

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 4 February 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
Three 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.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 7 January 2021:** 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 Clinical Commissioning Group had a web site relating to the pandemic and health services at www.westsuffolkccg.nhs.uk, with information on vaccine rollout at www.sneevaccine.org.uk. Business owners in Mid Suffolk were being urged to explore the range of Covid-19 support grants available to support them through the current lockdown online at www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/business/business-rates/grant-funding-schemes/ Individuals on a low income who were asked to isolate as a result of Test and Trace could apply for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment from MSDC at midsuffolk.gov.uk/benefits/coronavirus-money-and-benefits-advice/

Garden waste collection remained temporarily suspended due to pandemic related staff shortages. Recycling centres remained open. The Suffolk Waste Partnership was promoting an information campaign about what could be placed in recycling bins online at www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

Babergh and Mid Suffolk had invested in 250 new homes for low-income house-hunters. This would see new properties added to the existing council house stock or made available to buy as shared ownership homes

Two members of the public requested new bollards opposite the junction with Bridewell Lane as cars were parking on the pavement there and obstructing pedestrian access. The PC agreed to make the request to Suffolk County Council.

A member of the public reported mud on the footway opposite Albert Close due to it being used for vehicles bypassing the recent road closure. The Clerk would report this. There was also a complaint about County Broadband sales tactics and the potential for additional overhead wires, particularly where they were currently underground. The PC agreed that this would not be desirable.

7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 7.1.1 **Osier Farm, New Delight Road.** Ref. DC/20/05344. Planning Application - Change of use from Agricultural to equine use and erection of stables and barn (retention of) following demolition of existing barn, construction of lunging school arena (retention of), erection of paddock fencing (retention of) and 2No. mobile horse shelters (retention of). It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.1.2 **Brook Place, Water Lane.** Ref. DC/21/00606. Householder Planning Application - Erection of extension to existing garage to form 3bays. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.

- 7.1.3 **Land Between Red House And Honeysuckle Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/21/00584. Planning Application. Erection of 1no detached dwelling. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection to the amended application.
- 7.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:** None.
- 7.2.1 **Brook Place, Water Lane.** Ref. DC/21/00478. Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Removal of T1(Cherry), 2 No. T2(Shrubs) and 3 No. T3(Pine) due to plans to develop and extend garage and create seating area. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
- 7.2.2 **Tipplers, The Street.** Ref. DC/21/00624. Notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area - 1no Large Apple tree – Thin and 1/3 Reduction. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
- 7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**
- 7.3.1 **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. Planning Permission GRANTED.
- 7.4 **Notification of other Planning Matters:** None.
8. **Progress Reports:**
- 8.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman reported that a film about Basil Brown called *The Dig* had recently come out and queried whether this would be a good time to put up a blue plaque on the house where he lived. It was noted that a blue plaque scheme was currently being considered by the Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan group. The Chairman also queried whether the councillor recruitment campaign should start now as Cllr Brown would be leaving after the March meeting. The PC considered that the time was not ideal, while the country was in lockdown, but councillor numbers were too low to wait.
- 8.2 **Clerk:** The Clerk reported that there was a delay in installing the notice board at Garden House Lane as it was proving difficult to find someone to refurbish it.
9. **Correspondence:**
- 9.1 **MSDC:** The PC discussed the consultation on the Suffolk Design for Streets Guidance which would assist with the design of new residential developments, showing how best to create sustainable transport layouts that promote walking and cycling. The Clerk would submit a response.
10. **General Items:**
- 10.1 **Skate Park:** The Clerk had attended a meeting with the grants team at Mid Suffolk District Council and had been informed that a new grant application would need to be made as the original application was outdated. The next bidding round was in May and the application would be made then.
- 10.2 **Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan:** The PIIP Steering Group had held another meeting and everything was in line to complete the Plan by October 2021. There would be some initial consultation with local organisations and businesses to add to the list of possible new or improved infrastructure in Botesdale and Rickinghall before a wider consultation with the community. There would be a full-page article in the magazine giving more information on the Plan.
- 10.3 **County Broadband:** The Clerk had written to Jo Churchill MP to ask for her help in finding out whether BT Openreach had plans for Fibre to the Premises in the village. It was noted that another webinar would take place on 8 February.
- 10.4 **Internal Audit Review:** The Chairman would carry out the annual review and report back at the March meeting.
- 10.5 **Annual Parish Meeting:** It was noted that local organisation might not have met or been active in any way over the past year and therefore were unlikely to have anything to report. However, it was agreed to set the date of the Annual Parish Meeting for Monday, 12 April, before the regular meeting of the PC, and acknowledged that this might not take place unless circumstances changed. Currently, the law did not allow annual parish meetings to take place online and such gatherings were not allowed in person. It was agreed to highlight the situation in the parish magazine.

- 10.6 **Annual Newsletter:** The PC considered what format this should take in 2021, i.e., whether it should be a shorter communication if reports were not available. It was agreed to wait and see what, if anything, was received from local organisations for the annual parish meeting.
- 10.7 **Litter Pick:** It was agreed to postpone the 2021 Litter Pick to the autumn.

11. **Finance:**

11.1 **Account Balance:** £49,579.91
Income: £ 981.70 Defibrillator contribution from BPC

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£ 896.86	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 180.68	St Clean/VAS/Mill Lane Feb 21
Bryant Bros.	£ 64.00	Installation of Notice Board

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

12. **Highways Issues:** There was a complaint about the number of vans parked on Rectory Hill at the new development. However, it was noted that they were making a push to finish and the situation would soon be improved.

13. **Welcome Pack:** 3 to Cllr Short and 1 to Cllr Brown.

14. **Councillors' Reports:**

- **Local Charities:** The next meeting was in March.
- **Public Rights of Way:** Cllr Brown would report some missing way posts.
- **Village Hall:** The village hall had made a request for regular help with maintenance costs. It was agreed to consider this when setting the precept for 2022/23 as a large sum had been allocated to the Skate Park and there were currently no additional funds available.

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

- Cllr Brown reported that he was still working with the After School Club to help them determine how they could continue post-lockdown.
- It was reported that there might be a summer showing of *The Dig* in the village.

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

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:05 pm.