

RATTLEDEN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 May 2018 at 7.30pm in Rattlesden Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: Cllr Kerry Burn (Chairman), Cllr Peter Brooke, Cllr Bridget Goodchild, Cllr Dan Jewers and Cllr Julie Rayner;
County and District Councillor: Cllr Penny Otton;
Deputy Leader of Suffolk County Council and Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Matters: Cllr Jane Storey;
Corporate Manager - Strategic Planning Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils: