

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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

2015/046 Apologies for Absence

Accepted from Cllr Esther Jewson who was absent due to work commitments.

2015/047 Declarations of Interest

None.

2015/048 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Burn, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 30 June, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

2015/049 The meeting was adjourned for reports from external bodies and for public comment and questions:

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

049.2 Suffolk Constabulary: There were no apologies for absence and no report had been received.

049.3 Public Discussion: Issues raised by residents encompassed the new mobile phone mast and service providers, a potential sign to the Pavilion on the Birds Green grass 'triangle' and a potential planning application which was likely to include proposals for an access bridge over the river (minute 2015/051.5 refers). It was noted that information about progress with mobile phone signals would be sought, and the Chairman of the Community Council offered to raise the matter of a sign to the Pavilion at the next meeting of that Council.

Meeting resumed:

2015/050 Parish Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted. The main item of concern was that relating to the cutting of the grass at the 447th Bomb Group memorial about which information was awaited. Otherwise, it was agreed that the resident who raised the issue of signs denoting Church Path should be informed of the current situation with that matter.

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2015/051

Planning

051.1 Applications:

2272/15 concerned land on the west side of Rising Sun Hill - a schedule of tree works. Informed advice about the proposed works was provided by the Parish Council Tree Officer who was satisfied that the schedule would benefit the area in question. The Council had no objection; and 2427/15 concerned Lidgate House, School Road - erection of conservatory to west elevation. The Council had no objection.

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

051.3 Decisions: It was noted that applications 1943/15 and 1944/15 both concerning 1 Church Path and 1972/15 concerning Jay Cottage, School Road had been granted.

051.4 Pre-Planning Application Protocol: The Council considered the protocol recommended by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils. Given that some of the wording was not considered appropriate to parish councils, it was proposed by Cllr Burn, seconded by Cllr Goodchild, that the protocol be adopted in principle and that it be edited by the Clerk to form a relevant document for future use by the Council. The proposal was carried.

051.5 Pre-Planning Application - Lower Road: The Council reviewed the potential application, particularly given concerns over a proposed access bridge over the river. It was generally considered that the site backed on to a sensitive area and there were concerns, in the context of the possible bridge, about setting a precedent. Moreover, further issues including access/egress across common land, vehicle visibility and related health and safety matters tended to suggest that any formal application might be problematic. At the same time, the Council was grateful for the opportunity to provide informal comment to the applicants and minded to be as constructive as it could be. To that extent, it was suggested that a pre-application site meeting, involving a relevant planning officer from Mid Suffolk District Council, might prove beneficial. The Clerk was asked to contact the applicants with that notion to see if this would be agreed as a helpful way forward.

051.6 Common Land: Having secured the registers of common land in Rattlesden from Suffolk County Council, it was resolved that ownership details for that land be sought through the Land Registry at a cost not to exceed £150.00.

2015/052

Finance

052.1 Financial Report: The report to 30 June was received. It was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Burn, that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed. The proposal was carried.

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

- ◆ Litter-picker salary (July) - £125.65;
- ◆ Clerk salary (July) - £267.49;
- ◆ PAYE (July) - £66.80;

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- ◆ Litter-picker salary (August) - £125.65;
- ◆ Clerk salary (August) - £267.49;
- ◆ PAYE (August) - £66.80;
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners - cemetery grass-cutting - £190.00;
- ◆ Suffolk County Council - registers of common land - £45.00;
- ◆ Cllr Jewers - reimbursement of expenses - £53.10;
- ◆ Clerk - reimbursement of cost of gift voucher - £30.00;
- ◆ Rattlesden Village Hall Committee - village hall hire - £30.00;
- ◆ Suffolk Association of Local Councils - attendance at Clerks' networking event - £10.00 + £2.00 VAT; and
- ◆ Anglian Water - cemetery water - £15.37.

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ Business account interest (July) - £0.81; and
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council - cleansing grant (April-June) - £187.20.

052.3 Internal Audit 2014-2015: It was resolved that a letter of thanks from the Council, signed by the Chairman, be sent to Mr Graham Reid, internal auditor, for his time and effort in undertaking work on the 2014-2015 accounts. Further, that a gift voucher in the sum of £30.00 be included.

2015/053 Council Governance

053.1 New Legislation, Codes or Regulatory Issues: None.

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

2015/054 Correspondence

The only issue to arise from the list of correspondence was that from a resident relating to replacement trees on the river bank. It was agreed that no action be taken at the present time given the natural regeneration which was taking place, However, the situation would continue to be monitored.

2015/055 Telephone Kiosk (Felsham Road)

Councillors were extremely pleased to note the excellent work carried out by local volunteer residents to refurbish the kiosk. It was agreed that, if receipts could be provided, then any costs towards that work would be duly reimbursed. It was also resolved that a competition be advertised through the next issue of "Revelations" to find the best idea(s) as to what use the kiosk might be put. The winner would receive a £25.00 voucher to spend in the Community Shop.

2015/056 Cemetery Green

Given further damage to the posts around the green, it was resolved that they be removed entirely. Cllr Jewers kindly offered to undertake the work when he had the opportunity.

2015/057 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

None.

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2015/058 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 29 September at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.