

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 5 November 2020
Online Zoom Meeting

Present: Cllr Robin Brown
Cllr Geoff Short (Chair)
Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Sally Smith
Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
Two members of the public

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** There were no applications for the five vacant positions. It was noted that Cllr Lesley Free had resigned and the PC thanked her for her hard work on behalf of the community. She had confirmed that she would remain on the Village Hall Management Committee.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 1 October 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:** Charles Greenhough reported that the Village Hall was considering a "Plan B" for the skate park which would cost £5-10k to refurbish one of the ramps and polish the concrete surface of the whole area.
7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 7.1.1 **4 Kiln Farm Cottages, Candle Street.** Ref. DC/20/04537. Householder Application - Erection of garage/ hobby room in rear garden (following demolition of existing outbuildings) Insertion of 2No first floor windows, replace 2No ground floor windows. The PC considered that this was a thorough application, and it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.1.2 **4 Kiln Farm Cottages, Candle Street.** Ref. DC/20/04538. Application for Listed Building Consent - Insertion of 2No first floor windows, replace 2No ground floor windows; Restoration of inglenook fireplace. Internal alterations as per Design Access Statement. 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 **5 Brook Park, Bury Road.** Ref. DC/20/04652. Notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 1no Heaven Ailanthus by up to 1/3 as it has grown too large for position. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.2.2 **Forge Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/20/04654. Notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 1no Beech tree by up to 1/3 due to being overgrown and encroachment. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.2.3 **Linden House, The Street.** Ref. DC/20/04657. Notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Re-pollard 4no Lime Trees and reduce 3No Plum Trees by up to 1/3 (thin and reshape). It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.2.4 **The Paddocks, Maypole Meadow.** Ref. DC/20/04844. Notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area - 1no Lime - Remove to ground level or Reduce by 1/3. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**
 - 7.3.1 **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. Planning Permission GRANTED.
 - 7.3.2 **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. NO OBJECTION.

7.3.3 **The Croft, Water Lane.** DC/20/04025. Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 Willow - Reduce height by 50% by pollarding. NO OBJECTION.

7.4 **Notification of other Planning Matters:** None.

8. **Progress Reports:**

8.1 **Chairman:** None.

8.2 **Clerk:** As decided in October, interest had been expressed in MSDC's trees and hedgerow planting project and in the Quiet Lane programme for Mill Lane. It was reported that the potential merger with Rickinghall PC had been delayed due to the postponed Community Governance Review of all District towns and parishes that had been due to take place in 2020. A merger could be pursued independently of that but would require completing a petition with at least 250 signatures per parish. The PC agreed that a successful petition would be difficult to achieve under current restrictions so this would be shelved temporarily

9. **Correspondence:**

9.1 **MSDC:** The PC reconsidered the street naming proposal by the developer of 1-3 Dawns Court for the new houses on the land next to Jubilee House. Unfortunately, the developer had not forwarded any information explaining the name choice to the PC as requested so it was agreed to confirm the PC's preference for Jubilee Terrace.

9.2 **Parochial Church Council:** The PC noted the annual request for funds for churchyard maintenance for Rickinghall Superior Churchyard and St Mary's, Rickinghall Inferior. This would be confirmed in the budget discussions for 2021-22.

10. **General Items:**

10.1 **Review and Update of Council Documents:** The PC reviewed the Reserves Policy, which had been updated to confirm that that the current level of General Reserves was sufficient, and RESOLVED, with all agreed, to adopt it.

10.2 **Wherry Land Hedge:** The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept a quote for £375 from Countryside, Conservation & Tree Services to cut back the hedge behind the houses on Hinderclay Road.

10.3 **Notice Board at Hinderclay Rd:** The Parish Council received three quotes for a new oak notice board and RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the lowest quote for £818.50 from a local firm, Harry Stebbing Workshop.

10.4 **Phone Box / Defibrillator:** It was noted that the glazing had been replaced and the painting prep work was underway. It was expected that it would be completed in the next week or so.

10.5 **Village Hall:** The PC noted the report from the public forum concerning the Skate Park. It was also RESOLVED, with all agreed, to continue payment of hire fees in support of the Hall, despite not being able to use the meeting rooms.

10.6 **Infrastructure Steering Group:** It was noted that a meeting would take place on Wednesday, 18 November at 7pm via Zoom. This would be advertised with the aim of attracting more participants.

10.7 **Meeting Dates 2021:** These were agreed as follows - 7 Jan; 4 Feb; 4 Mar; 1 Apr; 6 May; 3 Jun; 1 Jul; 5 Aug (Planning only); 2 Sep; 7 Oct; 4 Nov; 2 Dec

11. **Finance:**

11.1 Account Balance:	£56,825.11	
Income:	£ 3,929.29	MSDC Parish CIL Payment

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£ 1,198.63	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 180.68	St Clean/VAS Nov 20
Pear Technology	£ 84.00	PT Mapper Support/Updates
Botesdale Parish Council	£ 50.00	War Memorial Insurance Contrib
Community Action Suffolk	£ 60.00	Annual Website Hosting Fee
Cade Creative Ltd	£ 30.00	CLlr Recruitment Poster (1/2)

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

11.3 **Draft Budget 2021/22:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to set a BUDGET of £27,900 for the year 2021/22 and to retain funds of £46,148.78 earmarked for general reserves, village improvements and Community Infrastructure Levy making a total fund of £74,048.78. The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve a precept of £27,850 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 Council Tax band.

12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Welcome Pack:** Two to Cllr Short and two to Cllr Brown.

14. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Local Charities:** Cllr Crossley-Holland reported that a meeting had been held but there were no requests for assistance. It had been suggested that the group would, as last year, identify six single pensioners who would appreciate a Christmas boost of £50 each. It was suggested that there should be a feature promoting the availability of local charities in the parish magazine and on Facebook.
- **Parish Assets:** Cllr Crossley-Holland reported that the Micklewood Green Sign needed a bit of attention. She would clean it and see if it needed further work.
- **Public Rights of Way:** A post was down on FP25 where it met the Common.

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

16. **Next Meeting:** 3 December 2020

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.47 pm.