

# **RATTLEDEN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

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## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 May 2017 at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall**

**Present:** Parish Councillors: Cllr Kerry Burn (Chairman), Cllr Peter Brooke, Cllr Bridget Goodchild, Cllr Dan Jewers, Cllr Russell Morley, Cllr Julie Rayner and Cllr Ted Wright;  
County and District Councillor: Cllr Penny Otton;  
14 members of the public; and  
Parish Clerk: Mr Doug Reed (who took the minutes).

### **2017/01 Welcome and Introductions**

Those in attendance were welcomed formally by Cllr Kerry Burn, Chairman of the Parish Council, who chaired the meeting and asked for a minute's silence in remembrance of those killed and injured in a terrorist attack in Manchester which had happened the previous day.

### **2017/02 Apologies for Absence**

Received from: Mr Martin Evans (Community Council), Mr Adam Fayers (Football Club), Mrs Carole Gooderham (Mothers' Union). Mr Gary Sainty (Bike Show), Ms Joan Sibley (Playgroup) and Mr Chard Wadley (River Working Group).

### **2017/03 Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting**

It was proposed by Cllr Julie Rayner, seconded by Cllr Peter Brooke, that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 24 May 2016, be approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman. The proposal was carried. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **2017/04 County and District Council**

Cllr Mrs Penny Otton provided a comprehensive report on both Councils and on matters relevant to the village [written report held with the minutes].

### **2017/05 Parish Council**

Cllr Kerry Burn delivered a full account of the activities of the Parish Council in the past year [written report held with the minutes].

### **2017/06 Open Forum and Special Announcements**

The meeting enabled those present, plus representatives from the organisations, bodies and groups which serve Rattlesden, to ask questions, offer comments, and/or highlight issues of particular concern. The following were in attendance:

**Allotment Association** (Mr Mike Smith)  
**Community Council** (Mr Mark van der Ree)  
**Community Shop** (Mrs Camilla Keeling)  
**Footpaths Officer** (Mrs Gaye Reid)  
**Friends of Rattlesden Church** (Mr Kevin Widdick)  
**History Group** (Mrs Bridget Goodchild)  
**Post Office** (Mrs Judy Angus)

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**Ratty Ladies** (Mrs Sue Smith)

**Village Charity** (Mr Bill Angus)

**Village Hall** (Ms Sue Thomas)

**Website** (Mrs Kerry Burn)

It was confirmed, in response to a resident's question, that the bus shelter on Rising Sun Hill would be replaced. It had been severely damaged in February during Storm Doris and the Parish Council was committed to ensuring that a more robust version was provided as soon as the insurance claim had been settled. Both Cllr Burn and Cllr Otton replied to queries about the planning process and how residents might be able to comment on applications. The possibility of creating a new village plan was raised but it was generally agreed that the effort involved was unlikely to reap the results required. Mr Bill Angus noted that the Village Charity needed new trustees and an injection of fresh ideas and, to that end, he expected to call a meeting in the near future. It was noted that the District Council remained keen to promote 'Neighbourhood Plans' but it was acknowledged that this was a particularly expensive route to pursue with costs significantly beyond the reach of the Parish Council. Moreover, there were increasing question marks being raised over the benefits of having a neighbourhood plan.

*Written reports, as supplied by some organisations, held with the minutes.*

**2017/07**

## **Close**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their time in attending, and for their contributions in making the evening a success. The majority of attendees then moved to the Community Shop which was opened especially to coincide with the event to enable a better and/or renewed understanding to be gained of its importance to the village.

**The meeting closed at 8.34pm.**