

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 5 September 2019
Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Robin Brown
Cllr Lesley Free
Cllr Geoff Short

Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland
Cllr Nick Free
Cllr Sally Smith

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr William Maskell.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** There were no applications.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 4 July 2019:** The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Smith.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
6. **Public Forum:** County Cllr Jessica Fleming reported that a 'We are Listening' event was to be held on 11 September in Eye. This was an opportunity for any member of the public to speak to the Council Leader and senior officers. A member of the public asked about the build-up of requests for school transport places and Cllr Fleming reported that it was expected to be cleared in the next week. She asked parents to come to her if they continued to have problems. The MoP felt that the changes to the school transport policy would lead to more cars on the road and many people had concerns about the impact on the environment. She was also asked about the proposed closure of children's centres and said that there would be a consultation on that but that most of the locations due to close were going to be moved into local libraries.

Village Hall representatives updated the PC on progress with the skate park redevelopment (see item 9.2) and asked the PC to put an article in the parish magazine highlighting the problem of dog owners bringing their dogs onto the playing field, an activity which was clearly signed on site as prohibited.

7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 7.1.1 **Kenleen, Bury Road.** Ref. DC/19/03885. Householder Planning Application- Erection of annexe and attached garden store following demolition of existing outbuildings. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.1.2 **Jackamans Farm, Briar Lane.** Ref. DC/19/02783. Planning Application - Erection of garage and cartlodge to be used ancillary to residential barn conversion (following demolition of existing buildings). It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.1.3 **Falcon Hall Farm, Finningham Road.** Ref. DC/19/03991. Planning Application - Erection of replacement chicken shed. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:** None.
 - 7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**
 - 7.3.1 **The Uplands, The Street.** Ref. DC/19/02913. Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 5no. Silver Birch Copse. NO OBJECTION.
 - 7.3.2 **Rikenderley, The Street.** Ref. DC/19/02528. Householder Planning Application Erection of single storey rear extension. Planning Permission GRANTED.

- 7.3.3 **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. Prior Approval GIVEN.
- 7.3.4 **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). Planning Permission GRANTED.
- 7.3.5 **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. Reserve Matters APPROVED.
- 7.3.6 **28 Wheatfields.** Ref. DC/19/03397. Householder Application - Erection of single storey side and single storey rear extensions. Planning Permission GRANTED.
- 7.4 **Notification of Planning Appeals by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
- 7.5 **Neighbourhood Plan:** The Neighbourhood Plan had been passed by the Examiner and the next step would be a YES/NO referendum held by Mid Suffolk District Council around mid-November. A report would be taken to the Cabinet on 7 October and the date for the referendum set then.

8. **Progress Reports:**

- 8.1 **Chairman:** None.
- 8.2 **Clerk:** It had been reported previously that the new Highways Self Help Scheme for local councils had highlighted that councils and their contractors could not legally work on the highway without specific (Chapter 8 – Signing and Safeguarding) training. The Clerk had attended a meeting with SCC to give feedback on the scheme. SCC maintained that there was no flexibility when it came to the legalities of working on the highway and parish representatives made it clear that this would make it very difficult for them to continue basic community upkeep, such as street sweeping and verge cutting. However, the PC noted that Tim and Jim Gaddis now had the required certificate which would enable them to continue street sweeping and maintaining the VAS and verges.

9. **Correspondence:**

- 9.1 **SCC:** It was noted that there was a new SCC Part Night lighting policy which turned off all county-owned streetlights from 23.30 to 06.00 effective from 1 April 2019. The PC noted that this had not been communicated to parish councils and that it was no longer possible to make changes to individual county-owned streetlights. It was noted that the parish-owned streetlights throughout the village still stayed on until midnight.
- 9.2 **MSDC:** The PC noted the advance notice of new CIL Bid round (no 4) opening 1st October and closing 31st October 2019 - Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 9.3 **NALC:** The PC agreed to sign up to the Tree Charter for local councils.
- 9.4 **Better Broadband for Suffolk:** The PC noted the briefing for councillors on the current state of broadband in the county.

10. **General Items:**

- 10.1 **Joint Local Plan Consultation:** The PC considered the draft comments prepared by Places4People in response to the Draft JLP Consultation. It was felt that they presented a logical progression of objection to the housing numbers allocated for Botesdale and Rickinghall – together a “Core Village” – which it was felt were unjustifiably and unnecessarily high. The comments also objected to the addition of land south of The Street (behind White Horse Cottage, formerly PH) within the settlement boundary, without prior consultation with the community. It was allocated for 100 houses within the Draft JLP. This land had been assessed during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and was not included in its site allocations due to important landscape characteristics and key views into and out of the village. The Draft JLP disregarded the advanced stage of the Neighbourhood Plan and its conclusions. The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the comments and object on this basis.

10.2 **Village Hall Skate Park:** It was noted that Rickinghall PC was now registered on the specialist website for government tenders. Funding was being investigated and it was noted that the next bidding round for the central pot of Community Infrastructure Levy held by MSDC was 1-31 October. MSDC had advised that if the skate park underwent redevelopment rather than refurbishment it would qualify for funding from Sport England if called a "Wheeled Sports Area". A next step would be to consult with users and Cllr Free agreed to assist with that.

11. **Finance:**

11.1 **Account Balance:** £ 35,557.49
Income: £ 426.92 MSDC Street Clean Grant 1st qtr

11.2 **Accounts for Payment (Aug):**

Admin Payments	£ 848.10	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 356.55	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 **Accounts for Payment (Sept):**

Admin Payments	£ 889.39	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 341.55	St Clean/Play Area/VAS Sept 19
Came & Company	£ 548.43	Insurance Oct 2019 – Sept 2020
MSDC	£ 558.00	Dog and Litter Bins 2019-20
MSDC	£ 107.78	Election Charges 2 May
Bryant Bro	£ 264.00	ROCP Repairs
East County Classics Ltd	£ 158.76	ROCP Repairs

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

12. **Highways Issues:** Cllr L Free had reported a pothole on Rectory Hill very shortly after the resurfacing. In addition, the road surface did not meet in the middle in the section nearest the A143. The Clerk would report the second issue.

13. **Welcome Pack:** 2 to Cllr Short and 1 to Cllr Brown.

14. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Local Charities:** The next meeting was in October.
- **Village Hall:** Cllr Free reported that there were a couple of new stalls at the Farmers' Market and footfall had increased. The bargeboards had recently been renewed.

15. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** None.

16. **Next Meeting:** 3 October 2019

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.41 pm.