

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 27 September 2016 at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

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

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

2016/056 Apologies for Absence

None.

2016/057 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Burn declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11 (minute 2016/066) as an employee of the provider of the current village Website.

2016/058 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Goodchild, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 26 July, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

2016/059 The meeting was adjourned for reports from external bodies and for public comment and questions:

059.1 District and County Councillor: Cllr Otton presented her report which had been circulated previously. She noted, in particular, the intention to find an alternative site for the Stowmarket waste facility and the County Council proposal to adopt a risk-based approach to road work which would mean that, for example, potholes on minor roads took longer to be repaired. In response to a query, she agreed with the concerns about the increasing problems with HGV traffic in the village and offered to establish a meeting with relevant officers to discuss those problems. Both residents and councillors raised issues regarding the review of sheltered housing being undertaken by Mid Suffolk District Council and the potential negative impact upon the scheme currently in St Nicholas Close. Anecdotal evidence pointed to action being taken ahead of any confirmed outcome from the review. Cllr Otton acknowledged the anxieties and stresses generated and committed to pursuing matters with the District Council. The Parish Council, which had not been consulted about the review and its implications would also, on behalf of residents, make its serious concerns known to relevant officers.

059.2 Public Discussion: Progress with raising money to fund a defibrillator in the village was noted by those leading the work who asked if the Council would confirm its financial support for the project. It was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Rayner, that £500.00 be made available from the Section 137 (Local Government Act 1972) budget. Residents also expressed their objections to the planning application relating to the campsite on Felsham Road (minute 2016/061.1 refers).

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Meeting resumed:

2016/060

Parish Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted. There were no matters arising.

2016/061

Planning

061.1 Applications:

3273/16 concerned East Barn, White House Farm, Felsham Road - retention of cess pit and chemical disposal point. Further to resident concerns put forward during public discussion, the Council resolved to object to the application. Council concerns would be forwarded to Mid Suffolk District Council, as the planning authority, centred on the fact that the site was in an Environment Agency flood risk zone and that no flood risk assessment had been undertaken; that the site had previously been used for contaminated waste which could have implications for the proposed use; that there was neither evidence of compliance with Building Regulations nor of the suitability of the facility for the size of the site; and that additional traffic movements generated by the need to empty the facility would exacerbate existing health and safety issues on the highway.

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

061.3 Decisions: It was noted that application 1648/16 concerning High Town Farm, r/o The Balance, High Town Green had been granted.

2016/062

Finance

062.1 Financial Report: The report to 31 August was received. It was proposed by Cllr Rayner, seconded by Cllr Morley, that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed. The proposal was carried.

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

- ◆ Litter-picker salary (September) - £139.18;
- ◆ Litter-picker salary (October) - £139.18;
- ◆ Clerk salary (September) - £290.11;
- ◆ PAYE (September) - £72.60;
- ◆ Clerk salary (October) - £290.11;
- ◆ PAYE (October) - £72.60;
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners - cemetery grass-cutting - £380.00;
- ◆ BDO LLP - external audit - £100.00 + £20.00 VAT;
- ◆ Henry Streatfeild - emergency tree work - £280.00;
- ◆ Miles Drainage Limited - land drain to provide for the Cemetery extension - £4,621.84 + £924.37 VAT;
- ◆ Mr Roger Heard - 447th Bomber Group Memorial grass-cutting - £60.00 (Section 137 expenditure); and
- ◆ Rattlesden Parochial Church Council - St Nicholas Church clock maintenance - £70.00 (Section 137 expenditure).

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ Business account interest (August) - £0.80;
- ◆ Business account interest (September) - £0.85;

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- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council - second precept payment - £4,816.00; and
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council - cleansing grant (April-June) - £187.20.

Further to the 2015-2016 internal audit, it was proposed by Cllr Goodchild, seconded by Cllr Burn, that the £390.00 budget allocated for the 447th Bomber Group Memorial grass-cutting be moved to the budget allocated for Section 137 (Local Government Act 1972) grants and that relevant expenditure incurred to date also be transferred against that budget head. The proposal was carried. Regarding the capital expenditure on the land drain to facilitate the Cemetery extension, it was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Jewers, that it be funded through a transfer of the equivalent amount from the reserves earmarked for the project. The proposal was carried.

062.3 External Audit 2015-2016: The Annual Return 2015-2016 was received by the Council together with the audit opinion given by BDO (external auditors). The Council was pleased to note that no untoward matters had come to the attention of the external auditors. It was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Burn, that the Annual Return 2015-2016 be approved and accepted. The proposal was carried.

062.4 Insurance Review: Ahead of the premium renewal due on 1 November the Council reviewed its list of assets and the current levels of insurance applying. It was agreed that the Clerk would pursue a report that a seat had, apparently, been replaced by a resident without reference to the Council. Otherwise, councillors were content that all assets requiring cover were appropriately provided for and that no adjustments were needed. As such, it was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Jewers, that when received, the renewal be confirmed on the present basis. The proposal was carried.

2016/063 Council Governance

063.1 New Legislation, Codes or Regulatory Issues: None.

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

2016/064 Correspondence

Two particular matters demanded. The first was a request for funding to plant some small trees on the grass area in Birds Green. It was proposed by Cllr Jewers, seconded by Cllr Rayner, that up to £30.00 be provided, through a Section 137 (Local Government Act 1972) payment, subject to the type of trees being confirmed with the Council Tree Officer. The second concerned the current review of parliamentary constituency boundaries with a resident querying the Council stance on this matter. It was duly resolved that the Council should reinforce the views of the resident and forward its own concerns to the Boundary Commission for England.

2016/065 Dog Fouling

With strong evidence that irresponsible owners were continuing to flout the request to remove the mess generated by their dogs, the Council resolved to take further action. A flyer would be produced for potential insertion in

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"Revelations" and this would be supported by additional posters, signs and stickers. Options for more punitive measures to combat the problem would also be investigated.

2016/066 Village Website

It was reported that changes to One Suffolk, the provider of the current, free Website, were imminent and that the Council needed to make a decision about the long-term future of its Web facility. This would, unlike the present situation, require a budget commitment from the next financial year. Suffolk Cloud was a new provider which could offer the Council all it needed, at a cost of £100.00 per year, and was a viable option as recommended by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils. The Council acknowledged that it would need to pay in future and resolved to make the change to Suffolk Cloud with the attendant cost.

2016/067 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

None.

2016/068 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 25 October at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall.

2016/069 Motion to Exclude the Press and Public

It was resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the final agenda item on the grounds that, while the decision was of public interest and would need to be recorded formally, the discussion leading to that decision would be likely to involve personal data which it was not in the public interest to disclose and which needed to be properly safeguarded on behalf of the individuals concerned.

2016/070 Council Vacancy

Initially, two residents had indicated an interest in being co-opted to the vacant position on the Council. However, one had had to withdraw. The remaining candidate was judged to have provided ample evidence of his suitability and keenness and so, after considered discussion, it was resolved that Mr Edward (Ted) Wright be co-opted to serve on the Council until the next elections in 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.38pm.