

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 7 September 2023
Rickinghall Village Hall

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

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
8 Members of the Public

7.45pm The Chair welcomed those present and opened the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Sally Smith, County Cllr Jessica Fleming and District Cllr Gilly Morgan.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** There were no applications for seats on the Council.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 29 June 2023:** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed as a true record.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Gordon.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.

6. **Public Forum:** Mr Martin Last, the planning agent for the development of 41 homes behind Greenacres, off Garden House Lane, shared early plans:

- to extend Greenacres, the extension to fall within permitted development rules;
- to erect a new separate bungalow next to Greenacres, sited between Greenacres and the footpath - planning permission yet to be submitted;
- early proposals for a northward extension of the Garden House Lane development to include 11 or so single-story retirement bungalows and a single-storey block of 16 retirement apartments, managed with on-site care, to include green spaces and car parking.

The meeting discussed issues relating to the implications for traffic movement on Garden House Lane, the potential loss of wildlife habitat, affordability, the demographic need and impact on Rickinghall of dwellings dedicated to over-55s, and the implications for the Neighbourhood Plan.

A request was made for the reconfiguration of the drainage ditch that flowed in front of Greenacres. The existing pipe was too narrow and this contributed to floods in heavy weather. Mr Last agreed that this could be looked at as part of the work on Greenacres.

7. **Planning:**

7.1 **Planning Applications:**

- 7.1.1 **Tudor Lodge, Kiln Rise, Garden House Lane.** Ref. DC/23/04023. Householder Application - Removal of an existing raised deck and construction of larger deck made from composite materials. 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 **Stanley Cottage, Bury Road.** Ref. DC/23/04130. Application for works to a tree in a Conservation Area - Reduce damaged Yew Tree by one third and collar trunk. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.

7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**

- 7.3.1 **Greyhound Inn, The Street.** Ref. DC/23/01914. Full Planning Application - Creation of 1no. two-storey dwelling (retention of). WITHDRAWN.
- 7.3.2 **Greyhound Inn, The Street.** Ref. DC/23/02009. Listed Building Consent - Internal works in conjunction with creation of separate two-storey dwelling. WITHDRAWN.
- 7.3.3 **Park Lodge, Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/23/02354. Householder Application - Erection of a single-storey side and rear extension. Planning Permission GRANTED.
- 7.3.4 **Lamorna Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/23/02885. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area 1) To dismantle to ground level one Red Maple, due to potential subsidence as garden too small. 2) To dismantle to ground level one Rowen, due to potential subsidence as garden too small. NO OBJECTION.

- 7.3.5 **The Rosery, 6 St George's Drive.** Ref. DC/23/02886. Application for works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order MS/168-A1 - Reduce 2 No Beech trees by a third and re-shape. TPO Consent GRANTED.
- 7.3.6 **The Uplands, The Street.** Ref. DC/23/02942. Householder Application - Construction of a new workshop/potting shed and construction of outbuilding to create home office and garden room. Planning Permission GRANTED.
- 7.3.7 **Tudor Oak Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/23/03261. Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - Coppice 1 No. Hazel (T1). NO OBJECTION.
- 7.3.8 **The Uplands, The Street.** Ref. DC/23/03451. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 2 No False Acacia in front garden by up to 50% as they could be dangerous in high winds which could impact on properties close by and the public footpath. NO OBJECTION.
- 7.3.9 **The Old Four Horseshoes, The Street.** Ref. DC/23/03574. Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 10 No. Conifer (T1 -T10). NO OBJECTION.
- 7.3.10 **Redwings, Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/23/03575. Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 1 No. Oak (T1) by 1/3. NO OBJECTION.
- 7.3.11 **Ash Tree House, Fen Lane.** Ref. DC/23/03585. Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 1 No. Silver Birch (T1). NO OBJECTION.

8. **Progress Reports:**

8.1 **Chair:**

- The Chair had attended an event at St Botolph's School on 11 July to celebrate the completion of the School's decarbonisation project and the PC's contribution to the project. He reported that the results were very impressive and a lot of work had gone into completing the project.
- The Chair had attended 'Councillor's Corner' at the Rickingham Farmer's Market, Saturday 12th August alongside District Councillor Gilly Morgan and Botesdale Chair Andy Edwards. There had been lots of questions. District Cllr Morgan was investigating the necessity for work to a large tree on a corner plot near the playing field, which was owned by Mid Suffolk District Council.

8.2 **Clerk:**

- The Clerk had received the new directional signs at Fen Lane (to omit the Bowls Club) and installation was being arranged.

