

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 28 April 2015 at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

Present: Cllr Robert Griggs (Chairman), Cllr Ms Pauline Baker,
Cllr Mrs Kerry Burn, Cllr Mrs Esther Jewson, Cllr Dan Jewers,
Cllr Russell Morley and Cllr Mrs Linda Stiff.

In Attendance: County and District Cllr Penny Otton;
Five members of the public; and
Parish Clerk: Doug Reed.

2015/001 Apologies for Absence

None.

2015/002 Declarations of Interest

None.

2015/003 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Morley, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 31 March, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

2015/004 The meeting was adjourned for reports from external bodies and for public comment and questions:

004.1 District and County Councillor: Cllr Otton presented her report, which had been circulated previously, and answered questions from councillors.

004.2 Suffolk Constabulary: PCSO 3225 Ryan Brunning sent apologies for absence but his report had been circulated previously. It was noted that there had been three crimes reported since the last Council meeting.

004.3 Public Discussion: The main focus of public concern was the proposed establishment of a campsite opposite East Barn, Felsham Road. Several residents spoke against the matter, identifying a range of issues affecting the application which councillors duly acknowledged and confirmed that they would take into account when determining the formal Council position on the subject (minute 2015/006.4 refers). Chard Wadley, as co-ordinator of the River Working Group, reported that work on the river had now ceased for the season. The Council asked that its thanks be passed on to all members of the Group for their substantial efforts and commitment.

Meeting resumed:

2015/005 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted. It was reported that the telephone kiosk on Felsham Road was now in the ownership of the Council and that the telephone itself had been decommissioned; and that the County Council was continuing to investigate the road and drainage issues where Birds Green met Workhouse Lane. With regard to an outstanding request for

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financial assistance towards the 447th Bomb Group Association, councillors reviewed further information supplied about the activities of that organisation. Rather than offer any grant, however, it was felt that the most productive way forward was for the Council to take on the maintenance of the memorial site, so enabling the Association to redirect funding which it would otherwise have spent on the upkeep.

2015/006

Planning

006.1 Applications:

1140/15 concerned Walnut Tree Farm, Mitchery Lane and prior notification of the conversion of two agricultural buildings to dwelling houses. While acknowledging that there were no concerns about the principle of converting agricultural buildings to dwelling houses, the Council determined that it would object to this particular application on the basis that the proposed design was inconsistent with the rural landscape; and 1230/15 concerned 11 St Nicholas Close and plans to reduce a mature ash tree by approximately 40% in height and reshape. The Council had no objection.

006.2 Applications - Responses: There were no applications which had had to be considered in advance of the meeting because of their deadlines.

006.3 Decisions: None.

006.4 Campsite opposite East Barn, Felsham Road: Councillors accepted that this was not a planning issue, as such, although were concerned and somewhat puzzled by the fact that no planning permission was needed to, potentially, establish this particular site. They also discussed the matter in the light of comments made by members of the public present, and of correspondence received from both residents and a neighbouring council. A range of problems were identified including personal safety, issues affecting vehicle movements and traffic management, environmental matters, and flooding and drainage. Accordingly, it was resolved that comments in objection to the application be submitted to the Camping and Caravanning Club.

2015/007

Finance

007.1 Financial Report: The report to 31 March was received. It was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Jewers, that the reconciliation to the end of the financial year be approved and duly signed. The proposal was carried.

007.2 Payments and Income: It was proposed by Cllr Stiff, seconded by Cllr Jewers, that the schedule of payments be approved. The proposal was carried. The schedule comprised the following:

- ◆ Litter-picker salary (April) - £125.65;
- ◆ Clerk salary (April) - £267.49;
- ◆ PAYE (April) - £66.80;
- ◆ Hanging Hill Allotment Association - contribution towards a replacement trolley and work to the footpath access - £25.00;
- ◆ Rattlesden Village Hall Committee - village hall hire - £22.50;
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners - cemetery grass-cutting - £190.00;

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- ◆ Anglian Water - cemetery water - £13.50;
- ◆ Suffolk County Council - allotment rent - £34.00; and
- ◆ Suffolk Association of Local Councils - subscription - £330.00.

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ Business account interest (April) - £0.83;
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council - first precept payment - £4,739.50;
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council - Council Tax support grant - £241.83; and
- ◆ Anglian Water - cemetery water charge credit - £1.38.

In addition to the above a payment of £30.00 was approved for the supply of a wreath for the recent World War I commemorative service, and £10.00 for a bugler at the same service.

007.3 2014-2015 Accounts: It was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Jewers, that the annual accounts for the 2014-2015 financial year be approved and duly signed. The proposal was carried.

007.4 2014-2015 Annual Return: It was proposed by Cllr Jewers, seconded by Cllr Stiff, based upon the approved annual accounts, that Section 1 of the Audit Commission Annual Return ("Accounting Statements 2014/15 for Rattlesden Parish Council") be completed and signed by both the Clerk and Chairman. The proposal was carried.

007.5 Budget 2015-2016: It was proposed by Cllr Jewers, seconded by Cllr Jewson, that the budget for 2015-2016, amended in the light of Council decisions in the last quarter of 2014-2015, be confirmed and approved. The proposal was carried.

2015/008 Council Governance

008.1 New Legislation, Codes or Regulatory Issues: None.

008.2 Risk Register, Policies and Internal Controls: There were no decisions or actions which impacted upon the Council risk register, policies or internal controls.

2015/009 Correspondence

There were no issues arising from the list of correspondence.

2015/010 Annual Parish Meeting 2015

It was confirmed that invitations to attend the Annual Parish Meeting had been issued to local clubs and organisations, with the meeting programmed to follow the traditional format.

2015/011 Parish Council Elections 2015

It was noted, further to the uncontested election for the Parish Council, that Ms Pauline Baker, Mrs Kerry Burn, Mr Dan Jewers and Mr Russell Morley had been elected to serve as parish councillors for a term of four years as of 12 May. Mr Robert Griggs, Mrs Esther Jewson and Mrs Linda Stiff would, for different reasons, no longer be parish councillors (unless they were to put themselves forward for co-option). All were formally thanked for serving on the Council and for the substantial work that they had, in different ways, undertaken on behalf of the village. Mr Robert Griggs was accorded additional thanks for his particular work as Chairman.

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2015/012 **Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council**
None.

2015/013 **Next Meeting**
It was noted that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 19 May at 6.45pm in Rattlesden Village Hall ahead of the Annual Parish Meeting which would be at 7.30pm on the same evening.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.