.2 **Notice of Intent works to tree(s) in the Conservation Area:** None.
 - 7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**
 - 7.3.1 **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. WITHDRAWN.
8. **Progress Reports:**
 - 8.1 **Chairman:** None.
 - 8.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk reported that around 150 traffic surveys had been received and the results would be ready in April.
9. **Correspondence:**
 - 9.1 **MSDC:** The information on Walking Festival 2016 & request for ideas and walk leaders for Year of Walking was noted. Councillors felt it was appropriate that the publication of the new walking leaflet would coincide with the latter event.

- 9.2 **Suffolk Constabulary:** The details of changes to Safer Neighbourhood Teams were noted. Reports would no longer be made to councils each month and the number of local crimes could instead be found online at www.suffolk.police.uk.
- 9.3 **SCC:** The Creating Greenest County survey information was noted.

10. **General Items:**

- 10.1 **Maypole Meadow:** The PC noted that all council-owned items had been removed from the site and the owner was working hard to restore the garden to good condition.
- 10.2 **Community Bus:** The PC had received an initial proposal from SCC for the Parish Council(s) to oversee the local bus service. It was proposed that the bus would be given to Rickingham PC along with a grant of £2,000 from the County Councillor's Locality Budget and £500 from SCC to pay for essential start-up costs. It was noted that fares were projected to cover running costs and the service would need to be transferred by 10 June. The Chairman, the Clerk and the co-ordinator of the service would attend a meeting with SCC on 9 March to discuss the details. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to accept the proposal, subject to confirming the structure, both legal and practical, of running the service.
- 10.3 **Byelaws and Public Nuisance:** The PC received the report from the Clerk on tools for dealing with inconsiderate behaviour such as dog fouling and parking issues. It was agreed to look at this in depth at the April meeting.
- 10.4 **Internal Audit Review:** The Finance Working Party had carried out the review 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.
- 10.5 **Internal Auditor:** It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to appoint SALC as internal auditor for the year-end accounts.
- 10.6 **Street Sweeping/Path Cutting:** To receive any quotes and review pay – currently £7.92/hour – and RESOLVED, with all in favour, to implement a 2% increase to £8.08/hour from 1 April. Tim Gaddis was thanked for his hard work.

11. **Finance:**

- 11.1 **Account Balances:** £ 26,638.40
Income: £ 1.43 Bank Credit Interest

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

L Jackson-Eve	£	501.59	Sal/Exps Feb 16
T Gaddis	£	137.28	St Clean Mar 16
Bryant Bros Builders	£	70.00	To remove litter bin and village map
LCPAS	£	8.33	Public Nuisance & Byelaws Course
Bryant Bros Builders	£	20.00	To remove bench at Maypole Meadow
MSDC	£	43.20	6 x Aluminium Anti Dog Fouling Signs

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

12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Barwoods:** The group was planning a guided tour of Barwoods-managed sites on 5 June at 2pm. They would be planting snowdrops in Northfield Wood.
- **Local Charities:** There was a meeting on 2 March and no applications had been received. An advert would be placed soon in the parish magazine.
- **Public Rights of Way:** Cllr Jones had walked several of the paths recently and made a list of repairs needed to signposts, etc which the Clerk had reported to SCC.
- **Street Lighting:** Lights were reported out halfway up Rectory Hill and opposite Walsingham Mews.

14. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council/Items for the next meeting:** It was proposed to put a dog bin on the other side of the bypass.

15. **Next Meeting:** 21 April 2016 (Annual Parish Meeting starts at 7pm)

9.23pm Under the **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960** the Council resolved to close the meeting to the public because of the confidential nature of the following items on the agenda.

16. **Employment Matters:** The Clerk had confirmed that her hours had been steadily increasing and it was therefore RESOLVED, with all in favour, to increase her weekly hours from 8 to 10. Additionally, the PC had agreed in June 2013 to pay the Clerk overtime for the extras hours worked with no staff cover provided during holidays and this had been paid as a lump sum every April for the previous year (e.g. April 2015 to March 2016). It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to make the payment for 2015-16 in April 2016 and pay it thereafter on a monthly basis.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.