

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 6 June 2019
Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Robin Brown
Cllr Lesley Free
Cllr Geoff Short

Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland
Cllr Nick Free

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
5 Members of the public

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs William Maskell and Sally Smith.
2. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 9 May 2019:** The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.
3. **Casual Vacancies:** There were no applications.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr N Free.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** Cllrs Lesley & Nick Free declared an interest in item 7.2.1 as the tree works were on their property.
6. **Public Forum:** The Village Hall Management Committee made a first approach to the Parish Council about improvements that needed to be made to the skate park. All the equipment was past its natural lifespan and the concrete surfacing had degraded significantly. The Parish Council confirmed its support in principle for improvements to the skate park as it was one of the few local amenities for young people. However, it was agreed that more information was needed to decide on the level of support the PC could provide and it was proposed that it should be a formal agenda item at the next meeting. The VHMC would provide more detail on the proposed project.

A question was asked about the permanence of the barriers deposited at the end of Snape Hill by the County Council to secure that area of land, following past instances of travellers taking up residence at the site. It was agreed that the Clerk would raise this question with County Cllr Jessica Fleming.

Rosemary Jones, who remained Tree Warden for the PC, spoke about items 7.2.1 and 7.2.2. She had visited both sites and advised that the oak at Park Lodge, Rectory Hill was dying and could not be left due to the proximity of houses, etc. She spoke in regret at the way the development of St Georges Drive had been planned as it had necessitated the removal of several trees over the years due to overcrowded gardens.

7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 7.1.1 **The Barn, Briar Lane.** Ref. DC/19/02381. Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for Associated Operational Development. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of barn 1no. Dwelling. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.1.2 **Rikenderley, The Street.** Ref. DC/19/02528. Householder Planning Application Erection of single storey rear extension. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:**
 - 7.2.1 **Park Lodge, Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/19/02635. Notification of Works to Trees Protected by a Preservation Order - T1 – Oak (T5/ES83) - Fell. Cllrs Lesley and Nick Free left the meeting, having declared an interest. Councillors felt that it was a great shame to lose a tree of this age and size but recognised that it was diseased, at the end of its life and a threat to nearby buildings. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to support the application.

7.2.2 **1 St Georges Drive.** Ref. DC/19/02660. Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area and Protected by a Preservation Order - T1 & T2 (Sycamores) - Heavily reduce. T3 (Hornbeam) – Reduce by approximately 30%. T4 (Field Maple) - Heavily reduce. T5 (Beech) - Reduce by approximately 30%. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.

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

7.3.1 **September Barn, Candle Street.** Ref. DC/19/01142. Householder Planning Application - Erection of a single storey rear extension. Planning Permission REFUSED.

7.3.2 **The Walnuts, The Street.** Ref. DC/19/01902. Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - (T1 and T2 Walnut Trees) Reduce the crowns by 25% also remove deadwood and balance the trees. NO OBJECTION.

7.3.3 **Wall Cottage, Bury Road.** Ref. DC/19/01928. Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - 1no. Walnut - Reduce and shape by 1/3. 1no. Yew - Reduce and shape by 1/3. 3no. Conifers – Dismantle. NO OBJECTION.

7.3.4 **Land at Rickinghall Business Centre, Allwood Green, Finningham Road.** Ref. DC/19/01970. Planning Application - Erection of additional 2no. Class B1/B8 Use light industrial unit. Planning Permission GRANTED.

7.4 **Neighbourhood Plan:** The Neighbourhood Plan was currently with the Examiner, who had asked for clarification on a few matters within the plan. The consultant had formulated a response which had been approved by the Steering Group.

8. **Progress Reports:**

8.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman commented on the Community Asset Fund discussed in a recent edition of the SALC Newsletter, which might be an appropriate place to find funding for the skate park.

8.2 **Clerk:** None.

9. **Correspondence:**

9.1 **Able Community Care:** It was agreed to take the company up on the offer of some "no trade" door stickers which could be given to residents.

9.2 **Rickinghall Day Centre:** The thank you for financial support was noted.

10. **General Items:**

10.1 **General Power of Competence:** The PC considered the advantages of the GPoC which was intended to give local councils wider powers to deliver more for their communities. The Parish Council confirmed that it met the eligibility criteria for adoption of the General Power of Competence as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. This meant that 2/3 of members were elected rather than co-opted and the Clerk had an approved qualification. The Council therefore RESOLVED, with all agreed, to adopt the General Power of Competence. It would be reviewed every parish council election year.

11. **Finance:**

11.1 **Account Balance:** £37,042.01
Income: £ 0.00

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£ 870.17	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 341.55	St Clean/VAS/Paths Jun 19
Bryant Bros	£ 82.00	Wherry Land gate repair
LCPAS	£ 200.00	Internal Audit Fee
LCPAS	£ 50.00	DPO Services
Community Workshop Ltd	£ 275.00	Rickinghall News printing

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

11.3 **Internal Audit Report:** The PC noted that the internal audit report, prepared by the Local Council Public Advisory Service, was very positive. There were recommendations about raising the level of general reserves to 50% of annual outgoings and a reminder to initial all cheque stubs.

12. **Highways Issues:** Cllr N Free had reported a pothole near Listers on Hinderclay Road.
13. **Welcome Pack:** 1 to Cllr Short and 1 to Cllr Brown.
14. **Councillors' Reports:**
 - **Barwoods:** A request was made to have the paths cut in Low Meadow.
 - **PROW:** Following discussion a discussion at the April meeting about trespassing on the field behind Ryders Way, Cllr N Free had erected a new waypost to mark the correct public footpath.
 - **Village Hall:** The management committee was investigating possible solutions to the lack of footfall at the Farmers' Market.
15. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** Cllr N Free noted that there had been an article about the Suffolk Community Awards in the latest edition of *The Local Councillor*, published by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils. He proposed, and the Council agreed, to nominate the Car Show organisers as "Event Organisers of the Year". Cllr Free agreed to do a first draft of the nomination form.
16. **Next Meeting:** 4 July 2019

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.