

RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 26 April 2022 at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

Present: Cllr Kerry Burn (Chairman), Cllr Steve Atkinson, Cllr Tony Edwards, Cllr David Goodlad, Cllr Dan Jewers.

In Attendance: County and District Cllr Penny Otton
One member of the public
Parish Clerk Andrew Scott.

2022/001 Apologies for Absence
Cllr Peter Brooke, Cllr Russell Morley.

2022/002 Declarations of Interest
None.

2022/003 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting
It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 29 March, be signed as a true record.

2022/004 District and County Councillor Report
Cllr Otton presented her report, as previously circulated. She highlighted attempts to secure funding for bus services in Suffolk; the plans for the Sunnica solar energy farm north of Newmarket; the continuing practical difficulties over housing Ukrainian refugees; competition concerns for local businesses over the plan to establish 'Freeport East'; and the delay to council house rent rises following a problem with the delivery of notices to tenants.

2022/005 Public Comment and Questions
None.

2022/006 Planning
006.1 Applications: DC/22/01864 Riven Cottage, Rising Sun Hill - erection of single storey rear conservatory. The Council had no objection. DC/22/02151 Aquilo, Poy Street Green - Erection of two storey rear extension. The Council had no objection, subject to the view of the Tree Officer concerning the proposed removal of one walnut tree.
006.2 Applications - Responses: There were no applications which had had to be considered in advance of the meeting because of their deadlines.
006.3 Decisions: It was noted that application DC/22/01352 Land Adjacent to BT Exchange, Rising Sun Hill – incorporation of veranda into Sun Room, had been approved.

2022/07 Annual Governance Statement 2021/22
The Council noted the Record of Annual Governance prepared by the Clerk and confirmed by the Finance Councillor, approved the completed Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 Part 3 – 'Annual Governance Statement 2021/22' for Rattlesden Parish Council, and authorised the Chairman and Clerk to sign the return.

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2022/008

Finance

008.1 Financial Report: The report to 31 March was received. It was noted that the TSB current account stood at £5,262.36 and the deposit account at £48,080.60, and it was agreed that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed.

008.2 Payments and Income: The schedule of payments was approved, as follows:

To:	Reason	Payment £
Parish Clerk	Salary: April 2022 (35 hours @ £11.97) Gross £418.95 Net £335.35	335.35
HMRC	PAYE	83.60
Village Warden	Salary: April 2022 (25 hours @ £10.00)	250.00
Community Council	New play equipment grant (Ref minute 2021/055.5)	5,000.00
Douglas J Reed	One month's support to Parish Clerk (35 hours @ £14.67)	513.45
SALC	Subscription 2022/23	393.21
MSDC	Bin bags for Warden	18.75
Suffolk County Council	County Farm rent 1/10/21 to 31/3/22	34.00
The Felsham Gardeners	Cemetery and village maintenance (April)	275.00
	TOTAL	£6,903.36

Income received was duly noted as follows:

From:	Reason	Total £
TSB	Business account interest (10 April)	12.36
MSDC	CIL April 2022	26,644.00
MSDC	Precept 22/23 instalment 1	11,316.00
	TOTAL	£37,972.36

008.3 Accounting Statements 2021/2022: The Council approved Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 Part 3 – 'Accounting Statements 2021/22' for Rattlesden Parish Council, based on the approved annual accounts, and authorised the Chairman and Clerk to sign the return.

008.4 Budget 2022-2023: It was resolved that the budget for 2022/23, as presented, be confirmed.

2022/009

Village Charity

Members of the Finance and Development Working Group had met informally with the sole remaining trustee and secretary, and had received a first-hand account of the recent history and current state of the charity. There appeared to be two options open, namely engaging solicitors to put the charity onto a more certain footing before recruiting new trustees, or consolidating the charity into a Suffolk-based umbrella charity which would be better resourced and still able to benefit Rattlesden residents, albeit not exclusively. The trustee had undertaken to investigate the former initially, although it was recognised that it was a potentially very costly route.

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2022/010

Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

Cllr Edwards was continuing discussions about the fixing of the Jubilee Wood bench. He also expressed concern for the future management of the Village Hall after the retirement of the current Chair and Secretary. It was noted that the Pre-School Group was the main user, and that the Hall was often confused with the Pavilion by potential hirers. The Clerk agreed to check on the current legal arrangements for the property. Cllr Otton indicated that she had funding available to share the cost of a third speed indicator for the village. Cllr Goodlad asked, in view of the sharp increase in electricity and fuel costs, that consideration be given to increasing the £10 allowance for the charging of the speed indicators to £15 per month. The Clerk reported that the broken bottle bank fence was being attended to. The Village Warden had asked about the possibility of installing additional dog fouling signs, but the general view was that, regrettably, signage did not deter habitual offenders.

2022/011

Next Meeting

In view of the timing of the Suffolk Show this year, it was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would be brought forward by a week to Tuesday 24 May, at 6:45pm in Rattlesden Village Hall, to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.