

# RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 7 January 2021  
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 3 December 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:** Jonny Spinks of County Broadband gave a presentation on the company's proposal to provide the infrastructure for 'fibre to premises' broadband in Rickingham.

Cllr Fleming reported on Covid updates. The Home But Not Alone service at 0800 876 6926 was active and staffed from 9am to 5pm Mon. to Fri., as was the Suffolk Advice and Support Service phone at 0800 068 3131. Special schools and those supporting key workers would remain open during the new lockdown period. Residents on low incomes or benefits could get financial help if they are told to self-isolate due to COVID-19. Local Business Support Grants – Businesses could apply for multiple mandatory and discretionary grants, but separate applications would need to be made for each grant. All Covid related schemes were promoted on the Mid Suffolk District Council website at <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/benefits/coronavirus-money-and-benefits-advice/>

SCC was asking members of public for feedback in shaping new developments. The Streets Guide was part of the Suffolk Design initiative, where District and Borough planning authorities and the County Council were working together to improve the design criteria and guidance for new developments across the county. The consultation was open until 5pm on Wednesday 10 February 2021. Members of the public could take part by visiting, [www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolkstreets](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolkstreets)

Cllr Fleming had received communications about fly-tipping at Snape Hill along with a proposal to close off the road near the bottom, inserting a gate for access and moving the bottle banks outside the gate. She would ask SCC Highways what the options were for this site, including CCTV.

7. **Planning:**
  - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
    - 7.1.1 **Land To The Rear Of Willowmere, Garden House Lane.** Ref. DC/20/05751. Submission of details (Reserved Matters) application relating to Outline Planning Permission 2798/16 for the Access to be considered for the erection of 10no dwellings, garages and off-site highway works. The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection. However, when further details were available, the PC would like to see some information about the proposed boundary treatment for the adjacent public right of way.
  - 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:** None.
  - 7.4 **Notification of other Planning Matters:** None.

8. **Progress Reports:**

8.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman had also received communication about Snape Hill with concerns over fly-tipping and possible drug dealing. The PC was not convinced that closing off the area was appropriate, and it was agreed to take Cllr Fleming up on her offer to consult with Highways.

8.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk reported that

- Botesdale had discussed a Traffic Regulation Order for three sites in Botesdale and had offered to include sites in Rickingham. It was agreed to give this some thought.
- The surface of Footpath RI1 at Broom Hills, Mill Lane was very damaged by the recent excessive rain. It was agreed to ask SCC to consider a boardwalk or other improved surface treatment. If they were unable to do this it could be added as a possible project in the Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan.
- The new notice board for Hinderclay Road was with Michael Bryant and would be installed as soon as Essex and Suffolk Water opened the junction with The Street.

9. **Correspondence:**

9.1 **SCC Pension Fund:** The PC considered the consultation on Ill Health Liability Insurance which asked whether all employers in the Suffolk Pension Fund with a LGPS pension payroll of less than £1m should have the insurance. As there was no additional cost to employers in having it, the PC agreed to support this change in Pension Fund policy.

10. **General Items:**

10.1 **Jubilee House Notice Board:** It was reported that SCC had given permission to site the notice board at the corner of The Street and Gardenhouse Lane on the pavement next to the green Openreach cabinet. The Clerk would write to the owner of the nearest property to let them know. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the quote for £785 + VAT to M J Nunn Surfacing.

10.2 **County Broadband:** The PC considered the information provided in the presentation given by County Broadband and noted that the company was financially backed by Aviva. It was also noted that they were currently the only company in the area offering 'fibre to premises' broadband. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to support the introduction of improved broadband infrastructure in Rickingham. It was agreed to draft a letter from the PC outlining the background of the approach from County Broadband with details of how to register interest in the scheme. County Broadband would take responsibility for distributing this to Rickingham residents. It was noted that approximate 40% of households would need to register interest for it to go forward to the next stage where households would be asked to pre-order. At that stage 25% would need to pre-order for it to go ahead. Installation would be free for those who signed up at the pre-order stage.

10.3 **Vehicle Weight Restriction on Fen Lane:** The PC had been asked by a resident to request a vehicle weight restriction in light of the damaged culvert at the end of Fen Lane and the poor road condition. It was agreed not to take the request forward since heavy vehicles would still be able to use the road for necessary access and the reduction in heavy traffic would be minimal. It was noted that Botesdale did not support this either.

10.4 **Phone Box / Defibrillator:** The Clerk reported that the installation of the defibrillator was due to take place on 15 February.

10.5 **Skate Park:** The Clerk had confirmed that the original quotes were still good except for the removal of the old equipment. A new quote would be sought. A meeting had been arranged with MSDC to discuss the status of grant funding.

11. **Finance:**

11.1	<b>Account Balance:</b>	£ 53,714.21	
	<b>Income:</b>	£ 1,000.00	MSDC Grant for Defib

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£ 1,077.32	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 180.68	St Clean/VAS/Mill Lane Jan 21
Community Heartbeat Trust	£ 3,258.00	Defibrillator inc Installation
Botesdale Parish Council	£ 600.00	Contribution to Christmas tree

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

11.3 **Draft Budget 2021-22:** In accordance with Standing Orders 7(a) and 9, the Clerk has received written notice from three councillors moving to set aside the resolution made in item 11.3 Draft Budget 2021/22 at the Council meeting on 5 November 2020, based on the recommendation from Mid Suffolk District Council that councils should not set their precept until January 2021 when further information about the Tax Base is available. The PC reconsidered the budget, and it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to set a BUDGET of £28,750 for the year 2021-22 and to retain funds of £44,648.78, making a total fund of £73,398.78. The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to sign the form requesting a precept of £28,400 from Mid Suffolk District Council. This was an overall 8.4% rise on the amount received in 2020-21, adding an average £4.54 per annum per household depending on the band.

12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

14. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Local Charities:** The next meeting was in March.
- **Public Rights of Way:** Cllr Brown agreed to take on the position of Footpaths Officer until someone else could be found.

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

16. **Next Meeting:** 4 February 2021

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:04 pm.