

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 29 January 2019 at 7.00pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

Approved 26.02.19 (Minute 2018/116 refers)

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

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

2018/096 Apologies for Absence

Accepted from Cllr Julie Rayner who was absent due to an urgent family matter.

2018/097 Declarations of Interest

None.

2018/098 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

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

2018/099 District and County Councillor Report

Cllr Otton presented her report, as circulated previously. She voiced her very serious concerns about the County Council decision to cut all funding to Citizens Advice and refusal to tackle carbon emissions. In relation to Mid Suffolk District Council she noted the importance of the consultation on its Community Strategy and was pleased to report that she had been able to provide £2,500.00 to the Parish Council from her Locality Budget for work on kerbing in Birds Green and at Cemetery Green.

2018/100 Public Comment and Questions

Residents spoke to voice their worries about continuing problems with the campsite on Felsham Road. Mid Suffolk District Council appeared unable to help and the Camping and Caravanning Club was seemingly unwilling to take action. Whilst the Parish Council had sought to press both of those bodies previously councillors agreed that it had to try again and asked residents to supply a detailed summary to the Clerk to that end. Another resident offered suggestions to the Council for further improvements to the appearance of Cemetery Green which councillors duly acknowledged and agreed to consider in more depth.

2018/101 Planning

101.1 Applications:

DC/19/00129 Wild Briar, Birds Green - trees in a Conservation Area - (T1) reduce crown of weeping willow by a third, (T2) reduce crown of weeping willow by half and (T3) fell pussy goat willow. The Council had no objection.

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101.2 Applications - Responses: Given a deadline in advance of the meeting, councillors had necessarily considered application DC/18/05431 Green Pightle, High Town Green - erection of cart lodge (amended design to that approved under 1094/16). The Council had no objection.

101.3 Decisions: It was noted that applications DC/18/02258 land to the west of Top Road and DC/18/05431 Green Pightle, High Town Green had been granted; and that DC/17/05755 and DC/17/05756 Barkers Farm, Brettenham Road had been granted on appeal.

2018/102 Finance

102.1 Financial Report: The report to 31 December was received. It was noted that the TSB current account stood at £18,076.60 and the deposit account at £13,528.57 further to which it was proposed by Cllr Burn, seconded by Cllr Brooke, that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed. The proposal was carried.

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

- ◆ Litter-picker: salary (January) - £151.35;
- ◆ Clerk: salary (January) - £336.22;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE (January) - £84.20;
- ◆ Mr Roger Heard: 447th Bomb Group Memorial grass-cutting - £60.00 (Section 137 expenditure);
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Cemetery grass-cutting - £200.00;
- ◆ Anglian Water Business Ltd (National): Cemetery water - £16.16;
- ◆ Rattlesden Village Hall Committee: village hall hire - £47.00;
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: grass-cutting and grounds service - £181.00 + £36.20 VAT;
- ◆ Rattlesden Parochial Church Council: contribution towards the printing costs of "Revelations" plus support services - £130.00 (Section 137 expenditure);
- ◆ Clerk: administrative expenses - £41.87;
- ◆ Glasdon UK Ltd: dog bin - £86.52 + £17.30 VAT;
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: two boxes of refuse sacks - £51.16 + £10.23 VAT; and
- ◆ Mr Nigel Mayall: supply and planting of replacement hedging in the Cemetery - £135.00.

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ TSB: business (deposit) account interest (December) - £11.06;
- ◆ TSB: business (deposit) account interest (January) - £11.44;
- ◆ Allotment Association: annual rent 2018-2019 - £68.04;
- ◆ Saxon Monumental Craft: Cemetery fees - £188.00; and
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: kerbing grant - £2,500.00.

