

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 4 July 2019
Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Robin Brown
Cllr Lesley Free
Cllr William Maskell

Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland
Cllr Nick Free
Cllr Geoff Short

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
County/District Cllr Jessica Fleming
4 Members of the public

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Sally Smith.
2. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 6 June 2019:** The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.
3. **Casual Vacancies:** There were no applications.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Maskell.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** Cllrs Lesley & Nick Free declared an interest in item 7.2.2 as the tree works were on their property.
6. **Public Forum:** County/District Cllr Jessica Fleming was present to give a report. In County news: Highways England was planning to close the A14 in whole or part between J51 (Beacon Hill) and J43 (Bury) at night (8.00 pm – 6.00 am) Mondays – Fridays. The official HGV diversion route would use the A143 and A140. The roll-out of superfast broadband continued and could be checked at www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com/upgrade-now. A trial scheme in Ipswich to reassess how potholes were categorised for repair would now be applied across Suffolk starting this summer. The new system would allow engineers to repair potholes close to each other during the same visit, tackling smaller potholes before they could expand.

District news: The majority of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' residents would be given a new bin collection day commencing on week of 15th July in order to adapt to changes in settlement patterns and new development. Individual notices would be sent to households and the brown bin collection would not be affected. The August 2017 Draft Joint Local Plan had been updated to reflect current national policies (February 2019 National Planning Policy Framework) and the new version was approved for public consultation at the 27th June Council meeting. The public consultation period would last 10 weeks, commencing shortly.

The Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, Peter Beck, reported that problems with anti-social behaviour seemed to have improved. There would be an article on home safety in the next issue of the parish magazine. He expressed concern about visibility due to overgrown vegetation at the junction of Rectory Hill and the A143. The Clerk would report this to SCC.

7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 7.1.1 **Land Rear of Broland, Garden House Lane.** Ref. DC/19/00276. Submission of details under Outline Planning Permission DC/19/00276 - Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for Erection of 1no. dwelling. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.1.2 **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.

- 7.1.3 **Upper Church Farm, Finningham Road.** Ref. DC/19/02784. Planning Application - Erection of building in association with existing B1(c) use (following demolition of existing building). 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 **The Uplands, The Street.** Ref. DC/19/02913. Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 5no. Silver Birch Copse. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
- 7.2.2 **Park Lodge, Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/19/03134. Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area and Protected by a Preservation Order - T003 (Walnut) - Reduction of canopy and G001 (Beech Tree Saplings) - Remove. Cllrs Lesley and Nick Free left the meeting, having declared an interest. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
- 7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**
- 7.3.1 **Park Lodge, Rectory Hill. Ref. DC/19/02258.** Notification of works to trees under a Tree Preservation Order (TPO ES83/T7) - T1 – Horse Chestnut - Canopy lift to around 10-15 feet from ground level. Reduce the overall canopy volume by up to 25-30% and shape to promote growth. Consent GRANTED.
- 7.3.2 **Calkewood Lane Farm, Calkewood Lane.** Ref. DC/19/01569. Full Planning Application - Erection of 4no. poultry sheds and associated infrastructure following demolition of existing. Planning Permission GRANTED.
- 7.3.3 **Park Lodge, Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/19/02635. Notification of Works to Trees Protected by a Preservation Order - T1 – Oak (T5/ES83) - Fell. Consent GRANTED.
- 7.3.4 **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%. Consent GRANTED.
- 7.4 **Notification of Planning Appeals by Mid Suffolk DC:**
- 7.4.1 **Bell Hill Cottage and the Newsagent, The Street.** Appeal Reference: APP/W3520/W/19/3229585. Planning Application. Change of Use of ground floor to A5 Hot Food Takeaway. Installation of extract equipment internally and flue through roof. Internal alterations to provide sound and fireproofing to party walls and floors. The Chairman would comment on the appeal, reiterating the PC's previous comments.
- 7.5 **Neighbourhood Plan:** The Neighbourhood Plan was still with the Examiner, who had asked for further clarification on matters within the plan.

