

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 1 October 2020

Online Zoom Meeting

Present: Cllr Robin Brown Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Geoff Short (Chair) Cllr Sally Smith

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Lesley Free.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** None.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 3 September 2020:** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed as a true record.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr G Short.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
6. **Public Forum:** Three members of the public spoke about the planning application for the land between Red House and Honeysuckle Cottage, one objecting to loss of amenity to nearby properties and the applicants speaking in support of the application. Another member of the public spoke about the flue at Bell Hill Cottage not being in accordance with the approved planning application. Finally, a member of the Village Hall Management Committee informed the PC that the £15k grant offer from Sport England had been contingent on installing flood lighting but this was not going to be possible due to the cost, tendering requirements and the necessity for a planning application. The cost was likely to be £5-7k plus significant volunteer time and this was felt to be unreasonable in relation to the amount of grant. Furthermore, advice had been sought from others with floodlit skate parks and the feedback had been quite negative. However, without the grant, the project would not go ahead. Plan B was to replace one of the ramps which needed immediate attention at a cost of around £5k and consider the other ramps in future.

Cllr Fleming reported that a new COVID support phonenumber on 0800 068 3131 (9am-5pm M-F) for general assistance had been set up to help access information or support relating to debt, benefits, housing or employment. Suffolk Public Health had also set up a web site at www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch. Businesses could find information about support during COVID-19 at www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/features/support-available-for-businesses-in-babergh-and-mid-suffolk.

Suffolk County Council were investing in promoting new Quiet Lane designations using the Suffolk 2020 Fund, which was a £3m fund to help address the climate emergency declaration and improve Suffolk for all residents. A Quiet Lane was a nationally recognised designation of single-track low usage road suitable for walking, cycling and horses with limited access for motorised vehicles.

Suffolk County Council along with Plug-in Suffolk would be funding new EV fast-charging points which might be suitable for rural towns and villages. Businesses could apply to join the Plug-in Suffolk network by visiting www.greensuffolk.org/plug-in-suffolk.

Parents and carers could now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2021. The deadline for applications was 31 October 2020 for secondary school and 15 January 2021 for primary schools. Parents and carers could apply for a school place online at suffolk.gov.uk/admissions.

Visitors to Mid Suffolk's car parks could now use digital payment system MiPermit, as well as a cash payment option. The Council was also looking at contactless payment options.

7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**

7.1.1 **Land Between Red House And Honeysuckle Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/20/03788. Planning Application - Erection of 1no detached dwelling. Councillors agreed that it was a good design, echoing other barn-like buildings set back at the same level in this section of The Street. The application was well-presented and the design was appropriate, fitting in well with the street scene. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.

7.1.2 **Porters House Farm, West Hall Road.** Ref. DC/20/03342. Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No dwelling (following demolition of existing) including sewage treatment plant; Erection of detached cartlodge with room over and improved vehicular access to highway. Councillors agreed that this was an improvement on the existing building and would have a positive effect on its surroundings. 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 **The Cottage, Water Lane.** DC/20/04029. Notification of Works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 (Apple) - Fell. T2 (Cherry) - 1/3 Reduction and re shape. T3 (Silver Birch) - Lower height and bring in long lateral branches to balance tree. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.

7.2.2 **The Croft, Water Lane.** DC/20/04025. Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 Willow - Reduce height by 50% by pollarding. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.

7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**

7.3.1 **Lion Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/20/02447. Householder Application - Erection of second floor rear extension. Planning Permission GRANTED.

7.4 **Notification of other Planning Matters:**

7.4.1 **Bell Hill Cottage, The Street.** Ref. EN/20/00567. Alleged erection of flue to the left of the window. Councillors noted that the flue on the roof of the proposed pizza shop, next to The Bell, appeared to be positioned differed from that approved and this had been drawn to the attention of MSDC. The PC awaited an inspection and response.

7.4.2 **Planning White Paper Consultation:** It was noted that this consultation which proposed fundamental changes to the approach to planning would close on 29 October and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils were putting in a joint submission. The PC agreed to put in a response.

