

RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 29 March 2022 at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

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;
Two members of the public; and
Parish Clerk: Doug Reed.

2021/072 Apologies for Absence

None.

2021/073 Declarations of Interest

None.

2021/074 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Burn, seconded by Cllr Edwards, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 22 February, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

2021/075 District and County Councillor Report

Cllr Otton presented her report, as circulated previously. She noted that both Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council had finalised their budgets; that an outbreak of avian flu had been identified in Buxhall with implications for restrictions applying to Rattlesden; that a judicial review of a large planning application in Thurston had highlighted the importance of the District Council properly taking into account any neighbourhood plan in place; and that she would circulate any news and help regarding Ukrainian refugees seeking to be housed locally.

2021/076 Public Comment and Questions

A resident from High Town Green spoke to address the proposed revised planning application from Rattlesden Gliding Club relating to its aerotow operations. He noted that he had spoken with others in the area and that, with one exception, there were no concerns about the intended new arrangements. His feedback was welcomed by councillors.

2021/077 Planning

077.1 Applications: There were no new planning applications for the Council to consider.

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

077.3 Decisions: It was noted that application DC/22/00046 5 Wheelwright Green had been granted.

077.4 Rattlesden Gliding Club: Given concerns regarding planning application DC/22/00869 submitted by the Club relating to aerotow operations it was pleasing to note that, in response to those concerns, the

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Club had withdrawn the application. The Council acknowledged and welcomed both the further engagement by the Club and early sight of the proposed revised application. Taking into account the feedback and assuming no further amendments to the final version of the application to be submitted, the Council now agreed that it had no objections.

2021/078

Finance

078.1 Financial Report: The report to 28 February was received. It was noted that the TSB current account stood at £6,475.10 and the deposit account at £48,829.37 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.

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

- ◆ Clerk: salary (March) - £487.70;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE (March) - £122.00;
- ◆ Village Warden: salary (March) - £280.00;
- ◆ Information Commissioner: data protection registration renewal - £40.00;
- ◆ Suffolk Cloud: website hosting - £120.00;
- ◆ Mr Henry Streatfeild: Cemetery tree work - £180.00;
- ◆ Robert Acton Product Developments: Village Warden equipment - £105.00 + £21.00 VAT;
- ◆ Cllr Tony Edwards: reimbursement of cost of Village Warden equipment - £145.12;
- ◆ PP Garden Services: 447th Bomb Group Memorial grass-cutting (March) - £40.00 + £8.00 VAT (Section 137 expenditure);
- ◆ Gedding Mill Limited: two-seater bench - £633.33 + £126.67 VAT (Community Infrastructure Levy funding);
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Cemetery and village maintenance (March) - £282.00; and
- ◆ Clerk: administrative expenses - £14.98.

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ TSB: business (deposit) account interest (March) - £11.23;
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: cleansing grant (January-March) - £231.66;
- ◆ HL Perfitt (Stonemasons): Cemetery fees - £75.00; and
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: recycling grant (August-February) - £326.40.

078.3 Jubilee Wood: It was resolved that the purchase of a slatted seat for Jubilee Wood from Gedding Mill Limited in the sum of £760.00 (including VAT) plus installation estimated at c£350.00 be confirmed. Also for the Wood, it was proposed that two plaques commemorating the Queen's Green Canopy as part of her Platinum Jubilee be purchased from the Royal British Legion at a cost of £154.99 each (including VAT). The proposal was carried.

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078.4 Budget 2022-2023: It was resolved that the budget for 2022-2023 as presented, updated and amended to reflect money carried forward from 2021-2022 and further known costs, be approved.

2021/079 Village Charity

The Council received and discussed a detailed report on the state of the Charity from its last remaining trustee which included some points of concern plus suggestions as to possible ways forward. Councillors remained disappointed that various offers from residents to become trustees had not progressed and that not insignificant funds were held which could be used to the potential benefit of local people. It was accepted that there were a number of matters about which further information was needed, especially if the Council was to seek to help reinvigorate the Charity. Accordingly, it was felt that a meeting between the Finance and Development Working Party of the Council and the only trustee would be constructive. The Clerk would seek to arrange such a meeting to be held at the earliest.

2021/080 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

Cllr Goodlad noted that an extra speed indicator device was being progressed for High Street with potential finance on offer from funds available to Cllr Otton. Cllr Jewers emphasised the importance of adhering to the very strict rules in place in respect of avian flu and it was, therefore, agreed that information be highlighted on the Rattlesden Village Website. Cllr Morley reported on the grit bin located in Birds Green which had been damaged beyond repair. The Clerk would seek to secure a replacement which might be installed in a way which precluded future damage. Regarding the allotments behind the housing development at Roman Rise due to be gifted to the Council by Hartog Hutton Ltd, Cllr Edwards suggested that boundary post and rail initially offered by the company be replaced by the provision of small sheds for allotment-holders. In discussions, it was felt that a better option might be to ensure a clause in any allotment-holder agreement which stipulated a shed size and the materials from which any shed can be made.

2021/081 Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.