102.4 Budget 2019-2020 and Precept 2019-2020: Councillors gave careful consideration to the budget for the forthcoming year given known expenditure and projects already in the pipeline. It was also acknowledged that reserves needed appropriate management given that income from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was not insignificant and that more was likely in the next financial year as a product of housing developments

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in the village. At the same time, flexibility was deemed essential to enable the Council to provide still more support to village work and initiatives. Taking all matters into account, it was resolved unanimously that the precept requirement be set at £14,600.00, this being a sum necessary to fund Council plans and to ensure that the Council did not put itself in a difficult financial position going forward. In opting for this figure, councillors agreed that £1,000.00 be added to its budget head for grants to local bodies; that income from the CIL should be moved to earmarked reserves for expenditure on the community land to be made available adjacent to Roman Rise; and that any money remaining in Cemetery reserves (less £1,000.00 which would be held against any future needs) be moved into general reserves after essential expenditure against that project was completed.

102.5 Bank Signatories: It was resolved that Cllr Tony Edwards be added to the list of bank signatories.

102.6 Cemetery: Further to proposals for using the funding currently held in reserves earmarked for the Cemetery, it was resolved that Sunshine Survey Ltd be engaged at a cost of £450.00 to produce a full-scale plan of the extension such that graves might be plotted/mapped. Such a plan was a legal requirement for the Council as a burial authority. It was also agreed that registers of burials and graves be purchased for use with the new land, each at a cost of £210.00. In consideration of other potential purchases, councillors were minded not to pursue additional seating at the present time but to go ahead with the acquisition of a noticeboard at a cost of c£1,000.00 and to fund the painting of the Cemetery railings. The latter work had already attracted a volunteer and it was hoped that the offer to undertake the task remained.

2018/103 Cemetery Green

Further to matters raised during public comment and questions the Council determined that no more action would be taken until such time as kerbing had been installed at Cemetery Green and its effectiveness or otherwise had been able to be assessed.

2018/104 River Rat

Councillors reviewed the condition of the river and its banks and acknowledged comments made by some residents, especially relating to any potential negative impact upon wildlife. However, it was felt that the work undertaken had been particularly effective with regard to flooding and that the cutting of vegetation would only serve to encourage growth and regeneration, thereby promoting wildlife habitats.

2018/105 St Nicholas Close

Although sympathetic to the possible need for increased parking space, councillors noted that the costs of providing for that need would fall upon the Parish Council and that, currently, available funding had been earmarked for other projects. Accordingly, the matter was deferred albeit councillors agreed to monitor the situation in case the position changed.

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2018/106 Waste Bins - Playing Field

It was confirmed that the Council-owned dog bin at the Playing Field was to be replaced. It was noted, however, that litter bins not in Council ownership had been removed and the Clerk was asked to enquire of the Community Council what might be happening to replace them.

2018/107 Working Group Reports

107.1 Housing Development: The Group, as such, had not met since the last Council meeting but there had been a meeting with representatives from Hartog Hutton Ltd regarding the housing development on land adjacent to Roman Rise. The product of that meeting would be circulated to councillors.

107.2 Finance and Development: The Group had not met since the last Council meeting.

2018/108 Council Governance

108.1 New Legislation, Codes or Regulatory Issues: None.

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

2018/109 Asset Management

The programme of asset inspections was agreed. The inspections would be carried out at the earliest but, in any event, by no later than 28 February in time to enable a discussion on any remedial or other actions required to be considered at the March meeting of the Council.

2018/110 Annual Parish Meeting

As Parish and District Council elections were due in 2019 it was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday 30 April at 7.30pm should focus on giving residents the opportunity to hear and ask questions about developments in those Councils.

2018/111 Correspondence

There were no issues arising from the list of correspondence.

2018/112 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

The Clerk was asked, in the absence of a response from the residents concerned, to follow-up the matter of the bridge access across the common land in Lower Road. The Clerk was also asked to circulate the forms required to be completed to enable the Council to move forward on the potential acquisition of a Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) to tackle speeding issues in particular parts of the village.

2018/113 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 26 February at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.