8. **Progress Reports:**

8.1 **Chairman:** None.

8.2 **Clerk:** None.

9. **Correspondence:**

9.1 **MSDC:** The PC considered the street naming proposal by the developer of 1-3 Dawns Court for the new houses on the land next to Jubilee House. Advice had been taken from the Village History Recorder, who in turn had consulted others who are familiar with the history of the village, and several appropriate alternatives had been suggested. The PC agreed on two suggestions to make to MSDC Address Management – in order of preference, Jubilee Terrace or Robinsons Terrace. It was noted that the Robinson family had owned the maltings on the site for many years in the 19th & 20th centuries.

9.2 **MSDC:** The Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan public consultation was noted.

9.3 **MSDC:** The PC considered an offer to plant trees and hedgerows on PC-owned land to improve wildlife corridors. It wasn't immediately obvious where it would be desirable to add some trees/hedges, but it was agreed to consider it further and express an interest to MSDC.

9.4 **SCC:** It was noted that there had been complaints over the last few months about the overgrown state of the footpaths and the Clerk had written to SCC enquiring why they had not been cut. It transpired that nine paths had been removed from the cutting schedule, without notification. In this response SCC cited a shortfall in budget and agreed to review the cuts.

9.5 **Boundary Commission:** The draft recommendations for new divisions, division boundaries, and division names for Suffolk County Council were noted.

10. **General Items:**
- 10.1 **Review and Update of Council Documents:** The PC reviewed the documents and it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the amended Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
- 10.2 **Defibrillator:** The PC noted confirmation of £1,000 grant from MSDC Small Grants Programme in addition to £1,500 grant from Cllr Fleming's Locality Budget. In addition, MSDC had confirmed that no Listed Building Consent would be needed for the work.
- 10.3 **Remembrance Day:** The PC sadly noted that a gathering was not recommended this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. Residents would be encouraged to commemorate the event by standing on their doorstep at 11:00, both on Remembrance Sunday (November 8th) and November 11th and observing a two-minute silence, broken with clapping at its conclusion.
- 10.4 **Infrastructure Steering Group:** The PC agreed to proceed with setting this up via Zoom.
11. **Finance:**
- 11.1 **Account Balance:** £54,936.86
- Income:** £13,099.99 MSDC Precept – 2nd payment
- 11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**
- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Admin Payments | £ 1,181.45 | Not itemised due to GDPR |
| Street Sweeping etc. | £ 216.66 | St Clean/VAS/PRoW Oct 20 |
| BHIB Councils Insurance | £ 504.93 | Annual Insurance 2020-21 |
| Peter Frizzell Ltd | £ 138.00 | Low Meadow Grass Cut |
- Direct Debit:**
- | | | |
|-------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| Info Commissioner | £ 35.00 | Data Protection Registration |
|-------------------|---------|------------------------------|
- RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts above.
- 11.3 **Budget Report:** The PC received the 2nd Quarter report. It was agreed to consider items for next year's budget including refurbishment or replacement of the notice board and refurbishment of fingerpost directional signs near the church.
12. **Highways Issues:** None.
13. **Welcome Pack:** 1 had been delivered to Cllr Short.
14. **Councillors' Reports:**
- **Local Charities:** The next meeting was in October.
 - **Public Rights of Way:** It was agreed to express an interest in the Quiet Lanes programme with Mill Lane in mind.
 - **Tree Warden:** A very small number of disease resistant elms were being made available to parish councils by the Tree Warden Network.
 - **Village Hall:** The PC noted the report from the public forum concerning the Skate Park and agreed that it would be preferable to preserve the dark skies by not having floodlighting at the skate park. Nearby residents were also likely to prefer this. Councillors felt it would be sensible to replace the one damaged ramp if the project could not go ahead as planned.
 - **Website:** The Accessibility Statement was now online and the PC was compliant with legislation.
15. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** None.
16. **Next Meeting:** 5 November 2020
17. **Exclusion of the public and press in the public interest under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 for consideration of the following items:** The PC noted the recently published NALC 2020-21 pay scales which would be applied from 1 April 2020.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.42 pm.