

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 1 June 2017
Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland Cllr Rosemary Jones
Cllr William Maskell Cllr Geoff Short
Cllr Sally Smith

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
PC Stefan Henriksen
6 Members of the public

8.10pm The Chairman welcomed those present and opened the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Robin Brown and Dominic Ebert.
2. **Casual Vacancies in the Office of Parish Councillor:** None.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 11 May 2017:** The minutes of the meetings were agreed and signed, having changed "Chairman" to "Vice-Chairman" on the final line.
4. **Magazine Input:** Clerk.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
6. **Public Forum:** PC Stefan Henriksen from the Safer Neighbourhood Team based in Stowmarket spoke about the lack of police presence at PC meetings but explained that with 73 parishes to cover with two members of staff, this just wasn't possible anymore. The police had chosen to utilise their limited time focussing on community issues. He emphasised that they were always contactable in the usual ways, by telephone and on their website. Bob Clark, the Village Hall Management Committee chairman, requested funding for the refurbishment of the toilets at the village hall. This would cost £22k – 25k and grant funding providers would wish to see some input from the PC. Peter Beck, the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, reported on some stolen property.
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:**
 - 7.3.1 **Stone Cottage, The Street, Rickinghall.** Ref. 0304/17. Conversion and extension of garage to form holiday accommodation + annexe, erection of outbuilding and installation of vehicle hardstanding. Planning Permission GRANTED.
 - 7.4 **Neighbourhood Plan:** The Clerk reported that the application for grant funding had been submitted and the area designation had been approved – the area covered the parishes of Botesdale, Rickinghall Inferior and Superior. The Steering Group would be hosting a drop-in event on 8 July, 10am-3pm at The Bell to consult on issues to address in the Neighbourhood Plan. During June the Group would draft the Housing Needs Survey, Household Survey, Youth Survey and Business survey, which it planned to debut at the drop-in event. One would be delivered to every household, hopefully in early July.
8. **Progress Reports:**
 - 8.1 **Chairman:** None.
 - 8.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk had contacted the owner of Jubilee House about the overgrown verge in front of the adjoining development plot.
9. **Correspondence:**
 - 9.1 **Mill Lane Allotment Association:** The PC noted the request for further land for allotments as there was consistently a waiting list for plots. The MLAA proposed to

adopt the thin strip at the rear of Wherry Land for additional allotment plots. It was agreed that this was a good use of the land and subject to clarification of maintenance responsibilities and whether this was legally acceptable use of the land, the PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the proposal.

- 9.2 **BVHMC:** The PC noted the request from village hall for funds for refurbishment of toilets. It was agreed that if the village hall could wait until the 2018/19 financial year, the PC would be able to commit £2,500 toward the work in recognition of this outstanding community facility.
- 9.3 **Suffolk Age UK:** The PC noted that there was an Age UK Befriending Scheme for anyone over the age of 60 who was feeling lonely or isolated and would enjoy someone to talk to. It was agreed to put the information in the parish magazine.
- 9.4 **Rickingham Day Centre:** The thank you for the PC's donation was noted.
- 9.5 **Botesdale Methodist Church:** The thank you for the PC's donation was noted.
- 9.6 **Diss CAB:** The thank you for the PC's donation was noted.

10. **General Items:**

- 10.1 **Traffic Restriction Order:** This had been sent to the design team but was likely to be delayed while the Highways Dept moved to Endeavour House in Ipswich.
- 10.2 **Vehicle Activated Sign:** The results of the post site application had still not been received and it was noted that the responsible officer was on long term sick leave. It was also noted that EU VAT could not be recovered by anyone who was not VAT registered.
- 10.3 **Walks Map Display:** The PC considered the draft boards and noted that it would be better if the PH mark could be removed where pubs were no longer sited.

11. **Finance:**

11.1	Account Balance:	£ 30,918.57	
	Income:	£ 50.00	Transparency Fund (2 nd app 16-17)
11.2	Accounts for Payment:		
	L Jackson-Eve	£ 603.76	Sal/Exps May 17
		£ 210.24	Additional Hours (Neigh Plan)
	T Gaddis	£ 226.32	St Clean Jun 17
	Redgrave Parish Magazine	£ 35.00	Distribution of Rick News

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

12. **Highways Issues:** A hedge on Rectory Hill, near the junction with The Street, was overhanging the road. The Clerk would write to the homeowner. There had been reports that the hedge along the churchyard at Hinderclay Road was overhanging the footway. The Clerk would ask the churchwarden to look at it.

13. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Barwoods:** A working party was planned the following weekend for Northfield Wood and members had been tidying up the new hedge at Low Meadow.
- **Parish Assets:** The sign at Micklewood Green was holding up well.
- **Parish Liaison:** The Clerk and the Chairman would attend the next meeting in June.
- **Public Rights of Way:** The Clerk would report that FP 1 was overgrown and needed cutting.

14. **Items for the next meeting:** None.

15. **Next Meeting:** 6 July 2017

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.