

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 6 February 2020
Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Robin Brown
Cllr Lesley Free
Cllr Sally Smith

Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Nick Free

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

7.30pm The Vice-Chair welcomed those present and opened the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Short.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** There were no applications.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 9 January 2020:** 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:** The Botesdale PC Chairman, William Sargeant, spoke about item 9.1 and the advantages of initiating a merger of Botesdale and Rickinghall PCs during the Community Governance Review. He confirmed that Botesdale PC was in favour of considering a merger.

County Cllr Jessica Fleming reported that:

- SCC was going to introduce a permit scheme for all road and street works which would give the County Council powers to manage and condition work carried out on the public highway, such as utilities and Suffolk Highways. The new scheme would be in place from 1st April.
- SCC was seeking views on proposed Post-16 Travel Policy; the consultation ran from 13 January until 26 February 2020 and would affect Year 11 and 12 students.
- There would be several new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) units in Suffolk schools which would provide 168 additional specialist placements in Suffolk as of September 2020. The nearest provision would be at Ixworth School.
- Highways England were trialling a new 40mph speed limit during high winds to decrease the number of Orwell Bridge closures.
- It was looking like the Ipswich Northern Relief Road was unlikely to go ahead as there was insufficient support within the affected Districts.

In her capacity as District Cllr, Jessica reported that:

- Mid Suffolk District Council had approved a new Minor Adaptations Grant which offered financial support for home adaptations up to the value of £7,500, not means tested for homeowners. Works covered within the new scheme would include ramps, bathing/washing facilities, additional heating, stairlifts, key safes and wash/dry toilets.
- MSDC's cabinet granted Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau a minimum of £260,100, £86,700 a year, over a three-year period starting in 2020/2021.
- A £2.2million upgrade would take place at the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket.
- The District Council's 20/21 budget proposals included a 1.66% increase in its share of council tax, adding £2.76 a year to the bill of a Band D Property.

A member of the public reported that the notice board near Jubilee House had been moved to an unagreed location. The Clerk would investigate.

7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 7.1.1 **Redwings, Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/20/00239. Householder Planning Application - Erection of a 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 **Mount Cottage, Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/20/00247. Application for works to Trees in a Conservation Area - (T1) Scots Pine Fell, (T2) Ash - Reduce branch ends by 2.5m on west side to leave radius at 4m, (T3) Cypress Reduce branch ends on south side by 2m leave radius at 3m, (T4) Sycamore Reduce branch ends on south side by 2m leave radius at 3m. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
- 7.2.2 **St Mary Church, Bury Road.** Ref. DC/20/00297. Application for works to Trees in a Conservation Area - T1 Oak – Fell. Councillors questioned the intention to poison the stump of the felled tree, for ecological reasons, but the application gave no details on the method. It was assumed that the applicant would take expert advice and ultimately RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
- 7.2.3 **Redwings, Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/20/00516. Application for works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell T1 (Lime) and reduce T2(Lime) and T3 (Oak) by up to 1/3. It was noted that the information in the application was not complete, i.e. it did not indicate whether or not the trees were subject to a TPO. However, it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
- 7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
- 7.4 **Notification of New Planning Appeals by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
- 7.5 **Neighbourhood Plan:** The Neighbourhood Plan had been adopted by Mid Suffolk District Council on 23 January 2020. Plans for the future of the Steering Group were discussed at item 10.2.
8. **Progress Reports:**
- 8.1 **Chairman:** None.
- 8.2 **Clerk:** None.
9. **Correspondence:**
- 9.1 **MSDC:** The PC noted the information that a Community Governance Review of all towns and parishes in the District would take place in 2020. This could include looking at altering the boundary of an existing parish, grouping parishes together in a grouped parish council and changing the number of councillors representing a parish council. It was agreed that this was a chance to once again consider a merger of Botesdale and Rickinghall Parish Councils and it was noted that Botesdale PC supported it. It was also noted that the review wouldn't commence until after a report to the District Council in April 2020.
- 9.2 **Botesdale Patient Participation Group (PPG):** It was agreed to participate in a Community Event on Saturday, 27 June 2020 at 10am-3pm to promote volunteering and address loneliness and rural isolation. Attendance would be agreed closer to the date.
10. **General Items:**
- 10.1 **Defibrillator:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to sign the adoption agreement for the phone box.
- 10.2 **Infrastructure Delivery Plan:** The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to draft a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP) and/or a Community Infrastructure Levy Delivery Plan, as defined within Community Action 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan, under the initial leadership of the existing Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (SG), the membership to be comprised of any members who wish to continue and new members to be recruited. It was agreed that the SG would operate under the same administrative arrangements and the name of the Plan and the new name of the SG would be determined at the first meeting of the SG. Rickinghall PC representation on the repurposed Steering Group would be considered further at the next meeting but it was noted that a resident had expressed interest.
- 10.3 **Village Hall Skate Park:** Charles Greenhough, acting for the Village Hall, presented the PC with five tenders for the replacement of the existing skate park, in addition to quotes for removal of the old equipment and for a required safety inspection. It was noted that planning permission was not needed and had not been included in the budget. A thorough discussion was held on the merits of the proposed designs and materials and this was informed by extensive research by the Village Hall with professionals and experienced skate park users. It was agreed that a galvanised

steel and Skatelite park represented the best and most robust long-term solution, as well as being a more desirable surface for skating, and it was noted that its advantages over other options were reflected in the price. The relevant tender also came with a 20-year guarantee on workmanship. Cllr Crossley-Holland proposed that the PC accepted the tender from Fearless Ramps for £43,160 (excl. VAT) in addition to the quote of £1,898 (excl. VAT) from Bryant Bros for removal of the existing equipment and of £400 (excl. VAT) from David Bracey for the safety inspection, subject to successful fundraising. This was seconded by Cllr L Free and it was subsequently RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the proposal. The PC recognised that an enormous amount of work had gone into providing councillors with the information they needed to make a decision and it was agreed to thank Charles particularly, as well as the rest of the Village Hall management committee, for all his hard work.

10.4 **Annual Newsletter:** It was suggested that the theme should centre on the youth of the community. This would be discussed again at the next meetings.

10.5 **Internal Audit Review:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to appoint Cllrs Brown and Smith to carry out the annual review of the PC's financial procedures.

11. **Finance:**

11.1 **Account Balance:** £ 37,336.87
Income: £ 426.92 MSDC Street Cleaning Grant 3rd qtr

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£ 853.33	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 176.35	St Clean/VAS Feb 20
Peter Kerry (CCTS)	£ 650.00	Wherry Land – Tree/hedge trim

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

12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Welcome Pack:** 1 to a member of the public.

14. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Parish Assets:** Cllr Crossley-Holland would clean the information plaque at the ROCP Micklewood Green.
- **Public Rights of Way:** Cllr N Free had reported a damaged fingerpost.
- **Village Hall:** The VH Committee was looking for new members, particularly to run the lottery and act as treasurer. The disabled toilet was in the process of being refurbished.

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

16. **Next Meeting:** 5 March 2020

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.26 pm.