

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on-line
(via the Zoom video conferencing facility)
on 26 January 2021 at 7.00pm in the absence of a public Ordinary Meeting which
could not be convened due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
*Approved 23.02.21 (Minute 2020/078 refers)***

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

In Attendance: County and District Cllr Penny Otton; and
Parish Clerk: Doug Reed.

2020/064 Apologies for Absence
None.

2020/065 Declarations of Interest
None.

2020/066 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting
It was proposed by Cllr Burn, seconded by Cllr Morley, that the minutes of
the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 24 November, be
signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

2020/067 District and County Councillor Report
Cllr Otton presented her report, as circulated previously. In her briefing to
councillors she highlighted that both the County Council and Mid Suffolk
District Council were about to set their budgets and council taxes for the
forthcoming financial year. She added that she was pursuing a number of
local problems with Suffolk Highways but felt an amount of frustration at the
lack of attention to roads and related issues. She also noted that she still
had funding available through her County Council Locality Budget should
financial support be needed for any projects or initiatives.

2020/068 Public Comment and Questions
None.

2020/069 Planning
069.1 Applications:
DC/21/00319 Hope Cottage, Half Moon Street - tree in a Conservation
Area - reduce canopy of one ash tree by 30%. The Council had no
objection.
069.2 Applications - Responses: Given the coronavirus (COVID-19)
pandemic and deadlines in advance of the meeting, councillors had
necessarily considered applications:
DC/20/05856 Timble Cottage, High Town Green - erection of single-storey
rear extension (following the demolition of existing), replace existing single-
storey flat roofs with pitched slate roof and application of boarding. The
Council had no objection;

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DC/20/05922 1 Old Hall Meadow - tree in a Conservation Area - fell one sycamore because it is too close to the property, causes shading and potential roof damage and obstructs power line. Replant with one Prunus (Japanese ornamental cherry). The Council had no objection; and DC/21/00094 Land Adjacent to Roman Rise - modification of Section 106 planning obligation - variation of legal agreement dated 9 July 2018 relating to DC/18/00229. The Council had no objection.

069.3 Decisions: It was noted that applications DC/20/04251 and DC/20/04252 Shelland Hall Barn, Shelland (Parish of Rattlesden) and DC/20/05922 1 Old Hall Meadow had been granted.

2020/070

Finance

070.1 Financial Report: The report to 31 December was received. It was noted that the TSB current account stood at £12,139.54 and the deposit account at £25,226.08 further to which it was proposed by Cllr Burn, seconded by Cllr Morley, that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed. The proposal was carried.

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

- ◆ Litter-picker: salary (January) - £168.56;
- ◆ Clerk: salary (January) - £393.35;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE (January) - £98.40;
- ◆ Mr Roger Heard: 447th Bomb Group Memorial grass-cutting - £31.00 (Section 137 expenditure);
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: village grass-cutting - £115.00;
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Cemetery grass-cutting - £200.00;
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Cemetery tree maintenance - £50.00;
- ◆ Rattlesden Parochial Church Council: contribution towards the printing costs of "Revelations" plus support services - £150.00 (Section 137 expenditure);
- ◆ Community Heartbeat Trust: defibrillator battery - £186.00 + £37.20 VAT;
- ◆ Mr Richard Mahony: reimbursement of village Christmas tree cost - £50.00 (Section 137 expenditure); and
- ◆ Anglian Water Business Ltd (National): Cemetery water - £13.36.

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ TSB: business (deposit) account interest (January) - £10.67.

070.3 Budget 2021-2022 and Precept 2021-2022: Councillors, acknowledging that the pandemic had resulted in an abnormal financial year and in anticipation of another very unpredictable period ahead, gave unprecedented consideration to the budget for 2021-2022. In terms of both income and expenditure there were a number of unknowns although the Council had already been made aware of some price increases and it was anticipated, especially, that more financial support for local bodies and organisations might be needed going forward. Accepting that reserves needed to continue to be managed effectively and held, at least, at the minimum level recommended nationally for smaller authorities, councillors reviewed several budget and precept scenarios. After discussing options, it

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was resolved unanimously that the precept be increased by £2,256.00 to £20,732.00. In so doing, it was noted that this was still a significantly smaller increase than that of last year. Otherwise, financial heads proposed in the paper accompanying the agenda item were accepted and would form the basis for the final budget to be presented to the Council in April.

070.4 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding: With its provision time-limited, the Council agreed that a prioritised plan was needed for use of the funding, especially as substantially more was likely in 2021-2022. Councillors agreed to circulate ideas for discussion at the next meeting.

2020/071 Speeding Device

The Clerk had circulated the full details supplied by the six companies invited to supply a speeding device and presented to the meeting a summary paper showing the options offered. Two companies, in particular, were known to have supplied other local parish councils. While it was intended originally to only seek a single device a combination of funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and a grant via County Councillor Penny Otton meant that the Council was able to afford more than one. It was resolved accordingly to secure three Evolis devices as supplied by ElanCity Ltd at the basic cost of £1,899.00 plus VAT each.

2020/072 Seat - Birds Green

Councillors were aware of a bid for funding to purchase a seat/bench for Birds Green although there had been no approach to the Council either for funding or permission to place a seat/bench in that location. In the circumstances Cllr Goodlad kindly offered to speak with those residents known to be involved to secure more information.

2020/073 Wildlife Friendly Village

With available time on-line limited it was agreed that this item be deferred until the February Council meeting.

2020/074 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

Both Cllr Jewers and Cllr Morley raised matters concerning the different parcels of land due to be gifted to the village as a product of the housing development adjacent to Roman Rise. It was felt that written certainty was required over the issues involved and that such certainty was needed to reduce risks and to safeguard both the Council and village against future development and problems. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask the solicitor acting for the Council not only for additional information to facilitate a greater understanding of the situation but also to deal with the issues with the other parties even though further costs might be involved.

2020/075 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on-line (via the Zoom video conferencing facility) on Tuesday 23 February at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.