

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 22 February 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;
One member of the public; and
Parish Clerk: Doug Reed.

2021/061 Apologies for Absence

None.

2021/062 Declarations of Interest

None.

2021/063 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 25 January, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

2021/064 District and County Councillor Report

Cllr Otton presented her report, as circulated previously. She noted that Suffolk County Council had opted for a rise in its element of the council tax of 1.99% plus 1.00% for social care but that she felt that the latter would not be enough to deal with crisis in the service. She also raised the matter of the Village Charity which it was agreed should be discussed further at the next Parish Council meeting and a query regarding a new planning application submitted by Rattlesden Gliding Club which she would investigate further.

2021/065 Public Comment and Questions

A resident, as Chair of and representing the Hanging Hill Allotment Association, raised concerns about the renewal of the tenancy agreement between that body and the Council in the context of insurance. Both the Clerk and councillors emphasised that the Council had properly discharged its responsibility towards the County Council (from whom the land was leased) and, in turn, the Association in securing Public Liability Insurance to the tune of £10,000,000 (ten million pounds). It was for the Association and/or each individual allotment holder to secure appropriate insurance for its and/or his/her own situation.

2021/066 Planning

066.1 Applications:

DC/22/00869 Rattlesden Gliding Club, High Town Green - application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - variation of Condition 3 (Limit on Aerotow Operations) of planning permission 3373/13 dated: 27/01/2015 - continued and permanent use of land for Gliding Club

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purposes (renewal of planning permission 977/87). Given an important outstanding query regarding this application the formal Council response to the proposed changes was deferred pending receipt of further information.

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

066.3 Decisions: It was noted that applications DC/21/06899 Walnut Tree Farm, Mitchery Lane, DC/22/00410 4 Spencers Piece and DC/21/05368 Howe Wood Cottage, Baby Lane (re-consultation) had been granted.

2021/067 Finance

067.1 Financial Report: The report to 31 January was received. It was noted that the TSB current account stood at £7,145.09 and the deposit account at £49,166.87 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.

067.2 Payments and Income: It was proposed by Cllr Morley, seconded by Cllr Jewers, 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 (February) - £403.70;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE (February) - £101.00;
- ◆ Cllr David Goodlad: reimbursement of cost of hi-vis jacket - £27.99;
- ◆ The Felsham Gardeners: Cemetery and village maintenance (February) - £275.00; and
- ◆ Clerk: administrative expenses - £93.96.

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ TSB: business (deposit) account interest (February) - £12.50;
- ◆ East of England Co-op Funeral Services: Cemetery fees - £188.00;
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: cleansing grant (October-December) - £231.66.

2021/068 Allotments - Birds Green

Further to the productive discussion held with the Chair of the Hanging Hill Allotment Association under public comment and questions, it was resolved that the Parish Council tenancy agreement with the County Council be renewed for 10 years and that, as a consequence, the licence agreement with the Association also be updated and renewed (subject to further discussion with the Association) including the rise in the annual rent, as determined by the County Council, to £81.60.

2021/069 Personnel

Further to recent recruitment process it was resolved that Mr Andrew Scott be offered the post of Clerk at £11.76 per hour (35 hours per month). The appointment of Miss Freya McBain to the new post of Village Warden was confirmed. Cllr Edwards reported that he had completed, with the latter, a risk assessment for the role in conjunction with an appropriate Safe System of Work (SSoW). He had also identified relevant equipment that the Village

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Warden would need. It was resolved that up to £250.00 be made available for the acquisition of such equipment.

2021/070 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

Cllr Goodlad noted that an extra speed indicator device would prove beneficial in High Street if an appropriate site could be approved. He would complete the required checklist, as supplied by Suffolk Highways, and also seek a quotation for the relevant equipment. At the same time, he would pursue the possibility of funding from the budget available to Cllr Otton. Cllr Goodlad also noted that he had taken an opportunity to speak with operatives from Suffolk Highways about the potholes on the Rising Sun Hill/Lower Road/Felsham Road junction and that some remedial work was imminent.

2021/071 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 29 March at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.