

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 10 November 2015 at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

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

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

2015/090 Apologies for Absence

None.

2015/091 Declarations of Interest

None.

2015/092 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

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

2015/093 The meeting was adjourned for reports from external bodies and for public comment and questions:

093.1 District and County Councillor: Cllr Otton presented her report and highlighted a County Council consultation regarding the future of the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service.

093.2 Public Discussion: None.

Meeting resumed:

2015/094 Planning

094.1 Land to the West of Rising Sun Hill: Councillors received a brief presentation on initial proposals relating to the construction of two family dwellings; provisions for a Baptist Chapel graveyard extension; and new conservation/wildlife area to be used by Rattlesden Primary School. It was noted that the development was outside the settlement boundary, would seek to deliver social and community benefit in addition to the proposed houses, and aim to retain existing trees and hedging. The Council emphasised that no formal view could be offered given the present stage of the plans. However, councillors indicated that they would welcome the widening of the footpath on one side of the site, if readily achievable; some attention to the highways issues on Rising Sun Hill itself should these prove necessary; and the use of traditional materials in the building of the dwellings.

094.2 Applications:

Although on the published agenda, it was confirmed that application 2960/15, which concerned Four Gates, Lower Road, had been deemed by

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Mid Suffolk District Council not to be valid. Accordingly, the Parish Council was unable to discuss the intended proposals; and 3757/15 concerned Lydgate Cottage, Birds Green - two replacement rear ground floor windows. The Council had no objections.

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

094.4 Decisions: It was noted that application 3089/15 concerning Limberlost, Poy Street Green had been granted.

2015/095 Finance

095.1 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.

095.2 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 (November) - £129.51;
- ◆ Clerk salary (November) - £267.49;
- ◆ PAYE (November) - £66.80;
- ◆ Litter-picker salary (December) - £129.51;
- ◆ Clerk salary (December) - £267.49;
- ◆ PAYE (December) - £66.80; and
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners - cemetery grass-cutting - £190.00.

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council - cleansing grant (July-September) - £187.20.

2015/096 Village Shop/Post Office - Parking

While sympathetic to the occasional difficulties being experienced, councillors felt that the nature of the parking area was such that any road markings would not help address the specific concerns which focused on times when deliveries were being made. The Council was, therefore, unable to help other than to suggest practical ways of dealing with situation, such as the use of cones or similar.

2015/097 Correspondence

There were no issues arising from the list of correspondence.

2015/098 Mid Suffolk District Council Community Achievement Awards 2016

It was resolved that these would not be taken any further by the Parish Council.

2015/099 Rattlesden CEVC Primary School - Academy Consultation

Cllr Baker, Cllr Jewers and Cllr Morley had attended a recent briefing, offered by Mrs Bridget Burke (Headteacher at the School), regarding the proposed creation of an academy with the primary schools in Great Barton, Thurston and Woolpit. In turn, they reported on the proposed joint body, to be known as the Thedwastre Education Trust. Cllr Jewson, a governor at

RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL

the School, offered an additional insight into the development. It was felt that this was a substantial initiative which was likely to produce real benefits and positive results. The proposals were not without concerns, such as those relating to the speed with which the Trust was scheduled to be put in place and about the leadership of that body. Nonetheless, councillors indicated that they were very good reasons to support what was proposed.

2015/100 Common Land

It was proposed by Cllr Burn, seconded by Cllr Goodchild, that the Council seek legal advice from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) regarding issues relating to the ownership of all common land in Rattlesden. The proposal was carried. Cllr Burn kindly offered to progress this matter with SALC and to report back to the Council in due course.

2015/101 Cemetery

It was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Jewers, that the Parish Clerk, as the 'proper officer' of the Council appointed to discharge its functions, and also the Responsible Finance Officer, be authorised to sign all legal documents in relation to the conveyancing of the land offered to the village for an extension to the Cemetery. The proposal was carried.

2015/102 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

Cllr Goodchild noted she would attend the Mid Suffolk District Council Development Control Committee meeting on 2 December, with Cllr Baker, when a Rattlesden planning application was to be determined. Cllr Jewers reported that the new land drain at the Cemetery would now be likely to cost £4,836, including VAT and that this sum would need to be provided for within the 2016-2017 budget. Councillors reported that a site visit to Church Path had confirmed their initial belief that to locate stand-alone street signs there would prove problematic for those people with pushchairs/buggies, disabled people and those with walking difficulties. This message would be conveyed to the residents who had raised the matter in the first instance. It was noted that consideration needed to be given to the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations for 2016 and so this topic would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Finally, Cllr Goodchild expressed concern about how the Council dealt with planning issues. It was agreed that training should be sought and a checklist developed for councillor use in determining responses to planning applications and for any pre-planning application discussions.

2015/102 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 12 January at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.