

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 3 September 2020
Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland (Vice-Chair) Cllr Lesley Free
Cllr Geoff Short (Chair) Cllr Sally Smith

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
2 members of the public

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Robin Brown.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** None.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 9 July 2020:** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed as a true record.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr S Smith.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
6. **Public Forum:** None.
7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:** None.
 - 7.1.1 **Hunnypot Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/20/03358. Householder Planning Application - Replace existing soft wood windows to front and rear of property. Replace 1no back door to rear of property. New windows and door to replicate existing. 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 **Brenal, Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/20/01992. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 Oak, T2-4 Sycamore, T5 Silver Birch - Reduce bottom branches. T6 Ash - Trim Sides. NO OBJECTION.
 - 7.3.2 **St Georges House, 3 St Georges Drive.** Ref. DC/20/03121. Notification of Works to Trees under Tree Preservation Order MS168/A1 - Beech (T1) - Fell - Close to neighbours property and to give T2 (Beech) needed space for a natural balance and shape; Beech (T2) - No work required; Beech (T3) - Light pruning on lower laterals to keep balanced; Beech (T4) - Light pruning on lower laterals to keep balanced; Beech (T5) - Light pruning on lower laterals to keep balanced; Beech (T6) - Light pruning on lower laterals to keep balanced; Beech (T7) - Fell - Allowing T6 (Beech), T8 (Beech) to naturally balance and shape with much needed space around them both; Beech (T8) - No works required; Beech (T9) - Fell - Too large for surrounding area; Beech (T10) - Light pruning on lower laterals to keep balanced. Consent GRANTED.
 - 7.4 **Notification of New Planning Appeals by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
8. **Progress Reports:**
 - 8.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman reported that:
 - He had received an email about hosting a Chalk Bomb Trail – drawings on the pavement with activities for children – with proceeds to go to Mind charity. He would ask for more information including notification of residents, safety of participants and other pedestrians on narrow pavements and whether any financial support would be required.
 - The new residents of Underwood House were considering the reinstatement of a bench on the plot in front of Maypole Meadow. The PC agreed to this in principle and would consider it further if the owners wished to go ahead with it.
 - There had been a complaint about the number of vans parked on Rectory Hill outside the Burgess Homes development. This was raised with the developer and alternative parking had been arranged by the following day.

8.2 **Clerk:** The Rights of Way Officer had reported that some paths were not being cut and an enquiry to Suffolk County Council had revealed that several paths had been removed from the cutting schedule without consultation. The Clerk was in the process of following up on this and would report at the next meeting.

9. **Correspondence:**

9.1 **MSDC:** The PC noted the consultation on the revised draft statutory Licensing Act 2003: Statement of Licensing Policy document.

9.2 **MSDC:** The PC noted the consultation on the new annual five-year housing land supply position statement which demonstrated a 7.67-year supply.

10. **General Items:**

10.1 **Council Insurance:** The PC considered two quotes for insurance for the period 1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021 from Came & Co and BHIB, specialist brokers for local councils. It was noted that the quotes were comparable in their cover but the quote from BHIB was, at £504.93, about £100 lower with a 3-year Long Term Agreement. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the quote from BHIB.

10.2 **Council Domain Name:** The PC considered the advantages of having a gov.uk domain for PC use, which included that it would be recognisable, reassuring and official, as well as provide continuance through changes in staff etc. It was noted that the baseline cost for a new domain name was £80 plus VAT for the first 2 years, with a renewal fee of £40 plus VAT every 2 years after that. The registrar would also levy an additional fee (tbc). It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to go ahead with the application including appointing Clerk as domain name administrator.

10.3 **Risk Assessment:** The PC considered the amendments to the risk assessment which had been drawn up to address Covid-19 issues related to physical meetings at the village hall. It was RESOLVED, to accept the amendments to the risk assessment.

10.4 **Website Accessibility Statement:** The PC website had been amended to allow users to access Council information more easily. However, it was noted that in the event of visually impaired users not all screen readers could read a PDF file. As it was not possible at this time to make them available in another format, users could request that a Word version of the document be sent directly to them. A formal statement of Accessibility would be added to the website as required by law.

10.5 **Defibrillator:** The quote for the new defibrillator had been accepted and the redecoration of the phone box was due to take place in the autumn. Grant funding of £1,500 had been received from County/District Councillor Jessica Fleming's Locality Budget and further funding had been applied for from Mid Suffolk District Council's Small Grants programme. The Heritage Team had been consulted about whether Listed Building Consent was required, and a reply was awaited.

11. **Finance:**

11.1 **Account Balance:** £43,223.47
Income: £ 453.44 MSDC Street Cleaning Grant – 1st qtr

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**
Admin Payments £ 922.05 Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc. £ 416.55 St Clean/VAS/PRoW Sept 20
SALC £ 10.00 Web Accessibility Training
RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts above.

12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

14. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Local Charities:** The next meeting was in October.
- **Public Rights of Way:** Cllr Free reported that the waypost on the field next to the White Horse had not yet been replaced.
- **Village Hall:** The Farmers' Market was back with a jumble sale and outdoor café.

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

16. **Next Meeting:** 1 October 2020

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.19 pm.