

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 7 September 2017

Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Robin Brown
Cllr Nick Free
Cllr William Maskell
Cllr Sally Smith

Cllr Dominic Ebert
Cllr Nic Joubert
Cllr Geoff Short

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
District Cllr Derek Osborne
22 Members of the public

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Gillian Crossley-Holland and Rosemary Jones.
2. **Casual Vacancies in the Office of Parish Councillor:** Two prospective candidates, Nick Free and Nicolaas Joubert, were considered by the Council. It was RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Mr Free and Mr Joubert, who were invited to take their seats on the Council. It was noted that the PC now had its full complement.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 6 July 2017:** The minutes of the meetings were agreed and signed.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Smith.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** Cllr Free and Cllr Short both declared an interest in item 7.1.1 as their houses directly adjoined the site.
6. **Public Forum:**

Several people spoke about the application for five houses on Rectory Hill and several main points were raised. It was felt that MSDC were extremely poor at notifying near neighbours of forthcoming planning applications. The general feeling was that the number of planning applications being submitted in Botesdale and Rickinghall should be being looked at holistically by the Planning Department rather than each application being considered on its own merits with no thought to any others. Concerning the new application on Rectory Hill, residents were concerned at the lack of pavement from the site, access issues and general traffic problems. It was noted that Water Lane currently flooded on a regular basis and it was felt that the addition of further houses on the field above Water Lane would almost certainly make this worse if drainage issues were not addressed.

District Cllr Derek Osborne reported that a notice of eviction had been served on the travellers camping at Snape Hill.
7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 7.1.1 **Land adj to 9 Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/17/04342. Outline Planning Application with Access to be considered for up to 5no. dwellings and vehicular access. As with the application DC/17/02657 opposite, the primary concerns were the safety of the access near a blind bend, at the brow of a hill and on a fast road; safety of pedestrians without a continuous footway, including school children walking down to the bus stop on The Street; and drainage issues. The latter was of particular concern given the regular flooding off the bypass onto Water Lane, which relied on this field to alleviate the problem. It was feared that building on this field would make the flooding worse and drainage issues had not been addressed. It was therefore, RESOLVED, with all in favour, to object to the application pending the consideration of these issues within the application.
 - 7.1.2 **White Horse Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/17/03950. Planning Application - Erection of a dwelling and removal of section of garden wall attached to listed barn. The Parish Council RESOLVED, with all in favour, to have no objection to the application.
 - 7.1.3 **White Horse Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/17/03951. Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of a dwelling and removal of section of garden wall

attached to listed barn. The Parish Council RESOLVED, with all in favour, to have no objection to the application. However, it was commented that the Heritage Statement was inadequate.

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 **Stanley Cottage, Bury Road.** Ref. DC/17/02407. Erection of a glass link between cottage and annexe. Installation of package treatment plant, re-build of roof to cottage, alterations to driveway and erection of timber palisade fence. Planning Permission GRANTED.

7.3.2 **Stanley Cottage, Bury Road.** Ref. DC/17/02408. Complete renovation of cottage and annexe, erection of single storey glazed link extension between cottage and annexe (to include annexe as part of principle accommodation), installation of package treatment plant, re-build of roof to cottage, alterations to driveway and erection of timber palisade fence. Listed Building Consent GRANTED.

7.3.3 **Jackamans Farm, Briar Lane.** Ref. DC/17/03310. Prior Approval Application under Part 3, Class Q (a) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 - Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwelling house. Prior Approval GIVEN.

7.3.4 **White Horse Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/17/02819. Replace 3 no. windows to front elevation, 1 no. window and external door to rear elevation and internal alterations. Listed Building Consent GRANTED.

7.4 **Neighbourhood Plan:** William Sargeant, the Botesdale PC chairman, had joined the Steering Group. The three surveys had been completed and the data was now being entered on Survey Monkey by volunteers, after which it would be analysed.

