

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 27 October 2015 at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

Present: Cllr Kerry Burn (Chairman), Cllr Bridget Goodchild,
Cllr Dan Jewers, Cllr Russell Morley and Cllr Julie Rayner.

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

2015/073 Apologies for Absence

Accepted from Cllr Pauline Baker and Cllr Esther Jewson, both absent due to family commitments.

2015/074 Declarations of Interest

None.

2015/075 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Jewers, seconded by Cllr Goodchild, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 22 September, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

2015/076 The meeting was adjourned for reports from external bodies and for public comment and questions:

076.1 District and County Councillor: Cllr Otton presented her report, which had been circulated previously, and answered questions from councillors. She noted the consultation regarding a proposal to establish a joint academy between Rattlesden CEVC Primary School, and the primary schools in Great Barton, Thurston and Woolpit. With a deadline for comments of 13 November, the Clerk was asked to contact the headteacher for further information. She also reported on a meeting between herself, the Chairman of the Council and local residents about the decision of The Camping and Caravanning Club to grant permission for a campsite on Felsham Road. It was noted that Cllr Otton would invite the owner to respond to the concerns raised by the councillors, the Parish Council and residents.

076.2 Public Discussion: Issues raised by residents focused on planning application 3427/15 (minute 2015/078.1 refers) and street signs for Church Path. Regarding the latter, councillors confirmed their willingness to revisit the decision not to install signs and to undertake a site visit to look in more detail at any options that might present themselves. It was reported that Mid Suffolk District Council had been somewhat inflexible in its approach to the potential signs, not least in relation to their positioning. The residents who raised the matter kindly agreed to contact the Parochial Church Council for its views on the issue and, in particular, regarding any signs being affixed to the wall along Church Path.

Meeting resumed:

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2015/077 Parish Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2015/078 Planning

078.1 Applications:

3427/15 concerned Two Chimneys, 5 Spencers Piece - felling of two sycamore trees. Councillors were extremely unhappy that this application had been determined by Mid Suffolk District Council seven days ahead of the formal deadline for comments. Residents who attended the meeting were also upset that their opportunity to express concerns had been unreasonably denied. The Clerk reported that he had already communicated dissatisfaction to planning officers and had been told the only criterion, in any event, that would have been applied to the application decision was whether or not tree preservation orders might need to be applied. They were not, in this instance. Councillors agreed that further correspondence with the District Council was essential which reinforced the seriousness of the matter, detailed Parish Council issues relating to the trees, set down a practical way forward and queried the basis of the policy on trees in a Conservation Area. The residents affected also stated that they would correspond with the District Council about the matter; and 3436/15, 3452/15 and 3453/15 concerned Francis Farm, Woolpit Hill - respectively, retention of portal framed barn building for B8 storage use; retention of change of use of unit 16 to B8 storage and distribution; and retention of change of use of former agricultural buildings, units 10 and 11 to B8 storage, unit 12 to B1 light industrial and units 13, 14 and 15 to B2 general industry for use as vehicle repair workshops. It was acknowledged that the site was on the outskirts of the village and appropriate for its use. However, councillors were particularly concerned about traffic movements in and around the Farm, especially those relating to larger lorries and HGVs. Such movements impacted upon Woolpit Hill and the health and safety of all users of the highway. While the Council, therefore, did not object to the applications it felt that their granting should be conditional upon balanced restrictions being applied to vehicle movements together with actions regarding safe access and egress to mitigate the risks to road users, and to pedestrians who used Woolpit Hill to get to local footpaths.

078.2 Applications - Responses: Given a deadline in advance of the meeting, councillors had necessarily considered application 3373/15 concerning 1 Stowmarket Road. The Council had no objections;

078.3 Decisions: It was noted that applications 3045/15 and 3046/15 both concerning Quince Cottage, Church Path and 2937/15 concerning Lydgate Cottage, Birds Green had been withdrawn.

078.4 Campsite opposite East Barn, Felsham Road: It was noted that, despite the serious objections raised, particularly by the Parish Council, The Camping and Caravanning Club had given its approval to the establishment of the proposed site. There was no further discussion given the action proposed by Cllr Otton (minute 2015/076.1 refers).

