

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 29 October 2019 at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

Approved 26.11.19 (Minute 2019/086 refers)

Present: Cllr Kerry Burn (Chairman), Cllr Peter Brooke, Cllr Tony Edwards, Cllr David Goodlad, Cllr Russell Morley and Cllr Julie Rayner.

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

2019/071 Apologies for Absence

Accepted from Cllr Dan Jewers who was absent due to work commitments.

2019/072 Declarations of Interest

None.

2019/073 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Brooke, seconded by Cllr Morley, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 17 September, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

2019/074 District and County Councillor Report

Cllr Otton presented her report, as circulated previously. She highlighted especially changes in Cabinet membership at the County Council and, in response to a question about a proposed review of HGV routes in Suffolk, suggested that the Council write to seek direct involvement in that review.

2019/075 Public Comment and Questions

Comments and questions related to on-going concerns about HGVs, the latest planning application on behalf of Rattlesden Gliding Club and the river. With regard to the latter, Cllr Goodlad offered to contact the co-ordinator of the River Working Group about a potential river audit and preventative measures in relation to riverbed and riverbank scour.

2019/076 Planning

076.1 Applications:

DC/19/04828 Rattlesden Gliding Club, High Town Green - application for the variation of Condition 1(ii) of 0049/90 (previously varied under Condition 3(ii)(b) of 3373/13 for information) to allow an increase in aerotow launch operations from 10.00hrs to 18.00hrs five days a week from 01 May to 30 September. Concerns had been expressed about this application which sought to extend operations described above so that they were consistent with British Summer Time. Whilst the Council did not wish to object to the application per se, it was felt that it needed to highlight those very real concerns which had been raised by residents to ensure that the quality of their lives was not jeopardised. Cllr Brooke would draft the formal response for submission to Mid Suffolk District Council.

076.2 Applications - Responses: Given a deadline in advance of the meeting, councillors had necessarily considered application DC/19/04569

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The Rectory, High Street - trees in a Conservation Area - (G1) group of field maple trees - reduction of canopy. The Council had no objection.

076.3 Decisions: It was noted that applications DC/19/03802 Hall Cottage, High Street, DC/19/04173 land adjacent to 12 and 13 St Nicholas Close and DC/19/04569 The Rectory, High Street had been granted.

2019/077

Finance

077.1 Financial Report: The report to 30 September was received. It was noted that the TSB current account stood at £23,523.33 and the deposit account at £13,630.04 further to which it was proposed by Cllr Burn, seconded by Cllr Edwards, that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed. The proposal was carried.

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

- ◆ Litter-picker: salary (October) - £158.70;
- ◆ Clerk: salary (October) - £368.25;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE (October) - £92.00;
- ◆ Mr Roger Heard: 447th Bomb Group Memorial grass-cutting - £62.00 (Section 137 expenditure);
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Cemetery grass-cutting - £200.00;
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: village grass-cutting - £125.00;
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Cemetery wildflower area cutting - £100.00;
- ◆ Mr David Peachey: Cemetery memorial plinth installation - £25.00;
- ◆ Clerk: administrative expenses - £46.46;
- ◆ PKF Littlejohn LLP: external audit £200.00 + £40.00 VAT;
- ◆ Came & Company: insurance renewal - £401.04;
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: waste bin emptying service (additional charge) - £73.00 + £14.60 VAT;
- ◆ Suffolk County Council: allotment rent - £34.00;
- ◆ Gudgeons Prentice Solicitors: land transfer fee 'on account' - £1,000.00;
- ◆ Mrs Diane Balaam: reimbursement of bulb costs - £33.96 (Section 137 expenditure); and
- ◆ Mr Neil Cole: reimbursement of bulb costs - £99.67 (Section 137 expenditure).

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ TSB: business (deposit) account interest (October) - £11.16.

077.3 External Audit 2018-2019: The Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018-2019 was received by the Council together with the audit opinion given by PKF Littlejohn LLP (external auditors). The Council was pleased to note that no untoward matters had come to the attention of the external auditors. It was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Burn, that the Annual Return 2018-2019 be approved and accepted. The proposal was carried.

077.4 Budget Review 2019-2020: Councillors considered the half-year financial position as reported by the Clerk together with projected expenditure for the year. It was acknowledged that the potential outturn appeared problematic but that the scope for manoeuvre was constrained, not least given that anticipated funds as a product of the Community

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Infrastructure Levy (CIL) had not been forthcoming in the recent payment cycle. However, Mid Suffolk District Council had confirmed that there was more scope for flexibility than expected in terms of use of the CIL and that this could be exercised should there be a major issue. It was also likely that some significant expenditure might be deferred until 2020-2021. Accepting that any extra spending should now be restricted, councillors agreed to undertake a further review at the January Council meeting when the precept for the next financial year needed to be determined.

077.5 Cemetery Green Bulbs: Given the current financial position it was confirmed that no extra funding for bulbs could be made available over and above the present allocation of £150.00.

077.6 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): The Council approved the 2018-2019 CIL report for submission to Mid Suffolk District Council and publication on the village website.

2019/078 Village Hall

078.1 Report: Cllr Edwards, Council representative on the Rattlesden Village Hall Management Committee, briefed councillors on the most recent meeting of the Committee. In so doing, he noted that important changes were in the offing which might have important implications for the Council given its role as lessee of the property. It was agreed that the matter needed further consideration and should be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

078.2 Emergency Doors - Funding Request: Although a request for funding towards the doors had been received, Cllr Otton indicated that she had money available as District Councillor which might be used and that, accordingly, she would seek to help with the costs instead of the Council.

2019/079 Working Group Reports

079.1 Housing Development: The Group had not met since the last Council meeting.

079.2 Finance and Development: The Group had not met since the last Council meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Goodlad be added to the Group.

2019/080 Council Governance

080.1 New Legislation, Codes or Regulatory Issues: None.

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

2019/081 Correspondence

There were no issues arising from the list of correspondence.

2019/082 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

Three matters were raised. Firstly, it was noted that the memorial plaque had now been installed in the Cemetery in front of the commemorative oak trees. Secondly, it was reported that rubbish was being dumped in the river and that an appropriate note, asking people to desist, should be added to the Council report for the next issue of "Revelations" (newsletter). Lastly, notice had been given that "The Brewers" was to be removed by Mid

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Suffolk District Council from its register of 'assets of community value'. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek its retention and that the Anglian Water site should also be added to the register by the Council.

2019/083 Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.