

RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 23 November 2021 at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Pavilion

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

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

2021/038 Apologies for Absence
None.

2021/039 Declarations of Interest
Cllr Edwards declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 6.1 (minute 2021/043.1) as planning application DC/21/06267 involved his property;
Cllr Morley declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 6.1 (minute 2021/043.1) as planning applications DC/21/06266 and DC/21/06285 involved his property; and
Cllr Edwards declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 (minute 2021/046) as a close relative was interested in the vacant position of Clerk.

2021/040 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting
It was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Edwards, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 26 October, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

2021/041 District and County Councillor Report
Cllr Otton presented her report, as circulated previously. She noted, in particular, that the County Council was seeking Government funding to resolve flooding problems affecting households and reported that she had requested that Rattlesden be included in any resultant initiatives. She added that she had exhausted all County Council and District Council options in terms of seeking solutions to inappropriate parking in High Street. Councillors reiterated their concern about the issue but, reluctantly, agreed that the potential costs of pursuing the proposed way forward were beyond Parish Council means. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the District Council to express the serious disappointment of the Parish Council and also notify residents involved.

2021/042 Public Comment and Questions
None.

2021/043 Planning
043.1 Applications:
Cllr Morley left the meeting for this item.

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DC/21/06266 and DC/21/06285 Avis, Lower Road - erection of single-storey rear and side extension, and rebuild garden boundary wall (amended scheme to withdrawn application DC/21/03148); and Listed Building Consent. The Council had no objection; and
Cllr Edwards left the meeting for this item.

DC/21/06267 11 Windyridge Road - erection of single-storey rear pitched and flat roof extensions; and alteration to front porch fenestration/door. The Council had no objection.

043.2 Applications - Responses: Given deadlines in advance of the meeting, councillors had necessarily considered applications:

DC/21/05927 1 Spencers Piece - works to trees in a Conservation Area - fell two alder (T1 and T2) due to excessive height and proximity to properties, and prune one robinia frisia (T3) to open up the canopy and enhance shape. The Council had no objection; and

DC/21/05608 2 Wheelwright Green - erection of extension. The Council had no objection.

043.3 Decisions: It was noted that application DC/21/04871 land to the west of 10 Top Road had been granted.

2021/044

Finance

044.1 Financial Report: The report to 31 October was received. It was noted that the TSB current account stood at £16,002.11 and the deposit account at £55,524.22 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.

044.2 Payments and Income: It was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Edwards, that the schedule of payments be approved. The proposal was carried. The schedule comprised not only recent payments and income, but also one transactions authorised by councillors since the Council last met, as follows:

- ◆ Litter-picker: salary (October) - £172.23;
- ◆ Clerk: salary (October) - £403.70;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE (June) - £101.00;
- ◆ Litter-picker: salary (November) - £172.23;
- ◆ Clerk: salary (November) - £403.70;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE (November) - £101.00;
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Cemetery and village maintenance (October) - £275.00;
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Cemetery and village maintenance (November) - £275.00;
- ◆ PP Garden Services: 447th Bomb Group Memorial grass-cutting (October) - £40.00 (Section 137 expenditure); and
- ◆ Mr Neil Cole - reimbursement of bulb costs - £80.91 (Section 137 expenditure).

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ TSB: business (deposit) account interest (November) - £13.36; and
- ◆ Allotment Association: annual rent 2021-2022 - £68.04; and

044.3 Repeat Payments: It was resolved that under Financial Regulation 5.6 certain repeat payments could be effected by the Clerk without further

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reference to the Council within the current financial year provided that they were within the 2021-2022 budget totals and that no increases in individual payments were involved. The payments in question were Council salaries and those to The Felsham Gardeners and to PP Garden Services. The usual reporting of such payments to the Council would be unchanged.

2021/045 County Council Lorry Route Review

Further to consideration of this matter it was agreed that Cllr Goodlad would co-ordinate the Council responses and forward these to the Clerk, by 8 December, for submission to the County Council.

2021/046 Parish Clerk Vacancy

Cllr Edwards left the meeting for this item.

It was resolved that Cllr Burn and Cllr Morley conduct the interview process for the post in early December with the aim of delivering an appointment recommendation to the January meeting of the Council.

2021/047 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

Cllr Edwards raised the issue of the management of the new allotments which are due to be gifted to the Council by Hartog Hutton Ltd when the housing development behind Roman Rise was completed. It was agreed that the Hanging Hill Allotment Association be approached to see if it would be interested in undertaking the role.

2021/048 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 4 January at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.