7.5 **Local Plan Consultation:** It was noted that the Joint Local Plan: Consultation Document had been published with a deadline for comment of 10 November 2017. There were several upcoming drop-in events for the public and a Town/Parish Council briefing session at 6.30pm in Rickinghall Village Hall on 20 September. Cllrs Brown, Jones and Joubert would attend.

8. **Progress Reports:**

8.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman had arranged a meeting with Tom Barker, the Assistant Director (Planning for Growth) at MSDC, and had attended along with the District and County Councillors and several members of the NHP Steering Group. This had been a useful meeting, particularly as Mr Barker had explained in some detail why MSDC still could not demonstrate a 5-year housing supply, despite the recent spate of large development proposals. It was noted that the Annual Monitoring Report on the housing supply was published annual in June and next year might show an adequate supply.

8.2 **Clerk:** None.

9. **Correspondence:**

9.1 **National Association of Local Councils (NALC):** The PC noted the information about reform of data protection legislation. The Clerk would be attending a briefing at SALC in October and would report back at the November meeting.

9.2 **National Association of Local Councils (NALC):** The PC noted the information about the Broadband Universal Service Obligation.

9.3 **Better Broadband Suffolk:** The PC noted the newsletter.

9.4 **Suffolk Community Foundation:** The PC noted the information on grant funding. The Community Bus organisers had been made aware of the Sapphire Fund, which could potentially help with the cost of the service.

9.5 **J Canning:** It was noted that Mr Canning was moving from the village but would organise the Remembrance Sunday event for 2017. Botesdale Cllr Mike Bishop had offered to organise it in 2018. The PC agreed that it would work best if Mr Canning was reimbursed for expenses after the event, as he had suggested.

9.6 **G Norris:** The information about the GP Patient Participation Group was noted.

9.7 **Essex & Suffolk Water:** It was noted that a borehole survey had been carried out on Low Meadow.

10. **General Items:**
- 10.1 **Traffic Restriction Order:** The PC noted the feedback from consultation about double-yellow lines at the Co-op and Garden House Lane.
11. **Finance:**
- 11.1 **Account Balance:** £ 37,436.03
- Income:**
- | | | |
|--|----------|---|
| | £ 700.00 | MSDC Locality Grant VAS |
| | £ 408.20 | Cleansing Grant 1 st quarter |
| | £ 500.00 | MSDC Locality Grant NHP (JF) |
| | £ 610.00 | MSDC Locality Grant NHP (DO) |
- 11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**
- | | | |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| L Jackson-Eve | £ 532.32 | Sal/Exps Aug 17 |
| | £ 1,020.59 | Additional Hours/Exp (NH Plan) |
| T Gaddis | £ 226.32 | St Clean/PRoW Aug 17 |
| T Gaddis | £ 326.32 | St Clean/PRoW/Mill Lane/LM Sep 17 |
| BDO LLP | £ 120.00 | External Audit Fees |
| Community Workshop Ltd | £ 1,860.00 | Print Neighbourhood Plan Surveys |
| Came and Company | £ 544.16 | Insurance 1/10/17-30/09/18 |
- RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts above.
- 11.3 **Account paid during August:**
- | | | |
|-------|----------|---------------------|
| LCPAS | £ 150.00 | Internal Audit Fees |
|-------|----------|---------------------|
- 11.4 **Internal Audit Report:** The recommendations were noted and the Clerk would incorporate them into a review of the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment in October.
12. **Highways Issues:** It was reported that only one person had volunteered to help with the Vehicle Activated Sign and further help would be needed to get this up and running.
13. **Welcome Pack:** None.
14. **Councillors' Reports:**
- **Allotments:** There had been several enquiries about the tape strung along the boundary with Wherry Land and it was thought that it was being used to scare away deer.
 - **SALC:** A Mid-Suffolk North meeting would be held on 21 September.
 - **Village Hall:** The management committee was still seeking funding for new toilets.
 - **PRoW:** A test hole had been left unfilled on the land at Rectory Hill owned by SCC. The brambles also needed to be cleared as it was difficult to walk along some sections.
15. **Items for the next meeting:** None.
16. **Next Meeting:** 5 October 2017

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.23pm.