

RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Draft Form duly approved on: _____ Chair signature _____

Present: Cllr. Tony Edwards (Chair), Cllr. Sarah Osborne (Deputy), Cllr. Dave Goodlad.

In Attendance: County Cllr. Penny Otton, District Cllr. Nicky Willshire, Parish Clerk Nick Skelhorn and two member of the public.

Absences: Apologies were received from Cllr. Paul Bradnam, Cllr. Russell Morley, Cllr. Steve Atkinson, Cllr. Dan Jewers (Three Councillors present, quorum achieved).

2024/136 **Declarations of Interest**
None to declare.

2024/137 **Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting**
It was collectively resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 29th October 2024 be approved as a true record of events.

2024/138 **Public Comment and Questions on Agenda Items**
Two representatives from Rattlesden Community Council (Sue Theeman & Bea Parker) provided additional supporting information surrounding the Community Council's grant request (funds for grounds maintenance). Details were provided on ringfenced reserves and income, justifying the need for support, as well as future plans to uplift income. Details were shared on other maintenance requirements outside of the grant request (i.e. field perimeter vegetation / ditch clearances). Cllr. Willshire suggest potential support for the latter using BMSDC grant funding.

2024/139 **County Councillor's Report**
The Council received Cllr. Otton's report. Cllr. Otton. raised the deterioration of the recently laid Hartog Hutton pavement adjacent to Mitchery Lane and how she was to seek remediation before handover to SCC, and her intention to seek support for parishes such as Rattlesden that were impacted by recent floods, but did not meet the 'five plus flooded homes' criteria for support.

2024/140 **District Councillor's Report**
The Council received Cllr. Willshire's report. Cllr Willshire confirm the roll out of the 'Dial a Ride' taxi bus initiative now servicing Rattlesden and other parishes. Councillors fed back how scheme information was confusing (not clear if the service operates to specific times, or if it must be booked in advance. Cllr. Goodlad noted the disappointment of parishioners at the cancellation of the Bury St. Edmunds bus which had always been well utilised. Cllr. Willshire lastly confirm that some Locality budget remained for which she welcomed applications.

2024/141 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

141.1 'Minute 129.1 'Community Council Grass Maint. Grant' Representatives of Rattlesden Community Council were invited to the next RPC meeting.

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141.2 'Minute 129.3 'Preschool Outdoor Learning Space' The approved sum of £760.84 was credited to Rattlesden Preschool on 11th November 2024.

142.3 'Minute 130.2 'Flood Prevention Equipment' New storage bins, waterproof liner, sand, and sandbags were obtained and sited at Rattlesden Village Hall and the Pavilion.

142.4 'Minute 131 'Hartog Hutton (Jubilee Allotment) Land transfer' The transfer completed on 11th November 2024. Registration with HMLR is being processed.

2024/142

Planning

142.1 November Applications: No applications

142.2 Applications Approved/Rejected in November: DC/24/04581 (Daffodils, Lower Road) was approved on 18th November 2024.

2024/143

Finance

143.1 Financial Report: The Clerk's financial report up to the 31st October 2024 was received.

- Current account balance = £9,532.72

- TSB deposit account (general and earmarked reserves + £4,239.16 CIL) = £41,214.02

- Dudley deposit account (CIL funds less £4.2k in TSB deposit) = £66,311.13.

The Clerk reiterated that general and CIL reserves remained high and that strategies should be considered to utilise funds appropriately. The high current account balance reflects receipt of the second Precept payment. Explanation was also provided on various November budget discrepancies (Insurances – paid 1st November, budgeted for October; Precept – credited earlier than budgeted).

143.2 Payments Schedule: The schedule of payments for November totalling £3,289.88 was presented to the Council and duly approved.

No DD payment due this month.

Should a member of the public wish to view any supporting documentation in relation to the above please contact the Clerk.

143.3 2025/2026 Budget and Precept: The clerk confirmed the deadline (31st Jan '25) for submission of the approved budget and precept to BMSDC and the new proposed process – draft budget / precept to be circulated by Clerk in early December for initial review by the Chair and Finance officer, followed by full Council review / comment in January, affording approval and sign-off in January Ordinary Council meeting. The Clerk reiterated the Internal Auditor's call for full Council engagement in the process.

2024/144

Grant Applications

144.1 Community Council Grass Maintenance Grant

Based on additional information provided on the nature of the grant request (see minute 2024/138) and the grant offer from BMSDC, the Community Council chose to suspend the CIL application.

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2024/145

Works

145.1 Bottle Bank Quotations: The Clerk confirmed that only one of the four approached parties had provided quotes (Mr J Lee – high end oak bus shelter £5,500; Steel ‘I’ beam and Oak timber bottle bank enclosure £4,175 – both including demolition / removal of existing structures). Declinations were based on availability and the complexity / speciality of works required. The Council, given no other local contractors could reasonable be sourced, opted to proceed given existing structures were continuing to deteriorate.

145.2 Jubilee Tap Lagging Works: The Clerk confirmed only one of three approached plumbers had quoted for the works (JS Plumbing – supply and fit standpipe, bib tap, lockable box surround and pipe lagging £370). Given Hartog Hutton has since completed some of the works (standpipe / tap) the Clerk was to obtain revised quotes from other contractors to reflect new requirements (tap box / enclosure only).

145.3 Additional Works: Given recent warm weather the Council approved a final cut the grass surrounding St. Nicholas (£125). Costs of proposed additional sand / sandbags and storage boxes were also proposed by the Flood Sub Committee to the full Council which were approved (costs circulated via email in advance, copy on file).

2024/146

Rolling Review of Council Policies – 01 Standing Orders

Given limited Councillors being present, it was decided to delay review / approval until the January meeting.

2024/147

Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council s

147.1 Resignations – The Clerk confirm receipt (previously circulated via email) of Cllrs. Steve Atkinson and Paul Bradnam. The Council collectively expressed its sincere thanks to both, notably for Cllr. Atkinson’s unwavering commitment to various projects during his service (Jubilee Meadow, Wildlife Friendly Councillor, Rattlesden Primary School Liaison Officer). The Clerk confirmed that the BMSDC’s Electoral Services team has been informed and that adverts for new candidates were to be circulated.

147.2 Cemetery Entrance – Cllr. Goodlad raised the poor condition of the surface (tarmac) into the Council owned cemetery. He confirmed that Suffolk CC had declined to fund repairs. Cllr. Goodlad is to obtain quotations for the Parish Council to fund repairs given health and safety concerns.

2024/148

Next Meeting:

The date and time of the next meeting is the 28th January 2024 at 19:30 in the Village Hall. There is no meeting in December.

The meeting closed at 21:15