

# RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Tuesday, 10 January 2023  
Rickingham Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland (Vice-Chair) Cllr Andy Gordon  
Cllr Brian Rhodes Cllr Geoff Short (Chair)  
Cllr Sally Smith

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve  
1 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 seats on the Council.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 1 December 2022:** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed as a true record with an amendment to item 7.3.3 (removal of "and 6-inch gravel boards").
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Smith.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
6. **Public Forum:** None.
7. **Planning:**
  - 7.1 **Planning Applications:** None.
  - 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 East of Greenacres, Gardenhouse Lane.** Ref. DC/22/04996. Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission 3858/16 dated 19/11/2018 - Town and Country Planning Act 1990.- Application for Outline Planning Permission for residential development of up to 42 new dwellings, supporting infrastructure and Access (Highway & pedestrian). (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout & Scale being the subject of a further Reserved Matters application) - To vary Condition 23 (Provision of New Footpath) in order to provide an alternative pedestrian link. Planning Permission GRANTED.
    - 7.3.2 **Pumping Station/Water Treatment Works, Church Lane.** Ref. DC/22/03959. Planning Application. Improvement of the existing Rickingham Water Treatment Works comprising a Motor Control Centre Kiosk, Transfer Pump Kiosk, Filter Galleries, Polymer Dosing structure, associated infrastructure and hardstanding. Planning Permission GRANTED.
8. **Progress Reports:**
  - 8.1 **Chairman:** Cllr Short reported that he had met with the Rickingham and Botesdale Good Neighbour Scheme (RBGNS) to discuss the future replacement of the Community Bus vehicle. Along with Rickingham PC, at least two other parish councils were setting aside funds for the estimated £40k purchase. It was noted that the current vehicle was seven years old and had 90k miles on it, mostly short journeys, and was likely to need replacing in another year or so. Suffolk County Council had given the current vehicle to Rickingham PC for the use of RBGNS as that organisation was not eligible to receive the asset as a donation. The PC agreed that this approach had worked very well, and the Community Bus service run by RBGNS had made an extremely valuable contribution to the community. It was noted that unless RBGNS's eligibility had changed, the PC would be happy to take on the ownership role for the new vehicle. Finally, Councillors agreed to register their thanks to Gordon Lawrence for running the service.
  - 8.2 **Clerk:** None.
9. **Correspondence:**
  - 9.1 **MSDC:** The PC noted the information about the re-start of Parish Liaison meetings. The Chairman would attend the next one, to be held on 7 February at 1.30pm – 3.30pm at The Mix, Stowmarket.

- 9.2 **Parochial Church Council:** The PC noted the final closure notice for St Mary's, Rickingham Superior churchyard. Its maintenance would now be the responsibility of Mid Suffolk District Council.

10. **General Items:**

- 10.1 **Speed Indicator Device:** It was noted at the December meeting that a larger post would be necessary to support the combined weight of the unit and solar panel. MJ Nunn had now provided a quote of £406 for installation of the post. The cost of the new post would be £155. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the quotes.
- 10.2 **Annual Parish Meeting:** It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 6 April at 7:30pm, prior to the regular meeting of the PC. The deadline for community reports was 24 March.
- 10.3 **Litter Pick:** A provisional date of 22 April had been suggested for the litter pick. However, it was agreed that by this time the verges would be too overgrown. It was agreed to suggest a new date of 25 March.
- 10.4 **Internal Audit Review:** Cllrs Short and Smith would carry out the annual review and report no later than the March meeting.
- 10.5 **Council Administration:** The PC considered two services which it was felt would provide continuity of service, greater flexibility and the opportunity for improved oversight of financial and payroll activity:
- Use of the Scribe package for accounting activity within the Council at a cost of £29 per month – annual payment of £348 plus £247 set-up fee.
  - Use of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils' payroll service at a cost of £7.50 per month (£90 annually).
- It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the quotes for both services.
- 10.6 **Northfield Wood:** There was no update, and it was agreed to postpone the work until the spring.
- 10.7 **Community Governance Review:** There had been no reply from MSDC to the PCs' consultation submission in November. It was noted that Botesdale PC had requested that District Cllr Fleming follow up on this.
- 10.8 **Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan:** Following the request to seven local organisations for more information on PIIP projects, there had been two replies to date. One of these was for a project not on the PIIP list – for new boilers at the St Botolph's School as part of their £1m Eco project. It was suggested that any replies could be considered at the next meeting.

11. **Finance:**

- 11.1 **Account Balance:** £62,688.31  
**Income:** £ 0.00

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£ 1,410.45	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 165.71	St Clean etc Jan 23
CC and Tree Services	£ 330.00	Wherry Land Hedge trimming
Botesdale Parish Council	£ 2,517.00	Evolis SID w/Solar Panels
Botesdale Parish Council	£ 615.00	Christmas Tree contribution

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

- 11.3 **Draft Budget 2023-24:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to set a BUDGET of £33,950 for the year 2023-24 and to retain earmarked funds of £62,690.80, making a total fund of £96,640.80. The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to sign the form requesting a precept of £31,600 from Mid Suffolk District Council. This represented an average 3.5% rise on the amount received in 2022-23.

12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

14. **Councillors' Reports:** Local Charities – It was noted that one payment had been made over Christmas.

15. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** The Clerk was asked follow up with Anglian Water about the site at Garden House Lane (Item 8.3, 1 December 2022).

16. **Next Meeting:** 2 February 2023

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:29pm.