

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 31 October 2017 at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

Approved 05.12.17 (Minute 2017/074 refers)

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;
Four members of the public; and
Parish Clerk: Doug Reed.

2017/059 Apologies for Absence
None.

2017/060 Declarations of Interest
Cllr Goodchild declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 6.4 (minute 2017/064.4) as her family was involved in development in the village.

2017/061 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting
It was proposed by Cllr Burn, seconded by Cllr Brooke, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 26 September, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

2017/062 The meeting was adjourned for reports from external bodies and for public comment and questions:
062.1 District and County Councillor: Cllr Otton presented her report, as circulated previously. She confirmed that she had been pursuing Suffolk Highways about the promised signs relating to Birds Green being unsuitable for HGVs and about the repair to the bridge in Lower Road. She noted that she would aim to speak with the headteacher at the School regarding parking problems in Lower Road at key times.
062.2 Public Discussion: Matters raised encompassed the Cemetery and the need for remedial action to the grass area in Birds Green. Further to the latter, Cllr Jewers offered to try to secure topsoil for the site to facilitate as permanent a solution as possible being generated.

Meeting resumed:

2017/063 Parish Clerk's Report
The Clerk's report was noted. There were no matters arising.

2017/064 Planning
064.1 Applications:
DC/17/05100 Rose Cottage, High Town Green - erection of two-storey side and single storey front extensions and balcony to rear. The Council had no objection;

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DC/17/04714 Corner Farm Bungalow, High Town Green - erection of a barn to store hay, straw, feed and implements. The Council had no objection; and

DC/17/05376 Two Chimneys, 5 Spencers Piece - trees in a Conservation Area - removal of two sycamore and one ash trees. The Council had no objection.

064.2 Applications - Responses: Given a deadline in advance of the meeting, councillors had necessarily considered application DC/17/05033 Honeycombes, 2 Rectory Meadow - reduce crown, remove deadwood and addition of bracing to one Indian bean tree; reduce one Prunus tree, thin crown and raise canopy. The Council had no objection.

064.3 Decisions: It was noted that applications DC/17/03202 High Town Farm, High Town Green, DC/17/03043 and DC/17/03044 Walnut Tree Farm, Mitchery Lane, DC/17/03979 and DC/17/03980 Francis Farm, Woolpit Road and DC/17/03449 Townfield, Baby Lane had been granted.

064.4 "Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan: Consultation Document": *Cllr Goodchild left the meeting for this item.*

It was acknowledged that it was essential to provide an informed and considered response to the consultation such that Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils were aware of the vital issues facing the village.

Discussion focused on consideration of the settlement boundary; challenging the designation of Rattlesden as a 'hinterland' village (the designation, when confirmed, would determine the number of new dwellings expected to be accommodated in the next 20 years); environmental, climatic and 'green' factors with the attendant need to protect open and natural spaces; the local economy; and infrastructure issues. It was resolved that Cllr Brooke draft the potential response which would then be sent to other councillors and an agreed text submitted by the deadline of 10 November. Once finalised, the agreed response would be made available for residents to view on the village Website.

2017/065 Finance

065.1 Financial Report: The report to 30 September was received. It was noted that the TSB current account stood at £5,679.83 and the deposit account at £13,504.54 further to which it was proposed by Cllr Burn, seconded by Cllr Goodchild, that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed. The proposal was carried.

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

- ◆ Litter-picker: salary (October) - £144.98;
- ◆ Clerk: salary (October) - £309.69;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE (October) - £77.20;
- ◆ Mr Roger Heard: 447th Bomb Group Memorial grass-cutting - £150.00 (Section 137 expenditure);
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Cemetery grass-cutting - £190.00;
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Cemetery extension maintenance - £75.00;
- ◆ Suffolk County Council: allotment rent - £34.00;
- ◆ Stackhouse Poland Ltd: insurance renewal - £380.89;

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- ◆ Anglian Water: Cemetery water - £9.60; and
- ◆ Clerk: administrative expenses - £38.07.

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ TSB: business (deposit) account interest (October) - £0.52;
- ◆ Allotment Association: annual rent 2017-2018 - £68.04;
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: precept (part 2) - £5,023.00;
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: Community Infrastructure Levy - £2,874.64; and
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: recycling grant (February-July) - £219.64.

065.3 Insurance Renewal: Ahead of the renewal due on 1 November the Council had reviewed its list of assets and the current levels of insurance applying. Subject to a query regarding liability for the defibrillator, which the brokers had answered satisfactorily, councillors were content that all assets requiring cover were appropriately provided for and that no adjustments were needed. Three quotations had been received from Inspire at £398.31, Hiscox at £415.72 and Ecclesiastical at £835.44. It was resolved that the offer from Inspire be accepted on the basis of a three-year agreement which had the effect of reducing the premium to £380.89.

2017/066 Council Governance

066.1 New Legislation, Codes or Regulatory Issues: None.

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

2017/067 Correspondence

There were no issues arising from the list of correspondence.

2017/068 Mid Suffolk District Council Electoral Review:

The Council reviewed the draft recommendation published by the Local Government Boundary Commission and agreed that the proposal for the ward encompassing Rattlesden, which included neighbouring small parishes, was entirely acceptable. The Clerk would convey the support for that proposal to the Commission on behalf of the Council.

2017/069 Telephone Box Relocation

The proposal for the box to be relocated to the lay-by in Lower Road, next to the bus shelter, was agreed. Cllr Goodchild would contact the Tree Officer for the Council regarding the problem tree at the site and also liaise with the resident who had both the required knowledge about telephone and experience of moving them.

2017/070 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

It was agreed that the Cemetery and its extension, and the budget position ahead of the 2018-2019 precept, be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Further, that concerns about the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils merger be conveyed to the Chief Executive of the latter.

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2017/071 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 5 December at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.