

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 3 July 2018 at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

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

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

2018/026 Apologies for Absence

Accepted from Cllr Dan Jewers who was absent due to an unavoidable personal commitment.

2018/027 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Burn declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6.1 (minute 2018/031.1) as a resident of the road affected by application DC/18/02258 and a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.2 (minute 2018/032.2) as a potential recipient of expenses from Council funds.

2018/028 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Brooke, seconded by Cllr Morley, that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 22 May, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

2018/029 District and County Councillor Report

Cllr Otton presented her report, as circulated previously. She highlighted her continued opposition to County Council school transport plans and that a review of the highways programme was to be undertaken. At the District Council, she expressed disappointment that outline planning permission for 22 homes at Roman Rise had been granted.

2018/030 Public Comment and Questions

Serious issues were raised by the many residents present about planning application DC/18/02258 concerning Top Road. These included concerns about infrastructure, vehicle movements, poor access/egress, diminution of privacy and the negative impact upon Rising Sun Hill. Two residents shared information about their plans for the future of the "Brewers Arms" whilst Mr David Goodlad reported that he had completed the Parish Council-sponsored ledger to commemorate the Americans who had been based at Rattlesden and who had given their lives in World War II. Councillors acknowledged and were extremely grateful for his excellent work on the book which would be housed in St Nicholas Church for all to see and duly amended should any further information come to light. In response to a query about a post box stolen from Brettenham Road the Clerk reported that he was pursuing a replacement but that, currently, the Royal Mail officer responsible for any action had not replied to any communications about the matter.

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2018/031 Planning

031.1 Applications:

DC/18/02258 land to the west of 10 Top Road - erection of ten dwellings, garaging and new access. Further to comments and concerns about this application, not least as expressed by residents earlier in this meeting, the Council resolved to properly represent and support resident views by objecting to the application. It was felt that the issues raised, encompassing infrastructure and roads in particular, poor access/egress, diminution of privacy, lack of consistency with the present 'street scene', vehicle movements and the negative impact upon Rising Sun Hill were vital. Councillors also noted the potential impact upon local services and facilities, especially the Health Centre and School. It was felt that overall the development would have various negative impacts upon both the immediate area and the wider village community;

DC/18/02666 Marlborough House, Poy Street Green - erection of single-storey rear extension. The Council had no objection; and

DC/18/02677 Keepers Mead, Lower Road - trees in a Conservation Area - removal of one sycamore tree. The Council had no objection.

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

DC/18/02550 7 Top Road - erection of two-storey side extension. The Council had no objection; and

DC/18/02554 Francis Farm, Woolpit Road - Listed Building Consent-erection of two-storey extension (amended scheme to previously approved DC/17/03980). The Council had no objection.

031.3 Decisions: It was noted that applications DC/18/00229 land adjacent to Roman Rise, DC/18/02056 Hill House Farm, Top Road, DC/18/01853 Oakdene, Poy Street Green, DC/18/02034 Linden Lea, Mitchery Lane, DC/18/02134 4 Rectory Meadow and DC/18/01887 Brook House, Brettenham Road had been granted. It was also reported that the Arboricultural Officer at Mid Suffolk District Council had, as a matter of urgency related to health and safety, approved the removal of a diseased ash tree in the grounds of the Baptist Church.

2018/032 Finance

032.1 Financial Report: The report to 31 May was received. It was noted that the TSB current account stood at £6,740.12 and the deposit account at £13,508.98 further to which it was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Rayner, that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed. The proposal was carried.

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

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

- ◆ Litter-picker: salary (June) - £151.35;
- ◆ Clerk: salary (June) - £336.22;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE (June) - £84.20;
- ◆ Cllr Burn: expenses - £10.90;

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- ◆ Mr Roger Heard: 447th Bomb Group Memorial grass-cutting - £60.00 (Section 137 expenditure);
 - ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Cemetery grass-cutting - £600.00;
 - ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Cemetery weed killing - £50.00;
 - ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: cutting tree stump - £25.00; and
 - ◆ Mr D Reed: data protection compliance work - £120.12.
- Income received was duly noted as follows:
- ◆ TSB: business (deposit) account interest (June) - £0.58.

2018/033

Council Governance

033.1 New Legislation, Codes or Regulatory Issues: None.

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

2018/034

'Assets of Community Value' Scheme - "Brewers Arms"

In the light of information offered to councillors by the potential purchasers of the public house, it was resolved that the Council would not invoke the option available to it of delaying any sale in favour of seeking a community bid for the much-valued local facility. The Council position would be made known to Mid Suffolk District Council.

2018/035

Projects and Developments

A resident who had approached the Council with suggestions for improving Cemetery Green and the approach to Rattlesden from Stowmarket was thanked for his time and consideration. It was resolved that up to £50.00 (section 137 expenditure) be made available to him to pursue the work on behalf of the village. Further consideration of other projects was deferred until the next meeting.

2018/036

Correspondence

Concern was expressed about Mid Suffolk District Council reclaiming Section 106 funding ('planning gain') which had previously been made available to the village. Councillors agreed that the 'loss' needed to be pursued as the funding was critical for vital projects. It was noted that an accident in St Nicholas Close had prompted a resident to contact the Council about safety concerns. While the Parish Council had no powers to take any direct action, it was agreed that Mid Suffolk District Council, being responsible for the sheltered housing, should be contacted and asked to review the situation.

2018/037

Parish Clerk's Report

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

2018/038

Dog Bin - Pavilion Site

Councillors gave careful consideration to the request for a dog bin close to the play equipment at the Pavilion but felt that concerns about smells, the health risk to children and other problems were overriding such that, on balance, it was not a good idea.

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2018/039 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

During discussions about Cemetery Green a query was raised about the condition of the village sign. Cllr Morley kindly offered to have a detailed look to see if any action was needed. Further to the launch of the latest community achievement awards scheme by Mid Suffolk District Council it was proposed that a particular Rattlesden resident be put forward by the Parish Council. Cllr Rayner would seek details about the individual prior to forwarding such information to Cllr Morley to finalise the nomination. Lastly, the Clerk was thanked for his work on the new data protection legislation which ensured that, unlike many of its counterparts, the Parish Council was fully compliant with all that was required.

2018/040 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 31 July at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm.

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