

RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 26 September 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.

2023/090 Apologies for absence
Cllr Russell Morley.

2023/091 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda. Cllr Atkinson felt that he perhaps should have declared an interest as a school governor for last month's discussion on school run parking, although it was not a substantive agenda item.

2023/092 Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting
It was resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 July 2023 be approved.

2023/093 Public Comment and questions on agenda items
Members of the public spoke in support of the village hall grant applications and to express concern about the volume and speed of traffic now passing through the village.

2023/094 County Councillor's report
Cllr Otton introduced her report, highlighting efforts to secure school transport to Thurston, lowering speed limits on rural roads, and mitigating the impacts of the A14 renewal works.

2023/095 District Councillor's report
Cllr Willshire introduced her report, stressing the importance of the recently approved Joint Local Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk which now provided a proper framework for the consideration of development proposals to 2037.

Cllr Goodlad raised the long-standing state of disrepair of the road and wall at St Nicholas Close, which was District Council property, and a prominent site in the village centre. Cllr Willshire undertook to take this up with officers.

2023/096 Matters arising from the minutes
096.1 Minute 084.4 Churchyard footpath repair – Suffolk County Council had agreed to the proposed work and Cllr Goodlad was liaising with the contractor.
096.2 Minute 088.2 Bottle bank – Cllr Goodlad had installed a sign, and Cllr Atkinson had disposed of the plate glass.
096.3 Minute 088.2 Hedge and footpath maintenance – Cllr Goodlad had identified another potential local contractor. Cllr Burn would also follow up her previous contact. It was noted that CIL funds could be used for maintenance of existing infrastructure.

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2023/097

Planning

097.1 Applications received: **DC/23/04175** Manor Cottage, Half Moon Street: this application appeared to be a re-submission without substantive changes from DC/23/01457 which had been objected to at May's meeting, and Council therefore reiterated its objections on the grounds of over-development and congestion.

DC/23/04363 Glebelands House, High Street, pollard 6 yews, fell pine, ash: the Tree Officer had been consulted and Council had no objection.

097.2 Applications considered by e-mail due to the consultation deadline: **DC/23/03588** Clopton Hall, Clopton Green, erection of a barn etc – no objections.

097.3 Applications granted/refused: none notified.

2023/098

Finance

098.1 Financial Report: The Clerk's financial report to 31 August was received. The current account balance stood at £100.90 and the deposit account at £111,986.23, of which £75,785.75 represented CIL funds, and it was agreed that the reconciliation be approved and duly signed.

098.2 Payments Schedule: The schedules of payments for August and September 2023 were approved, with two additions, £378 to PKF Littlejohn (external audit fee), and £130.74 to Community Heartbeat Trust (defibrillator pads).

098.3 Internal Audit

The internal audit report and letter for the financial year 2022-23 were received and noted. Council expressed its continuing gratitude to Graham Reid for his expert service, provided on a voluntary basis.

2023/099

Grant applications

099.1 Rattlesden Village Hall secondary double glazing (£2,460)

Council agreed to approve the application.

099.2 Rattlesden Village Hall Internal Cladding (£11,000)

Council was willing to support the further upgrading of the Village Hall, but given the amount requested and the potential scale of the whole undertaking, it felt that this grant application should be supported by a building survey report and a project plan.

099.3 Rattlesden Pre-School Garden Project (£8,000)

Council requested a more detailed plan and costings to support this application.

2023/100

Rolling Review of Council policies and procedures: 02 Financial Regulations

The Financial Regulations were approved as amended.

2023/101

Appointment of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

The Chairman reported that three candidates had been interviewed for the upcoming vacancy and the panel recommended that Mr Nicholas Skelhorn be appointed. Council agreed, and it was resolved:-

101.1 To appoint Mr Nicholas Skelhorn as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer of the Parish Council with effect from 1 October 2023 at a salary of £24,948 per annum pro rata

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(£12.97 per hour) being salary point 13 within scale LC1 of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) pay scales.

101.2 To amend the TSB Bank plc mandate to remove Mr Andrew Scott and add Mr Nicholas Skelhorn as a non-signatory and an internet banking Full Access Delegate User.

101.3 To change the correspondence address of the Council to Allerton House, Lower Road, Rattlesden, Bury St Edmunds IP30 0RJ.

2023/102

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

102.1 Cllr Goodlad informed the meeting that the 'Tommy' figures would be set up in the cemetery next week in preparation for Remembrance Day, and individual labels would be attached to the trees, as previously.

102.2 Cllr Edwards had received an email from Hartog Hutton indicating that the new allotments should be ready to be handed over at the end of October.

2023/103

Next Meeting

Tuesday 31 October 2023 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm.