

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 25 July 2023 at 7:30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

Present: Cllr Kerry Burn (Chairman), Cllr Tony Edwards (Vice Chairman), Cllr Steve Atkinson, Cllr Dave Goodlad, Cllr Dan Jewers, Cllr Sarah Osborne.

In Attendance: County Councillor Penny Otton, District Cllr Nicky Willshire, Parish Clerk Andrew Scott, and two members of the public.

2023/076 Apologies for absence
Cllr Russell Morley.

2023/077 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.

2023/078 Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting
It was resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 26 June 2023 be approved.

2023/079 Public Comment and questions on agenda items
Lesley Edwards had volunteered to take the lead on organising the new Jubilee Allotments, and enquired about next steps. The Council would like to follow the model of the Hanging Hill Allotments, where there is an independent allotment association and an agreement with the Council. The Clerk agreed to forward the Hanging Hill agreement details, and would put any other parishioners expressing an interest in touch with Mrs Edwards. The works were nearing completion but there was no handover date as yet.

Pauline Baker, in support of the Village Hall Committee's requests for grant funding (item 2023/088.1) explained that the energy efficiency measures were needed to support a s106 grant application to Mid Suffolk District Council for a new heating system.

2023/080 County Councillor's report
Cllr Otton introduced her report, highlighting the Thurston school transport issue and the forthcoming Libraries consultation. There were no questions from Councillors.

2023/081 District Councillor's report
Cllr Willshire introduced her report, drawing attention to the Residents Survey 2023 and the initiative to hold District Council meetings at local. There were no questions from Councillors.

2023/082 Matters arising from the minutes
074.1 Parish Clerk vacancy – advertisements had been placed and interviews would be held in the first week of August.

2023/083 Planning
083.1 Applications received: **T233** Footpath 20 (Mill Hill/Rattlesden Hall) Diversion: Parish Council supports.
083.2 Applications considered by e-mail due to the consultation deadline – there were none.

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083.3 Applications granted/refused: none notified.

2023/084

Finance

084.1 Financial Report: The Clerk's financial report to 30 June was received. The current account balance stood at £287.95 and the deposit account at £112,313.30, of which £81,951.31 represented CIL funds, and it was agreed that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed.

084.2 Payments Schedule: The schedule of payments for July 2023 was approved.

084.3 Accounting system

The recommendation of the Clerk that the Council subscribe to EasyPC Accounts at a cost of £6 per month was agreed.

084.4 Churchyard footpath repair

Following an intervention by the County Councillor the footpath pothole had now been filled by the County. It was agreed however that the Parish Council would be prepared to fund a resurface of the area, at the cost proposed, and the Clerk agreed to contact the County Council with a view to having this carried out.

2023/085

Rolling Review of Council policies and procedures: 01 Standing Orders

It was noted that the Standing Orders followed the model standing orders of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). These had been updated to reflect the post-Brexit public procurement rules. After discussion it was agreed to insert a provision regarding the use of masculine and feminine forms. The Financial Regulations would be reviewed at the September meeting.

2023/086

Rattlesden School parking

Council discussed the continuing problem of school run parking in Lower Road and the safety concerns it raised in the village. It was agreed that parents needed periodic reminders, and that the Police Community Support Officer's assistance should be sought at the start of the school year. Attention was drawn to the RoSPA School Site Road Safety guidance document, and this was commended to the School.

2023/087

Cemetery memorial bench.

It was agreed to accept the proposed design of an oak bench for the cemetery, and to convey this to the proposer, together with a request that the bench should be treated, and a reminder that on installation it would become the property and responsibility of the Parish Council.

2023/088

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

088.1 Grant applications

Three grant applications relating to the Village Hall had been received after the notice and agenda had been published. These would need to be considered at the next available meeting, currently scheduled for 26 September. The Clerk would inform the applicants accordingly.

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088.2 Other items

The Tree Officer was seeking advice about reducing an overgrown field maple on Council property at Birds Green. Cllr Burn was seeking advice about mowing equipment. Cllr Edwards had been looking into potential standardized allotment sheds. Sheet glass had been left at the bottle bank, and Cllr Goodlad volunteered to make a 'Bottles and jars only' sign. Cllr Atkinson gave an update on the state of the Jubilee Field trees and correspondence received in response to his Revelations article. Replanting would continue in small quantities. Cllr Burn had spoken to a neighbouring farmer about cutting the boundary hedge.

2023/089

Next Meeting

Tuesday 26 September 2023 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm.