

RATTLESDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 19:30 in Rattlesden Village Hall

Present: Cllr. Tony Edwards (Chair), Cllr. Sarah Osborne (Deputy Chair), Cllr. Dave Goodlad, Cllr. Steve Atkinson, Cllr. Russell Morley.

In Attendance: County Cllr. Peny Otton, District Cllr. Nicky Willshere, Parish Clerk Nick Skelhorn, and two members of the public.

Absences: **Apologies for absence**
Cllr. Dan Jewers, Cllr. Paul Bradnam.

2024/032 **Declarations of interest**
None.

2024/033 **Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting**
It was resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27th February 2024 be approved save an amendment to item 2024/024 to correct a misspelt name.

2024/034 **Public comment and questions on agenda items**
Members of the public brought to the attention of the Council the impacts of bonfires conducted by various trades on land near to the Hanging Hill allotments, namely damage to the surface of a public right of way 'PRoW' due to vehicular access and encroachment into / damage of vegetation surrounding the fires. The Council confirmed that they had no control over land use (owned by Anglian Water, with the PRoW managed by SCC), but that they would raise the matter with both parties.

2024/035 **County Councillor's report**
Cllr. Otton gave an overview of her previously circulated report, noting feedback received from other parishes on flood action plans and investigations as a method of mitigating flooding event impacts. She also shared her disappointment on the delayed repair works to Rising Sun Hill (resulting from an interaction with other planned Highways works), provided feedback on the recent library consultations (positive, especially surrounding mobile library services) and gave an update on the proposed devolution of Suffolk local government. Lastly, she confirmed dates for the upcoming Police and Crime Commissioners election. Cllr. Goodlad, in response, commented that undertaking an independent flood assessment was prohibitively expensive for smaller authorities such as Rattlesden and Cllr. Edwards raised reported highways safety issues (item 2024/40 below) which Cllr. Otton confirmed she would raise.

2024/036 **District Councillor's report**
Cllr. Willshere gave an overview of her previously circulated report (2% Council tax increase and tax levies for second homeowners) and provided feedback on discussions surrounding proposed devolution following the March District Council meeting (concerns were raised about where funds would be sourced to afford the additional layer of governance). Cllr. Edwards raised the issue of parking in St. Nicholas' Close, this being inadequate for current demand (residents, Village Shop volunteers and customers, ad-hoc users (i.e. Coffee Caravan, Refill Van)). Cllr. Willshere confirmed she would raise the issue.

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- 2024/037** **Matters arising from the previous minutes**
- 037.1 ‘Minute 019 County Councillor’s Report’:** Cllr. Otton confirmed new dates had now been confirmed for the assessment and subsequent repair of Rising Sun Hill (public highway, potholes).
- 037.2 ‘Minute 026 Revelations Grant Request’:** The approved £500 grant was duly paid to Rattlesden PCC (Revelations) on 5th March 2024.
- 037.3 ‘Minute 029 Jubilee Allotment Lease Agreement’:** The clerk to continue to progress quotes for a new tap / pipe insulator.
- 2024/038** **Planning**
- 038.1 Applications considered by e-mail due to the consultation deadline:**
- 038.1.1 – DC/24/00310 (Erection of 1.5 storey chalet) – no objections. Comments collectively suggested that the proposed was in fitting with other recent development in the vicinity and that consideration has been given to environmental issues.
- 038.1.2 – DC/24/01293 (Land at Birds Green, Works to trees in a Conservation Area) – no comment, RPC application.
- 038.1.3 – DC/24/01185 (3 Wheelwright Green) – no objections were raised.
- 038.2 Applications approved/rejected:** Application DC/24/00130 (12 Birds Green, works to Trees in a Conservation Area) was granted on 9th February 2024.
- 2024/039** **Finance**
- 039.1 Financial report:** The Clerk’s financial report to 29th February 2024 was received. The current account balance stood at £694.91 and the deposit account at £110,574.75, of which £70,311.35 represented CIL funds.
- 039.2 Payments schedule:** The schedule of payments for February 2024 was approved with one addition of £59.00 (payment to BMSDC for annual garden waste collection services), totalling £2,044.81.
- 2024/040** **Road safety**
- Following receipt of a letter from a concerned parent, the issue of parking during the school drop-off and collection was raised (dangerous to try and cross between parked cars). Councillors agreed with the raised concern and discussed various mitigation strategies, but noted given the Parish Council has no direct authority over Highways, engagement would be required with SCC. A suggestion of white no parking lines either side of the dropped curb was deemed the most practical solution and was raised with Cllr. Otton to report to SCC.
- 2024/041** **Assets (benches)**
- The clerk confirmed dimensions of the existing concrete bases at each site (Cemetery Green and Whalebone Green) and various options and price points for benches. It was collectively agreed that two benches were to be commissioned from Gedding Mill due to the product quality, the sizing best reflecting existing bases and the desire to support local business. The Clerk was given authority to order 1 x two seater galvanised bench and 1 x 3

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seater galvanised bench at a cost of £1,520 and £2,220 respectfully and tasked with obtaining quotes for installation.

2024/042

Rattlesden CoE Primary Academy

Cllr. Atkinson reported that a new Head Teacher had been appointed (Gemma Cannon), and that the school would, following the collation of quotations, be seeking funds to support structural repair works and the instillation of security equipment (it being noted that the Friends of Rattlesden School also supporting). Cllr. Atkinson also gave an update on measures the school was implanting to mitigate impacts of potential future flood events and their desire to engage with the Council's Flood Sub-committee to achieve collective aims.

2024/043

Rolling Review of Council policies and procedures: 06 Data Protection Policy

It was resolved collectively that the current policy was sufficient and proportionate, and it was approved in its current form save amends to expired contact details and outdated terminology (i.e. his/her to be replaced with persons etc.)

2024/044

Cemetery Storage (new storage shed and temporary use by grounds contractors)

Cllr. Edwards shared points raised by Cllr. Jewers in his absence (Council need for a shed and associated maintenance / insurance liability) as circulated by email in advance. The Clerk also advised the Council of the need to formalise any third-party usage of Council land under a Licence to Occupy agreement to ensure compliance for insurance purposes and the need to review the ability to grant occupations given the specific land use. Following discussion, it was collectively agreed that the associated constraints would not afford the /council to deliver the request in timescales that would be feasible for potential users of the shed.

2024/045

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

045.1 Flood Committee Update

Cllr. Goodland gave an update on anticipated Flood Risk Activity Consent costs (to afford dredging) and costs for independent fluvial assessment.

045.2 Jubilee meadow grounds maintenance

Cllr. Atkinson confirmed that only one of the three parties approached had provided a quote for grass / field maintenance (£220/month for 8 months) which he provided to the Council for consideration. Upon review, the Council collectively agreed to appoint Les Williamson to commence in April.

045.3 Commemorative Oak

It was confirmed that an oak tree in memory of David Goodchild was to be obtained and planted and a plaque erected noting the gift of the land (Jubilee Meadow).

045.4 Surrender of Village Hall Management Committee Lease

Cllr. Edwards noted the recent public vote on the future on the proposed surrender of the lease of the Village Hall by the Village Hall Management Committee (97% of voters in favour).

045.5 Village website

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Cllr. Edwards tasked the clerk with investigating alternative website provisions to afford a 'refresh' of current layouts and content.

045.6 Village charity

It was noted that there had been several omissions of recent account submissions by the charity and that there may be potential internal resource issues due to the ill health of the primary trustee.

2024/046

Next Meeting

Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 21:17.

DRAFT