

# RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Present:** Cllr Robin Brown  
Cllr Lesley Free  
Cllr William Maskell  
Cllr Sally Smith

Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland  
Cllr Nick Free  
Cllr Geoff Short

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** There were no applications.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 7 November 2019:** The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr N Free.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
6. **Public Forum:** County Cllr Jessica Fleming reported that the refurbished Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) at Gt Blakenham would continue trials through December. Once this process was completed, Suffolk Waste Partnership would resume tours of the facility for schools, groups and clubs. Suffolk County Council was promoting the Veterans Gateway and the Suffolk Military Covenant. The Veterans Gateway was a national resource supported by military charities and the web portal ([www.veteransgateway.org.uk](http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk)) helped veterans find suitable support. The School Travel Review was commencing in December, focussing on mainstream under-16 transport. Recommendations were expected to go to a February or March Cabinet meeting.

As District Cllr, Jessica reported the Council was working with the Suffolk Waste Partnership to reduce all waste generation over the holiday period, particularly food waste and packaging. Some but not all Christmas paper could be recycled (NOT if it has a coating, YES if it is made of paper). Parishes had been sent messages on the Food Savvy programme and the Clerk confirmed that the information had been posted on Facebook. Mid Suffolk was again offering free swimming over the Christmas holidays from 20 December 2019 to 5 January 2020 inclusive at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre and Stradbroke Swimming Pool

7. **Planning:**
  - 7.1 **Planning Applications:** None.
  - 7.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:**
    - 7.2.1 **2 The Old School House, Hinderclay Road.** Ref. DC/19/05486. Application for works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Light pruning to Lime Trees (T1) and (T2). It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
  - 7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**
    - 7.3.1 **Falcon Hall Farm, Finningham Road.** Ref. DC/19/03991. Planning Application - Erection of replacement chicken shed. Planning Permission GRANTED.
    - 7.3.2 **Bradgate House, The Street.** Ref. DC/19/05069. Notification Of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - T1 (Cherry) - Pollard, T2 (Sycamore) - Remedial pruning, T3 - T6 (Poplar) - Fell and replace. NO OBJECTION.
    - 7.3.3 **Ash Tree House, Fen Lane.** Ref. DC/19/05141. Notification Of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Crown reduce 1No Ash Tree. NO OBJECTION.
    - 7.3.4 **Jessamine House, The Street.** Ref. DC/19/05171. Notification Of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - T1 (Acacia) - Fell to ground level. NO OBJECTION.

7.3.5 **Newholme, Bury Road.** Ref. DC/19/05148. Notification Of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Walnut (T1) reduce by 1/3 and shape. NO OBJECTION.

7.4 **Notification of Planning Appeals by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.

7.5 **Neighbourhood Plan:** The referendum on the question: "Do you want Mid Suffolk District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Botesdale & Rickinghall to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Plan area?" had been held by Mid Suffolk District Council on 28 November. The result, decided by a simple majority, had been "YES" with 87.1% in favour on a 25.8% turnout. The plan now had full weight as MSDC would give its consent automatically at the next full council meeting on 23 January 2020. The Clerk would investigate the cost of a copy of the Plan for each councillor.

8. **Progress Reports:**

8.1 **Chairman:** None.

8.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk had attended training to use the PC's new mapping software.

9. **Correspondence:**

8.1 **SCC:** The PC had been asked to consider streetlight programming over the Christmas/New Year period and it was agreed to follow the SCC option to leave Part Night lights on all night on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

8.2 **MSDC:** The PC noted information about the tax base and applying for a precept.

8.3 **Community Transport Service:** The PC noted the update on the service's finances and future purchase of a replacement bus. Finances were healthy and it was thought that there would be enough funds available, both from the service and supporting organisations, to replace the bus at a cost of up to £40,000.

10. **General Items:**

10.1 **Defibrillator:** No update.

10.2 **Village Hall Skate Park:** It was noted that the tender would soon be live on the government Contracts Finder website.

11. **Finance:**

11.1 <b>Account Balance:</b>	£40,529.90	
<b>Income:</b>	£ 161.66	SCC – Sign Cleaning Equipment
	£ 426.92	MSDC – Street Cleaning Grant

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£ 879.43	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 176.35	St Clean/VAS Dec 19
Pear Technology	£ 684.00	Mapping Software, Training & Support ½ Botesdale, ½ Rickinghall
Rickinghall Village Hall	£ 30.00	Additional Hire fees
P Schofield	£ 148.57	Banners for Neighbourhood Plan

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

11.3 **Draft Budget 2020-21:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to set a BUDGET of £27,200 for the year 2020-21 and to retain funds of £33,115 earmarked for general reserves and village improvements, making a total fund of £60,315. The precept requirement form would be signed in January.

12. **Highways Issues:**

- The construction on Rectory Hill was leaving the verges in a mess. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact the developer to confirm that repairs would be made after the development was completed.
- SCC had responded to the report of the resurfacing defects on Rectory Hill saying that they had been investigated and no remedial work was necessary. JF to follow up further.
- Hinderclay Road was repeatedly flooding after heavy rains due to blocked drains. However, SCC had opted to pump away the water but not unblock the drains. The Clerk would attempt to escalate this complaint.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.
14. **Councillors' Reports:**
- **Public Rights of Way:** There was a fingerpost down on Mill Lane next to a dog bin.
  - **Street Lighting:** Two lights on Bury Road past the bus stop needed to be cleared of vegetation.
  - **Village Hall:** The Farmers Market had been very successful, and the lottery was well supported. However, new Management Committee members were needed. New hire charges would come into effect in January.
  - **Website/Facebook:** The Clerk had produced a flyer about the PC's online presence to go in the Welcome Pack.
15. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** Cllr Maskell was moving out of the village and regrettably resigned. The PC thanked him for his work on behalf of the community. It was requested that the PC consider whether it was worth retaining the vehicle activated sign as it did not appear to have had a positive effect on speeding. It was also requested that the PC consider whether to write to infrastructure providers to start a discussion about increased requirements due to future development. These items would be on the January agenda.
16. **Next Meeting:** 9 January 2020

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm.