

# RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 4 January 2018

Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Robin Brown  
Cllr Nick Free  
Cllr Nic Joubert  
Cllr Geoff Short  
Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland  
Cllr Rosemary Jones  
Cllr William Maskell  
Cllr Sally Smith

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Dominic Ebert.
2. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 7 December 2017:** The minutes of the meetings were agreed and signed.
3. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Free.
4. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
5. **Public Forum:** The owners of Bell Hill House updated the PC on the application at Item 6.1.1 and reiterated objections to the application. Cllr Fleming reported that consultation on proposed changes to school transport would run until 28<sup>th</sup> February. Changes to the present policy would be brought in for September 2019. The changes promoted the option to charge if students did not attend their “nearest” school. It was noted that this could result in Diss High School being the nearest school for local students. It wasn’t clear whether places or transport would be available to a Norfolk school and the PC was advised by Cllr Fleming that there was no position on it in the consultation. She therefore urged families that could be affected to respond and make their feelings known. There were workshops available to find out more, the closest being at Eye Community Centre at 7pm on 16 January. There were also five sessions between 2pm and 7.30pm on 26 January at West Suffolk House in Bury St Edmunds.
6. **Planning:**
  - 6.1 **Planning Applications:** None.
  - 6.1.1 **The Newsagent, Bell Hill Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/17/04484. Listed Building Application - Insertion of internal extraction equipment with external flue, internal sound proofing and fire-proofing partitions and new internal door. The application had been submitted to the District Council Planning Committee on 3 January with a recommendation from the Planning Officer to approve. However, the owners of Bell Hill House had presented the District Council with legal advice that the report was technically flawed and that a challenge by judicial review was possible. The Planning Committee consideration was postponed until the end of the month, and a site visit was planned. Cllr Joubert provisionally agreed to attend the new Planning Committee meeting on 31 January to speak about heritage-related issues and Cllr Short would attend to speak about the planning application on behalf of the PC. In the meantime, a new heritage statement was being considered. On advice from Cllr Joubert, a historic buildings expert, the Council agreed that obscuring the 17th century fabric by lining out walls inside Bell Hill Cottage and installing a new suspended ceiling would result in harm to the significance of the grade II listed building in terms of paragraphs 132 and 134 of the NPPF. The Council was also concerned by changes to the building which might be associated with the increased risk of fire resulting from the change of use. The Council was not convinced that the harm resulting from the proposed changes was necessary to bring the vacant listed building into a viable use and did not consider the harm to its historic significance has been clearly and convincingly justified, as

required by paragraph 132 of the NPPF. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to object to the application.

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

6.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**

6.3.1 **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. Planning Permission GRANTED.

6.3.2 **Church Rise, Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/17/05736. Lop 1 no. Walnut tree and 1no. Lime tree by 30%. NO OBJECTION.

6.4 **Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr Brown reported that consultants' reports were still arriving and there were two meetings of the Steering Group on 10 and 30 January. The NP Forum meeting planned for 10 January had been postponed and would now be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 21 February at the Botesdale Village Hall. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the District Council, which set out the respective roles and responsibilities of the District and Parish Councils.

7. **Progress Reports:**

7.1 **Chairman:** A working party from Rickinghall, Botesdale and Redgrave councillors would be meeting in the next couple of weeks to consider pension arrangements for the Clerk. Quotes had been obtained for the Local Government Pension Scheme and private schemes.

7.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk reported that:

- An eviction notice had been obtained by SCC for the unauthorised encampment on Snape Hill. The Clerk had received a report of a dog attack at the site, which had been passed on to SCC, and a complaint about the residents being evicted.
- The report to SCC concerning the hole next to the FP halfway up Rectory Hill had received a response that SCC would monitor it.
- There had been some flooding from the ditch near Greenacres, Garden House Lane and the landowner had arranged to clear it.
- The May meeting had been moved back to 3 May as the election booking had been cancelled.

8. **Correspondence:**

8.1 **MSDC:** The 2018 precept and tax base arrangements were noted.

8.2 **Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd:** It was noted that PKF Littlejohn LLP had been appointed for external audit for parish councils. Fees would be £0 for councils with income/expenditure up to £25,000 and £200 for the next band.

9. **General Items:**

9.1 **Magazine Rota 2018:** The rota was agreed.

9.2 **Annual Parish Meeting:** It was agreed to hold the APM at 7.30pm prior to the PC meeting on 5 April with a report deadline of 23 March.

9.3 **Litter Pick:** A date was set for Saturday, 21 April at 10am-12pm, to meet in the Village Hall car park (with the VH's permission). The waste would be left for MSDC to pick up at the bottom of Snape Hill.

10. **Finance:**

10.1	<b>Account Balance:</b>	£29,188.31	
	<b>Income:</b>	£ 408.20	MSDC Street Sweeping Grant

10.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

L Jackson-Eve (£832.80)	£	647.88	Sal/Exps Dec 17
	£	184.92	Additional Hours/Exps (NH Plan)
T Gaddis	£	143.32	St Clean Jan 18
HMRC	£	300.47	PAYE for LJE – 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter
SALC	£	14.00	Contracts/Procurement Training
LCPAS	£	13.33	Data Protection Training

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

10.3 **Budget:** Budget for 2018/19: It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to set a BUDGET of £28,170 for the year 2018/19 and to retain funds of £17,540 earmarked for general reserves and village improvements, making a total fund of £45,710. The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed to sign the form requesting a precept of £23,570 from Mid Suffolk District Council. This was an overall 15.6% rise on the amount received in 2017/18, adding an average £5.83 per annum per household depending on the band.

11. **Highways Issues:** None.

12. **Welcome Pack:** None.

13. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Local Charities:** The group would meet in February.
- **Public Rights of Way:** A sign near the step-down bypass crossing on footpaths RS30/31 was loose.
- **Street Lighting:** The light outside the bus stop was still out.
- **Village Hall:** The toilet refurbishment had begun and would finish in mid-February. It was noted that Monty and Pam had retired as booking managers/caretakers and the Parish Council thanked them for all their hard work.

14. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** It was suggested that the ceiling and lintel of the bus stop also be painted and Cllr Free offered to do the work. It was noted that a representative of the Llanover Estate would be present at the next Botesdale PC meeting. A councillor reported that several cars parked on The Street had been keyed.

15. **Next Meeting:** 1 February 2018

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.37pm.