

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 9 January 2020
Small Meeting Room, Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Robin Brown Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland
Cllr Lesley Free Cllr Nick Free
Cllr Geoff Short Cllr Sally Smith

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
4 Members 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 5 December 2019:** The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Short.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
6. **Public Forum:** A Member of the public reported that the verge in front of the village hall was encroaching on the footway to the point where buggies and mobility vehicles could not pass. The Clerk would contact MSDC. It was also reported that a hedge near the Chestnuts had overgrown the footway and the Clerk would contact the owner.
7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:** None.
 - 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 **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). NO OBJECTION.
 - 7.3.2 **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. APPEAL ALLOWED WITH CONDITIONS.
 - 7.4 **Notification of New Planning Appeals by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
 - 7.5 **Neighbourhood Plan:** Although the Plan had been agreed at referendum and just waited for formal adoption by Mid Suffolk District Council at the end of January, it was now a material consideration when determining planning decisions. It was noted that each councillor would receive a copy of the Plan and was suggested that they attend a 'familiarisation' session on the policies within the Plan. It was agreed that the Clerk could write to SCC concerning its development at Rectory Hill with information about the design checklist within the Neighbourhood Plan and other developers could be contacted as they were identified.
8. **Progress Reports:**
 - 8.1 **Chairman:** None.
 - 8.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk had asked County Cllr Fleming to escalate the report on flooding at Hinderclay Road due to drain blockage.
9. **Correspondence:** None.
10. **General Items:**
 - 10.1 **Vehicle Activated Sign:** The most recent data was noted. The PC considered whether it was worth retaining the vehicle activated sign as it did not appear to have

had a positive effect on speeding. General speeding levels and top speeds were very consistent across the years it had been in use. However, councillors felt it might be a backward step to remove it and it was agreed to review it again in a year. The Clerk would contact the police again to request a speeding campaign at that site.

- 10.2 **Community Infrastructure:** The PC considered a proposal to write to infrastructure providers to start a discussion about increased requirements due to future development. However, it was felt that not enough information was available at this point about the larger developments within the community. In the meantime, there were Community Actions relating to infrastructure within the Neighbourhood Plan and they needed to be taken forward. It was noted that these could be considered and prioritised under the umbrella of a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP), which would also consider the allocation of income from the Community Infrastructure Levy. Botesdale and Rickinghall would now receive 25% of these funds due to having a Neighbourhood Plan. Botesdale PC had proposed the formation of an advisory group, composed initially of any members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group who wished to continue, and this approach was agreed. It was also agreed to ask other PCs who might have drawn up a PIIP for advice. Cllr Brown would contact Lavenham.
- 10.3 **Annual Parish Meeting:** It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 2 April at 7pm, prior to the regular meeting of the PC. The deadline for community reports was 20 March.
- 10.4 **Litter Pick:** A date was set for Saturday, 18 April at 10am-12pm, to meet in the Village Hall car park. The waste would be left for MSDC to pick up at the bottom of Snape Hill.
- 10.5 **Defibrillator:** Nothing to update.
- 10.6 **Village Hall Skate Park:** It was noted that the tender was now live on the government Contracts Finder website and responses were starting to come in. One response had led the Village Hall to consider concrete as well as wood and this was being investigated. The deadline for responses was 31 January.
- 10.7 **Wherry Land:** The PC considered three quotes for work to prune/shape the trees and hedges on Wherry Land. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the quote for £650 from Countryside, Conservation & Tree Services as it was the lowest and most comprehensive.

11. Finance:

- 11.1 **Account Balance:** £38,609.22
Income: £ 0.00

11.2 Accounts for Payment:

Admin Payments	£ 1,022.92	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 176.35	St Clean/VAS Jan 20
Botesdale Parish Council	£ 500.00	Christmas Tree contribution

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

- 11.3 **Precept 2020-21:** The budget of £27,200 had been set at the December meeting. The PC therefore RESOLVED, with all agreed, to sign the form requesting a precept of £26,200 from Mid Suffolk District Council. This was an overall 6.3% rise on the amount received in 2019/20, adding an average £3.06 per annum per household depending on the band.

12. Highways Issues: None.

13. Welcome Pack: 1 to Cllr N Free.

14. Councillors' Reports:

- **Local Charities:** The next meeting would be held in March.

15. Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:

It was noted that someone was going door to door to offer gravel from the Rectory Hill building site. However, it had been confirmed that the individual had no connection with the development.

16. Next Meeting: 6 February 2020

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.03 pm.