

# **RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

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## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 30 April 2019 at 6.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Kerry Burn (Chairman), Cllr Tony Edwards,  
Cllr Bridget Goodchild, Cllr Dan Jewers, Cllr Russell Morley and  
Cllr Julie Rayner.

**In Attendance:** One member of the public; and  
Parish Clerk: Doug Reed.

### **2019/001 Apologies for Absence**

Accepted from Cllr Peter Brooke who was absent due to an unavoidable family commitment.

### **2019/002 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **2019/003 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting**

It was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Jewers, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 26 March, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

### **2019/004 Public Comment and Questions**

None.

### **2019/005 Planning**

#### **005.1 Applications:**

DC/19/01604 Land Adjacent to the BT Exchange, Rising Sun Hill - erection of one dwelling and garage. The Council resolved to object to the application. A full response would be provided to Mid Suffolk District Council based upon concerns over the access, highway safety, the fact that the application represented creeping overdevelopment and, importantly, that the original proposals for the site provided for a nature garden for the School which had, seemingly, now been lost.

DC/19/01739 2 Stowmarket Road - creation of a dropped kerb vehicular access. The Council had no objection.

DC19/01830 4 Rectory Meadow - erection of front porch. The Council had no objection.

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

**005.3 Decisions:** None.

### **2019/006 Governance: Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018-2019**

It was proposed by Cllr Goodchild, seconded by Cllr Morley, that Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19 Part 3 - "Annual Governance Statement 2018/19" for Rattlesden Parish Council - be approved, completed and duly signed, as required, by the Chairman and Clerk. The proposal was carried.

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2019/007

## Finance

**007.1 Financial Report:** The report to 31 March was received. It was noted that the TSB current account stood at £14,268.35 and the deposit account at £13,561.81 further to which it was proposed by Cllr Rayner, seconded by Cllr Goodchild, that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed. The proposal was carried.

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

- ◆ Litter-picker: salary (April) - £158.70;
- ◆ Clerk: salary (April) - £368.25;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE (April) - £92.00;
- ◆ Mr Roger Heard: 447th Bomb Group Memorial grass-cutting - £124.00 (Section 137 expenditure);
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Lower Road/Felsham Road strimming - £40.00;
- ◆ Suffolk County Council: allotment rent - £34.00;
- ◆ Suffolk Association of Local Councils: subscription - £368.63;
- ◆ Suffolkbiz (Suffolk Cloud): Website hosting - £100.00;
- ◆ Anglian Water Business Ltd (National): Cemetery water - £13.19;
- ◆ The Sign Maker: Cemetery memorial plaque - £369.12 + £73.83 VAT; and
- ◆ The Sign Maker: Cemetery sign - £484.11 + £96.82 VAT.

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ TSB: business (deposit) account interest (April) - £11.47;
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: precept (part 1) - £7,300.00; and
- ◆ East of England Co-operative Society Funeral Services: Cemetery fees - £250.00.

**007.3 Accounting Statements: Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018-2019:** It was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Burn, based upon the approved annual accounts, that Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19 Part 3 - "Accounting Statements 2018/19" for Rattlesden Parish Council - be approved, completed and duly signed, as required, by the Chairman and Clerk. The proposal was carried.

**007.4 Budget 2019-2020:** It was proposed by Cllr Goodchild, seconded by Cllr Morley, that the budget for 2019-2020, updated and amended to reflect money carried forward from 2018-2019 and further known costs, be approved. The proposal was carried.

2019/008

## Cemetery

Councillors reviewed a complaint from a resident relating to various aspects of the administration of the Cemetery. The principal complaint centred on the removal of internal railings when the site was extended and the management of wildflowers. The issues were thoroughly considered and the actions previously taken by the Council were examined. It was resolved that all matters had been handled properly in the best interests of the facility itself, including health and safety concerns, and in the interests

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of residents, families and visitors with loved ones in the Cemetery. The Clerk would reply formally to the complainant on the foregoing basis.

**2019/009 Correspondence**

There were no issues arising from the list of correspondence.

**2019/010 Parish Council Elections 2019**

It was noted that no poll was required for the Council given that only six applications had been received for the seven councillor places available. Given immediate business facing the Council plus the Annual Council Meeting being imminent it was resolved that no urgent action was needed to fill the vacant position but that a candidate for co-option be sought in June when time for a proper notice and process was more conducive. Councillors recorded their heartfelt and sincere thanks to Cllr Goodchild who had decided not put herself forward for re-election but who, in her time on the Council, had made a major contribution to both its work and to what had been achieved in the village. Her enthusiasm and commitment would be missed.

**2019/011 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council**

With some concerns apparent over the cutting of the grass in Birds Green it was acknowledged that the situation would benefit from being adjusted and a process to that end was established which the Clerk would put in place. On the matter of a replacement sign for Cemetery Green, aimed at deterring vehicles from parking on the grass, a proposal to purchase an appropriate sign was agreed at a cost of £21.60 plus delivery. Lastly, councillors acknowledged the work of the Clerk on behalf of the Council and registered their thanks for his professionalism in the post.

**2019/012 Next Meeting**

It was noted that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 14 May at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 7.10pm.**