8. **Progress Reports:**

- 8.1 **Chairman:** An orange Renault had gone through a hedge on Bury Road. It was noted that it had recently been given a fixed penalty notice for blocking the pavement in front of Northview, The Street.
- 8.2 **Clerk:** It had been reported previously that a new Highways Self Help Scheme aimed to enable parish councils to do some of the work Suffolk County Council could no longer fund. Unfortunately, the scheme had highlighted that parish councils could not legally work on the highway, including the verges (about 1.5 metres in), without specific training and supervision. The Clerk had attended the training and learned that works such as street sweeping, verge cutting and changing the vehicle activated sign were classed as working on the highway. A meeting had been scheduled between SCC and parish representatives to give feedback on the scheme and training and to investigate how parishes might continue doing village upkeep.

9. **Correspondence:**

- 9.1 **MSDC:** The PC discussed the new draft Joint Local Plan and were advised by District Cllr Fleming to contact MSDC with any immediate objections prior to the official consultation. The Plan made a fresh assessment of housing needs and the figures for housing requirements in Botesdale and Rickinghall were higher than anticipated within the Neighbourhood Plan. The settlement boundary for the community included an extra site behind the former White Horse PH with a suggestion of up to 100 houses and a site in Botesdale with no allocated housing. The PC agreed to

submit an initial objection to the inclusion of additional sites. When the public consultation began, the PC would submit a full response.

9.2 **RBR Parochial Church Council (PCC):** The new church warden, Kit Brinkley, was noted.

9.3 **Resident:** The PC considered the request for "pedestrians crossing" signs on the A143 near footpath crossings and it was agreed to ask SCC Highways.

10. **General Items:**

10.1 **Reserves Policy:** It was noted that the Parish Council's expenditure fell within the commonly used bracket of £25,000 to £200,000 (anything under £200,000 was considered to be a "smaller authority" for audit purposes and smaller authorities with expenditure under £25,000 were exempt from external audit). The Council was at the lower end of that scale and applying national guidelines, it was recommended that the Council should build and maintain General Reserve levels of 6-9 months of expenditure. In the current financial year, the proposed financial reserves policy would require the general reserves to be between £12,850 and £19,250. The current level of General Reserves was £10,500. The Council therefore RESOLVED, with all agreed, to adopt the guidelines for reserves in the new Reserves Policy, to be reviewed annually. Furthermore, it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to commit unused general funds (not reserved for a specific project) at the end of the next two budget cycles to achieve a general reserve of £13,500, increasing the precept if that was not enough. Finally, it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to allocate reclaimed VAT for 2018-19 to general reserves.

10.2 **Village Hall Skate Park:** The PC agreed to support the VH Management Committee skate park development by providing funds and helping obtain funding from outside bodies. It was agreed to consider using Community Infrastructure Levy funds, subject to giving parishioners the opportunity through the parish magazine to suggest other infrastructure projects within the village. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed to contribute 10% of the costs, capped at £4000. The Clerk would check whether a tendering process would be required.

11. **Finance:**

11.1 **Account Balance:** £ 36,559.49
Income: £ 1,336.20 Reclaimed VAT for 2018-19

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**
Admin Payments £ 1,137.37 Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc. £ 266.55 St Clean/VAS/Paths Jul 19
Redgrave Parish Magazine £ 25.00 Rickinghall News distribution
RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts above.

11.3 **Community Infrastructure Levy:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve the annual return form for CIL fund expenditure. An amount of £4,949.07 had been received in 2018-19.

12. **Highways Issues:** There had been complaints about cones blocking off parking next to Jubilee House during construction on the site.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

14. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Local Charities:** The next meeting was in October.
- **PROW:** A resident had offered to help Cllr N Free monitor the footpaths.
- **Website:** Cllr Brown volunteered to check updates and links on the website.

15. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** Use of Community Infrastructure Levy and a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan would be on the next agenda. Approving new bank signatories – Cllrs Crossley-Holland and L Free – would be on the next agenda.

16. **Next Meeting:** 1 August 2019 (Only if needed for Planning)
5 September 2019

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.