

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 30 January 2023 at 7:30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

Present: Cllr Kerry Burn (Chairman), Cllr Tony Edwards (Vice Chairman), Cllr Stephen Atkinson, Cllr Peter Brooke, Cllr Dave Goodlad, Cllr Dan Jewers, Cllr Russell Morley.

In Attendance: District and County Cllr Penny Otton, Parish Clerk Andrew Scott

2023/001 Apologies for absence

None.

2023/002 Declarations of Interest

None.

2023/003 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 29 November 2022 be approved.

2023/004 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising that did not appear on the agenda.

2023/005 District and County Councillor Report

Cllr Otton introduced her report, which had been circulated with the meeting papers, and would be appended to the minutes. She highlighted Council tax proposals, the A14 surface replacement works, the Rising Sun Hill potholes, the Council house review and the funds currently available for Council house adaptations.

2023/006 Public Comment and Questions on Agenda Items

None.

2023/007 Planning

089.1 New applications received: **DC/22/06392** 2 Pightle Grove, Erection of pergola in corner of rear garden; **DC/22/05754** The Red House, High Town Green, Erection of two storey four bay cart lodge.

089.2 Applications considered by email in view of the consultation deadline:

DC/22/06262 Bressummer Cottage, Poy Street Green, Erection of single storey side extension (following removal of existing structure) – no objections; **DC/22/06281** Clopton Hall, Internal and external works to main building, conversion of Brew House, erection of new outbuildings including annex barn – no objections (subsequently withdrawn);

DC/23/00005 4 Rectory Meadow, Installation of 10 solar panels to roof slope – no objections.

089.3 To note any planning applications granted/refused including: None notified.

2023/008 Finance

090.1 Financial Report: The Clerk's financial report to 31 December was received. The current account balance stood at £293.09 and the deposit account at £100,993.72, and it was agreed that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed.

090.2 Payments Schedule: The schedules of payments for December and January were approved, as appended to the minutes.

090.3 Requests for grants:

a) River Rat Group: it was agreed to grant £800 for the purchase of a strimmer.

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b) Rattlesden's Revelations: it was agreed to contribute £320 towards the annual printing costs of £1,600.

090.4 Draft budget and Precept 2023-24

Council discussed the draft budget for 2023-24 and agreed that while it was necessary to provide for inflationary increases, these could be met out of reserves next year, in order to avoid an increase in the Precept. Council also considered its reserves policy in the light of the internal audit report and the Clerk's recommendations. It was agreed that six months' running costs, excluding the s137 grants budget, was an appropriate level of general reserves, and that the earmarking of any surplus reserves should be deferred until the consultation on village developments had been carried out. It was therefore agreed that the Precept for 2023-24 should be £22,323, representing £54.89 per Band D property.

2023/010

Jubilee Field

Cllr Atkinson brought the meeting up to date with plans for the replanting of the Jubilee Field wood this year. Mid Suffolk's Biodiversity Team and the Woodland Trust would be providing new whips. Some additional losses had been observed recently, and a further detailed survey was needed. All the councillors expressed willingness to be involved in the next stages, although in the longer term it might be beneficial if an independent volunteer group were formed.

2023/011

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

Cllr Atkinson had spoken to the school about using the Library for a meeting, and the school would welcome this, although there was a no full sized furniture at present. Cllr Edwards was expecting to meet on site with Hartog Hutton to discuss the new allotments once the area had dried out. Cllr Atkinson had been investigating Biodiversity Action Plans, in the light of the duty on parish councils to have regard to biodiversity, and agreed to do some further work to see if such a plan could be prepared without incurring a consultancy cost. It was noted that photo ID would be required to vote in the forthcoming elections, and councillors agreed that this should be publicised.

2023/012

Next Meeting

Tuesday 28 February 2023, 7:30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.