

RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 15 November 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,
Cllr Julie Rayner and Cllr Ted Wright.

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

2016/071 Apologies for Absence

None.

2016/072 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Burn declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.2 (minute 2016/077.2) as a potential recipient of expenses from Council funds;

Cllr Goodchild declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 6.1 (minute 2016/076.1) as a planning applicant in a matter before the Council; Cllr Goodchild declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.2 (minute 2016/077.2) as a potential recipient of expenses from Council funds;

Cllr Jewers declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6.1 (minute 2016/076.1) as a member of the Rattlesden Parochial Church Council which was an applicant in a matter before the Council; and

Cllr Rayner declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6.1 (minute 2016/076.1) as a member of the Rattlesden Parochial Church Council which was an applicant in a matter before the Council.

2016/073 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Goodchild, seconded by Cllr Brooke, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 27 September, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

2016/074 The meeting was adjourned for reports from external bodies and for public comment and questions:

074.1 District and County Councillor: Cllr Otton presented her report which had been circulated previously. She noted, in particular, a recent meeting with officers from Suffolk Highways and Cllr Morley regarding problems with HGV traffic in the village, particularly in and around Birds Green and Lower Road. In response to concerns and questions from residents in St Nicholas Close, she was able to confirm that she had been told authoritatively that nobody would be forced into any alternative homes and that those in the sheltered accommodation would be able to remain in that sheltered accommodation. Regarding the immediate lack of trees in the new housing development at Owers Close, she said that she would speak with Hastoe Housing Association to seek appropriate action. She was thanked for her efforts on behalf of both the village and residents.

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074.2 Public Discussion: Planning applications 4044/16 and 4335/16 were the focus of the comments raised, the former in particular. Councillors welcomed the views put forward and reflected these in decisions made (minute 2016/076.1 refers). Issues relating to the sheltered accommodation in St Nicholas Close were also highlighted with these being brought to the attention of Cllr Otton (minute 2016/074.1 refers).

Meeting resumed:

2016/075 Parish Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received further to which it was reported that documents had been received from the Land Registry to confirm Council ownership of the land for the Cemetery extension. Grateful thanks were expressed to Cllr Otton for providing £4,000.00 from her County Council 'Locality Budget' towards the cost of the recent work at the Cemetery and to Cllr Jewers for helping with the receipt and subsequent installation of grit bins. It was noted that the County Council had determined that, from 2017-2018, it would no longer service grit heaps but would only deliver grit where bins were available. Accordingly, the Parish Council would need to allow for the purchase of extra bins within its budget for the next financial year.

2016/076 Planning

076.1 Applications:

4044/16 concerned land adjacent to 12 and 13 St Nicholas Close - application for outline planning permission (with all matters reserved except access) for the erection of five dwellings. Further to resident concerns put forward during public discussion, the Council resolved to object to the application. Concerns focused on the indicative drawings submitted which were felt to be misleading to the extent that the rise of the land where the development was proposed was more substantial than conveyed. As such, any two-storey dwellings would be overly prominent in the landscape/street scene and out of keeping with other dwellings in the vicinity - not least, those in the adjacent St Nicholas Close. Indeed, the latter would be very seriously disadvantaged through being overlooked. The Council was mindful that development on the site was inevitable felt that any buildings should be restricted to single-storey. Additionally, the Council had concerns about the extra traffic movements which would result. Access/egress to the proposed dwellings was in an already problematic location due to the configuration of immediate roads, with poor visibility for drivers being a particular issue together with unreasonable parking at busy 'school run' times. The need for indicative footpaths to be included within any development was also paramount; and

Cllr Goodchild left the meeting for this item.

4335/16 concerned land to the south east of Buff Rise, Rising Sun Hill - erection of five dwellings with garages. The Council supported the application.

076.2 Applications - Responses: Given deadlines in advance of the meeting, councillors had necessarily considered applications:

4206/16 concerning Hope Cottage, Half Moon Street. The Council had no objections; and

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4254/16 concerning Roschel House, High Street. The Council had no objections.

076.3 Decisions: It was noted that applications 3273/16 concerning East Barn, White House Farm, Felsham Road and 4007/16 concerning land adjacent to Rattlesden Parish Council Cemetery, High Street had been granted.

2016/077 Finance

077.1 Financial Report: The report to 31 October was received. It was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Burn, that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed. The proposal was carried. Following a review of the half-year position with the budget, it was resolved that the finances were in good order and that no changes were needed.

077.2 Payments and Income: *Cllr Burn and Cllr Goodchild left the meeting for this item.*

It was proposed by Cllr Rayner, seconded by Cllr Jewers, that the schedule of payments be approved. The proposal was carried. The schedule comprised the following:

- ◆ Litter-picker salary (November) - £139.18;
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- ◆ Clerk salary (November) - £290.11;
- ◆ PAYE (November) - £72.60;
- ◆ Clerk salary (December) - £290.11;
- ◆ PAYE (December) - £72.60;
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners - cemetery grass-cutting - £380.00;
- ◆ Came & Company - insurance renewal - £316.65;
- ◆ Reece Safety Products Ltd - four grit bins - £268.00 + £53.60 VAT;
- ◆ Cllr Goodchild - reimbursement of costs for World War I commemorative services - £161.00 (Section 137 expenditure);
- ◆ Natural Signs via Cllr Burn - street sign - £160.00;
- ◆ Clerk - administrative expenses - £64.36;
- ◆ Mr Roger Heard - 447th Bomber Group Memorial grass-cutting - £82.50 (Section 137 expenditure);
- ◆ Mr Denis Fisher - reimbursement of tree costs - £31.50 (Section 137 expenditure);
- ◆ Anglian Water - cemetery water - £10.61; and
- ◆ Rattlesden Village Hall Committee - village hall hire - £15.00.

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ Business account interest (October) - £0.85;
- ◆ Business account interest (November) - £0.64;
- ◆ Allotment Association - annual rent 2016-2017 - £68.04;
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council - recycling grant (February-July) - £230.95; and
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council - cleansing grant (July-September) - £187.20.

2016/078 Council Governance

078.1 New Legislation, Codes or Regulatory Issues: None.

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

2016/079 Correspondence

There were no issues arising from the list of correspondence although it was agreed, in response to a request, that the Council would become a member of the Ordnance Survey (OS) Public Sector Mapping Agreement (PSMA). This would facilitate free use of OS maps which then offered the potential for the creation of a new map of village footpaths.

2016/080 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

The Council had received a suggestion that a dog bin be provided in Top Road. It was agreed that costs be sought and the potential acquisition confirmed at the next meeting.

2016/081 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 24 January at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.