

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 3 December 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
County/District Cllr Jessica Fleming
One member 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.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 5 November 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:** Cllr Fleming reported that the NHS were expanding the 111 Helpline to reduce the strain on hospitals. The Helpline could now book patients into a timed slot at an emergency department, GP, or arrange other out of hospital services.

Care Home Visits - The suitability of visits to care settings within Suffolk was informed by Government guidance which was updated on 01 December on the Gov.uk website. Rapid (lateral flow) tests were being distributed to Care Quality Commission registered care homes across the country for visitors. The tests were aimed to assess up to two visitors per resident, twice a week by Christmas.

Recycling Centres were experiencing increased levels of contamination of collected recycled materials, particularly by glass, nappies, tetra-packs and food. The PC agreed to publicise the guidelines for recycling on Facebook.

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Rates review - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils were currently seeking views on revised CIL charges for developers.

Biodiversity Action Plan – Mid Suffolk Cabinet had approved plans to reduce biodiversity loss and improve management of open spaces. Actions included ecological mapping, improving management of wildlife sites and corridors, and strengthening protections through Supplementary Planning Document(s). Other measures include hedge and tree planting initiatives and community and parish involvement.

7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 7.1.1 **10 Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/20/05408 | Householder Planning Application - Erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey front porch and painting of existing brickwork. The PC considered that this would give the pair of semi-detached houses a more balanced appearance and that there was enough room on the site for it to not appear crowded. The applicant had also taken pre-application advice and made appropriate changes. The PC 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 **Land Between Red House And Honeysuckle Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/20/03788. Planning Application - Erection of 1no detached dwelling. WITHDRAWN.
 - 7.3.2 **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. NO OBJECTION.

- 7.3.3 **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. NO OBJECTION.
- 7.3.4 **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). NO OBJECTION.
- 7.3.5 **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. NO OBJECTION.

7.4 **Notification of other Planning Matters:**

- 7.4.1 **Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Pre-Submission Joint Local Plan:** The PC considered the invitation to submit a representation on the legal compliance and soundness of the Pre-Submission Joint Local Plan (Regulation 19) document by 12 noon on Thursday 24th December 2020. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection to the Local Plan where it related to Botesdale and Rickinghall (Core Village), noting that site LA051 had been removed from the Joint Plan Allocations and required housing numbers reduced as requested to be in line with the adopted Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Plan.

8. **Progress Reports:**

- 8.1 **Chairman:** None.
- 8.2 **Clerk:** None.

9. **Correspondence:**

- 9.1 **MSDC:** The PC noted the information about the Council Tax Base for 2021-22, which recommended that councils should not set their precept until January when more information about the Tax Base would be available. In light of this request, it was agreed to make a motion at the next meeting to set aside the decision made in November to fix the budget and precept for 2021-22.
- 9.2 **MSDC:** The PC noted the small increase of around £1 per bin in the cost of emptying dog and litter bins in the upcoming year.
- 9.3 **Office of National Statistics:** The PC noted the information about upcoming 2021 Census and that the PC would be asked to play a part in promoting it. The requested information about meeting facilities in the village would be forwarded to the ONS.
- 9.4 **County Broadband:** The PC noted the information about the full-fibre scheme to the village. It was reported that individual households had already been contacted.

10. **General Items:**

- 10.1 **Quiet Lanes Programme:** The PC noted the information about the programme and considered whether to pursue it further. Councillors had felt that Mill Lane would be suitable for this designation, as it was connected to the footpath system, was well-used by walkers and horse riders and traffic was light. However, the process of application and public consultation would be very time-consuming, and the cost was high, when weighed against the potential benefit. It was therefore agreed to not pursue the designation.
- 10.2 **Infrastructure Steering Group:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve the terms of reference as proposed by the Group. It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 18 January at 7pm, Zoom.
- 10.3 **Phone Box / Defibrillator:** The phone box had been fully refurbished and looked good. The Clerk would now place the order for the defibrillator and its installation.
- 10.4 **Skate Park:** Councillors discussed the future of project and allocation of additional funding to allow it to go ahead in some form. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed to allocated £10,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy funds towards some level of refurbishment, at a minimum replacing the right-hand unit, which had exceeded its estimated lifespan by a significant margin. The Clerk would investigate whether there were grants available towards the full project, estimated at £45k, and if not, whether grant funds could be obtained for the replacement of the one unit.

11. **Finance:**

11.1	Account Balance:	£57,175.24	
	Income:	£ 453.44	MSDC Street Cln Grant 2 nd qtr
		£ 1,500.00	Locality Budget Grant for Defib

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£ 878.83	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 405.68	St Clean/VAS/Mill Lane Dec 20
S McAllister	£ 1,510.00	Phone Box Refurbishment
Harry Stebbing Workshop	£ 1,051.52	Notice Board
PKR Littlejohn LLP	£ 240.00	External Audit Fees
CC & Tree Services	£ 375.00	Hedge trimming at Wherry Land

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

11.3 **External Audit Report:** The Clerk reported that the External Audit had been completed with no qualifying matters and was now available on the website along with the Notice of Conclusion of Audit.

12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Welcome Pack:** Cllr Short had delivered one pack.

14. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Public Rights of Way:** A fence had been moved adjacent to FP9 (from Gardenhouse Lane) resulting in the dog waste bin being located on the wrong side of the fence. The PRow Officer at SCC had confirmed that more than the required width for a Public Footpath was available (except for where side growth from a neighbouring property was present) so there was no encroachment. SCC had agreed to trim the side growth and had indicated that they would be willing to move the bin forward onto the footpath.

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

- Cllr Brown reported that he had been approached by the Breakfast and After School Club about funding to support the Club during a period where numbers had been halved due to Covid restrictions and more parents working from home. It was agreed to consider a grant to BASC if they issued a formal request with information about how they planned to make the Club viable in the long term.
- The Clerk reported that someone had fixed the gate at Wherry Land closed leading to concerns about the site being used/occupied without authorisation. The gate itself was on its last legs and was not wide enough to allow contractors to access the land with wide equipment. A quote for a new combined five-bar gate and pedestrian gate had been received from CC & Tree Services for £975. It was agreed to consider adding to the 2021/22 budget to cover this and to attempt to get further quotes, with the aim of carrying out the work in the spring.

16. **Next Meeting:** 7 January 2021

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:15 pm.