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2015/079

Finance

079.1 Financial Report: The report to 30 September was received. It was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Rayner, that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed. The proposal was carried.

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

- ◆ Litter-picker salary (October) - £129.51;
- ◆ Clerk salary (October) - £267.49;
- ◆ PAYE (September) - £66.80;
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners - cemetery grass-cutting - £190.00;
- ◆ Rattlesden Village Hall Committee - village hall hire - £15.00;
- ◆ Suffolk County Council - allotment rent - £34.00;
- ◆ Mr Roger Heard - 447th Bomber Group Memorial grass-cutting - £30.00;
- ◆ Came & Company - insurance renewal - £312.09;
- ◆ Anglian Water - cemetery water - £17.45;
- ◆ Rattlesden Parochial Church Council - St Nicholas Church clock maintenance - £70.00;
- ◆ Clerk - administrative expenses - £41.80; and
- ◆ Rudlings Wakelam Solicitors - cemetery extension conveyancing (initial payment) - £375.00.

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ Business account interest (October) - £0.81; and
- ◆ Residents - burial reservation - £150.00.

2015/080

Council Governance

080.1 New Legislation, Codes or Regulatory Issues: None.

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

2015/081

Correspondence

There were no issues arising from the list of correspondence.

2015/082

Mid Suffolk District Council Community Achievement Awards 2016

In the absence of Cllr Baker, who had asked for this matter to be added to the agenda, it was agreed to defer consideration until the next meeting.

2015/083

Rails - Painting

The Council considered the state of the rails which ran through the village and agreed that they needed re-coating or repainting. It was recognised that it was a Suffolk County Council responsibility but acknowledged that that Council would be unlikely to undertake the task in the near future. Accordingly, it was suggested that the County Council be approached for permission to do the work and for a contribution towards materials.

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2015/084 Grit Bins

With the offer of money towards the cost of bins from the new District Council 'Locality Budget' available to Cllr Otton, it was resolved that the Council seek four grit bins with their specific locations to be determined once the funding had been confirmed as being in place. The Clerk would submit the formal bid required.

2015/085 Cemetery

085.1 Extension - Drain: It was reported that a land drain would need to be installed along the boundary of the extended cemetery to replace the one which was aligned with the current border. Councillors accepted that this was necessary and that, given the basis on which the land was being made available, there should be no cost to the present owner. Cllr Otton offered the possibility of some funding towards the project cost, estimated in the region of £6,500.00, from her County Council 'Locality Budget' but not until the new financial year. It was agreed that Cllr Jewers would speak further with the current owner to seek clarification on the timing for the work and how it could be commissioned by the Council to comply with financial regulations.

085.2 Land Transfer and Planning Application: It was confirmed that Rudlings Wakelam Solicitors had been engaged, as authorised by councillors, to effect the conveyancing of the land for the extended cemetery. Quotations from professionals to undertake the planning application were awaited, pending which the Clerk would speak with planning officers at Mid Suffolk District Council for their advice regarding the best way forward in that.

2015/086 Village Shop/Post Office - Parking

In the absence of Cllr Baker, who had asked for this matter to be added to the agenda, it was agreed to defer consideration until the next meeting.

2015/087 Telephone Kiosk (Felsham Road)

With the names of those who submitted suggestions withheld, councillors judged the entries submitted in the competition to find the best idea for use of the Felsham Road telephone kiosk. After a vote, the winner was deemed to be the notion that it be used to feature 'Historic Rattlesden', potentially using artefacts, photographs and the like. The resident who submitted the winning entry was then revealed as Mr R Shackell. The Local History Group would be asked if it could consider how best to achieve the desired outcome.

2015/088 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

Cllr Goodchild noted that two of those from Rattlesden who fell in World War I, and due to be commemorated in 2016, were Baptists. As such, in due course, it would be appropriate to make some amendment to the now established commemorative service. Cllr Morley raised concerns about the bridge in Lower Road being subjected to increasing numbers of heavy vehicles and suffering some possible damage as a result. It was reported that a resident had also raised such concerns, not least with the County Council. The Clerk indicated that he had brought this to the attention of the

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Highways Engineer (County Council) responsible for Rattlesden and that a response was awaited.

2015/089 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 10 November at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.