9. **Correspondence:**

- 9.1 **MSDC:** The PC noted a new grant available to work with communities in cleaning up neighbourhoods and building local pride. It was agreed to apply for funding for sign replacement as per item 10.2.
- 9.2 **MSDC:** The PC noted that applications were open for the 2024 scheme to fund tree planting schemes – street trees, a copse or an avenue; small community woods; hedgerows – both new and improving existing ones, especially where they helped bridge gaps in the landscape; and community or scattered orchards. It noted that the information had been forwarded on to Barwoods.
- 9.3 **Suffolk Police:** It was noted that the current Community Engagement Officer, Stefan Henriksen, was moving to a new position and to date there was no replacement for CEO.
- 9.4 **Resident:** The PC agreed the request to remove 6 x Tree of Heaven - Ailanthus altissima at Brook House, Bury Road. MSDC had referred the resident to the PC as the tree was on a list of strictly controlled, invasive, non-native plant species.
- 9.5 **County Broadband:** The PC noted the update on future work and services to install fibre to the premises in Rickingham. County Broadband undertook to open communication with the Parish Council, provide detailed maps of the planned build and to be on hand to answer questions from both the parish and residents.
- 9.6 **PJA:** The PC noted the services of a transport planning, engineering and place-making consultancy based in Cambridge with respect of a Traffic Management study. It was agreed to contact East Bergholt Parish Council to enquire about their experience with PJA and the cost of the service.
- 9.7 **Parkview Chapel:** The PC noted the thank you letter from the Chapel for PIIP funding for Youth Club equipment.

10. **General Items:**

- 10.1 **PIIP Application:** The PC considered an application from St Mary's Rickingham to help towards the re-tiling of the north chancel roof of Rickingham Church and replacement of damaged asbestos rainwater gutter. Councillors noted that there

were no PIIP funds available and that there was also an ongoing debate about whether parish councils were able to give funds to ecclesiastical bodies. The Local Government Act 1894, which set up parish councils as separate from parochial church councils, specifically prohibited it. There was subsequent legislation which allowed parish councils broad powers to grant funding wherever it benefited the community (s137 funds or through the General Power of Competence) but that was in opposition to the LGA 1894, and use of those powers had been challenged by auditors in a handful of cases. It was noted that there were currently efforts to get the law clarified by Parliament.

- 10.2 **Parish Assets Remedial Work:** The Chair and Cllr Crossley-Holland had inspected three wooden fingerpost signs near the junction of Hinderclay Road after receiving a quote at the last meeting for their replacement. As per their recommendation, it was agreed to remove the fingerposts opposite Hinderclay Road and next to the bus stop as they provided duplicate information to other signage. It was noted that an application had been made to Highways Network Assurance to undertake the work to replace the 'Rickingham' sign opposite the Greyhound Inn. The Clerk had made a payment of £50 to submit the application.

- 10.3 **Northfield Wood:** The remedial work to the equipment had been completed.

11. **Finance (as of 31/08/23):**

11.1	Account Balance:	£34,624.81	
	Bank Balance:	£34,624.81	
	Income:	£ 541.84	MSDC Street Cleaning Grant 1 st qtr

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£	963.12	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£	592.55	St Clean/PRoW/etc September 23
PKF Littlejohn LLP	£	378.00	External Audit Fees
SALC	£	495.07	Annual Membership Fees
MSDC	£	158.68	Election Fees
RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts above.			

Payments by Direct Debit:

HMRC	£	478.34	PAYE for 1 st qtr 2023-24
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- 11.3 **External Audit Report:** The PC noted the positive report for 2022-23.

12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Welcome Pack:** 2 to Cllr Crossley-Holland.

14. **Councillors' Reports:**

- Local Charities – A payment had been made and there were no funds available at present.
- Public Rights of Way – The FP through Low Meadow and over the bypass needed cutting.
- Village Hall – £500 had been received from the District Cllr's Locality Budget and they were waiting for the results of an MSDC Capital Grant application for the solar energy project.

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

- It was proposed to have a second VAS opposite the existing one on Bury Road with the aim of slowing traffic exiting the village. This would go on the next agenda.
- It was reported that the bottle bank next to the Co-op was frequently used to dump plastic bags full of bottles, with no effort made to put the bottles in the bins. It was agreed to include a plea in the parish magazine for residents to note that this was fly tipping, a criminal offence. The Chair would also bring the matter up with Co-op management.

16. **Next Meeting:** 5 October 2023

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:05pm.