

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 2 March 2023
Rickingham Village Hall

Present: Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland (Vice-Chair) Cllr Brian Rhodes
Cllr Ian Patterson Cllr Geoff Short (Chair)

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
County/District Cllr Jessica Fleming
3 Members of the Public

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Andy Gordon and Sally Smith.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** A prospective candidate, Ian Patterson, was considered by the Council. It was RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Mr Patterson, who was invited to take his seat on the Council.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 2 February 2023:** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed as a true record.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Rhodes.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
6. **Public Forum:** A member of the public introduced his planning application at items 7.1.2 and 7.1.3. A member of the Village Hall Management Committee asked the PC if it would support an application to Mid Suffolk District Council for funding for new rooflights and solar panels for the village hall. The Chairman indicated that a formal application to the PC for match funding could be considered.
County/District Councillor Jessica Fleming reported that Suffolk County Council had entered into a new highways contract worth almost £1bn over the next 20 years. SCC's budget for 2023-24 was £687m with a 4% increase in Council Tax (2% of that for adult social care). She confirmed that 94% of secondary school placements for Sept 2023 received their first choice. Mid Suffolk District Council had agreed a Council Tax freeze for 2023-24 and a 7% increase in rents.
7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 7.1.1 **West Street Farm Cottage, West Street.** Ref. DC/23/00483. Householder Application - Erection of a two-storey front extension. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.1.2 **The Anchorage, The Street.** Ref. DC/23/00542. Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension and removal of section of roof and replace with shallower lean-to roof (following demolition of rear canopy and decking). Alterations to doors and windows as per schedule of works. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.1.3 **The Anchorage, The Street.** Ref. DC/23/00543. Listed Building Consent - Erection of single storey rear extension and removal of section of roof and replace with shallower lean-to roof (following demolition of rear canopy and decking). Alterations to windows and doors and other internal works as per schedule of works. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.1.4 **39 Church Meadow.** Ref. DC/23/00804. Householder application - Erection of front single storey extension to form entrance lobby. 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 **The Laurels, Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/23/00689. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - reduce and shape 2no Sycamores, 3no Hawthorne and 1no Cherry all by one third. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**
 - 7.3.1 **Bell Hill Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/21/04268. Application under Section 19 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 - Variation of

Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) of Listed Building Consent DC/19/00337 dated 25/04/2019 (Works to ground floor to create A5 Hot Food Takeaway. Installation of extract equipment internally and flue through roof. Internal alterations to provide fire and sound-proofing to floors and party walls.) To allow for re-positioned and amended cowl to external flue. Variation of Approved Drawings from 04D to 04H & 06A to 06B. Planning Permission GRANTED.

- 7.3.2 **Bell Hill Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/21/04362. Application under S73a for removal or variation conditions following grant DC/19/00336 following APP/W3520/W/19/3229585 Allowed Appeal with Conditions dated 23/12/2019 Town and County Planning Act 1990. Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas Act) 1990 - Retention and completion of (Change of Use of ground floor to A5 Hot Food Takeaway. Installation of extract equipment internally and flue through roof. Internal alterations to provide sound and fire-proofing to party walls and floors) - without compliance with (Approved Plans and Documents) -To allow for repositioned and amended cowl to external flue. Variation of Approved Drawings from 04D to 04H & 06A to 06B. Listed Building Consent GRANTED.

8. **Progress Reports:**

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

9. **Correspondence:**

- 9.1 **SCC:** The PC noted the new Greenest County Community Network, to support communities and community groups in their efforts to tackle climate change, supporting them to strive towards the county's aspirations of reaching Net Zero by 2030, particularly around renewable energy.
9.2 **MSDC:** The PC noted the response to alleged noncompliance with approved plans for Listed Building Consent reference DC/18/01380 – erection of extraction flue through roof.
9.3 **Northumbrian Water:** The PC noted the response re the Gardenhouse Lane site and its potential for community planting. The letter outlined the landscaping planned for the site and the Clerk reported that the resident who had initiated the query about the site was very happy with the response.

10. **General Items:**

- 10.1 **Internal Audit Review:** Cllrs Short and Smith had carried out the review based on the internal controls checklist provided by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils and had signed off on the accounts. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the review.
10.2 **Coronation:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to contribute towards the purchase of commemorative coins as a gift to children of Rickinghall from the PC, with the total cost estimated at £579. A coin would be given by the parishes of Botesdale, Redgrave and Rickinghall to all children at St Botolphs Primary School and offered to other children in the village via the parish magazine and Facebook. However, the PC's contribution would be proportionate to the number of children from Rickinghall at the School, i.e. 55%.
10.3 **Speed Indicator Device:** It was noted that the Clerk was looking into whether the existing pole could be reused.
10.4 **Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan:** The PC had agreed to purchase 18 chairs for the Rickinghall Day Centre at its February meeting. This had been very well received by the Day Centre and they had requested that the PC purchase 25 chairs with a contribution from the Day Centre towards the additional seven chairs. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the quote from Best Buy Office Chairs for £1,975 for 25 chairs. The PC also, RESOLVED, with all agreed to provide St Botolph's School with 55% of the funding (as a proportion of Rickinghall students at the school) for new boilers provided that Botesdale PC was willing to put forward a higher amount, with the shortfall from Rickinghall to be paid when further CIL funds were received. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to allocate both from CIL funding.
10.5 **Northfield Wood:** There was no update.
10.6 **Community Governance Review:** There was no update.

11. **Finance:**

- 11.1 **Account Balance:** £56,232.78
Income: £ 0.00

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£ 1,011.80	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 165.71	St Clean etc Mar 23
Scribe Accounts	£ 714.00	Initial Set-up Fee and Annual Costs
Freethought Internet Ltd	£ 120.00	gov.uk Domain Registration 2 years
Freethought Internet Ltd	£ 73.50	Webmail Hosting
Parish Asset Management	£ 279.15	Refurb Walks Map Board / Notice Board opp Bell Inn

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

12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

14. **Councillors' Reports:**

- Local Charities – It was noted that a meeting would be held in March.
- Village Hall – It was noted that the Hall was in the process of replacing the windows.

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

16. **Next Meeting:** 6 April 2023

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:45pm.