

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 2 February 2017
Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Robin Brown
Cllr Rosemary Jones
Cllr Sally Smith

Cllr Dominic Ebert
Cllr Geoff Short

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland
2. **Casual Vacancies in the Office of Parish Councillor:** None.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 5 January 2017:** The minutes of the meetings were agreed and signed.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Smith.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
6. **Public Forum:** 7.33pm RESOLVED, with all in favour, to adjourn the meeting for the public forum. *Cllr Fleming reported that there was to be a 1.97% increase in the police and crime precept and SCC would have a general increase of 3%, with a further 3% to be used solely for adult social care within the county. The full SCC budget debate would begin on 6 February. She reported that there would be a new records department in Ipswich. Cllr Osborne reported that there would be an increase in the cost of emptying dog and litter bins. Gordon Lawrence, the co-ordinator of the local Community Bus service, attended to speak about the bus service advertised by BSEVC (see item 9.2), a registered charity based in Stowmarket that had a contract with Suffolk County Council to provide local transportation. There was some concern that local residents might see this as an alternative to the Community Bus. He gave an example to compare: a trip to West Suffolk Hospital would cost over £40 compared to £9 on the Community Bus. Councillors expressed their appreciation of the work Mr Lawrence and other volunteers did to keep to the local service going. The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.44pm.*
7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 7.1.1 **9 Rectory Hill, Rickinghall.** Ref. 4520/16. Installation of a dropped kerb of 12.5m and drop path by 100mm in front of the above property. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to have no objection.
 - 7.2 **Notice of Intent works to tree(s) in the Conservation Area:**
 - 7.2.1 **The Italian House, The Street, Rickinghall.** Ref. 0067/17. Reduce Magnolia/Holly. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to have no objection.
 - 7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**
8. **Progress Reports:**
 - 8.1 **Chairman:** Figures from the Community Bus showed the service was well used and paid for itself. The Neighbourhood Plan Meeting on 18 January had been well attended by about 80 residents who agreed that a Neighbourhood Plan was necessary to shape future development in Botesdale and Rickinghall. At a subsequent meeting on 30 January, a forum of about 32 members was set up to progress further. From this a Steering Group of six or seven people would meet on Thursday, 9 February to establish a framework and strategy of moving forward.

The meeting on 30 January had agreed that the plan should cover the whole area of the three parishes, Botesdale, Rickinghall Inferior and Rickinghall Superior.

8.2 **Clerk:** None.

9. **Correspondence:**

9.1 **Botesdale Methodist Church:** The request for grant towards hall furnishings and it was agreed to defer the request to consider with other grants in May.

9.2 **BSEVC:** It was noted that the BSEVC was a minibus service that could be used by community groups, charities, community interest companies or education establishments and might be suitable for larger groups as it was a 15-seater. It was not available to private users.

9.3 **MSDC:** The Town and Parish Council Newsletter was noted.

9.4 **MSDC:** The District Council's change of governance to the Leader and Cabinet system was noted. This would bring it into line with the County Council.

10. **General Items:**

10.1 **Vehicle Activated Sign:** Positive feedback had been received back from Hoxne, Brome & Oakley and Thorndon regarding their VAS. Following the resolution last month to progress with the purchase of the system pending good feedback, it was agreed to go ahead and purchase the system. The associated software would also be purchased, subject to confirming the quote. Cllr Fleming had agreed to make a contribution from her Locality Budget and the posts would be installed by the County Council.

10.2 **Annual Parish Meeting:** The APM would be held at 7.15pm prior to the regular PC meeting on 6 April. The deadline for reports was 27 March.

10.3 **Annual Newsletter:** It was agreed to focus on the Neighbourhood Plan in the newsletter. The deadline for reports was 28 April.

10.4 **Internal Audit Review:** The Finance Working Party would carry out the review.

11. **Finance:**

11.1 **Account Balance:** £28,973.77

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

L Jackson-Eve £ 624.19 Sal/Exps Jan 17

T Gaddis £ 140.05 St Clean Feb 17

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

12. **Highways Issues:** A resident had complained about the number of holes running down the middle of Bury Road and these had been reported to SCC by the Clerk.

13. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Barwoods:** The AGM would be held later in February.
- **Public Rights of Way:** An SCC rights of way contractor (whilst carrying out some repair work on footpath signs near the bypass) was approached by a member of the public, told about a nearby footbridge which had become very slippery. He immediately sought permission to put down mesh while he was on site. It was agreed to send positive feedback to SCC on this sensible and cost-saving action.
- **St Lighting:** The new Rectory Hill light had been installed and was waiting for UK Power Networks to hook it up.
- **Village Hall:** There were two defibrillator training sessions on Thursday, 9 March.

14. **Items for the next meeting:** It was agreed to pursue getting a mobile Post Office in the village. Cllr Brown would discuss siting it at The Bell and Cllr Ebert would ask the Village Hall.

15. **Next Meeting:** 2 March 2017

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.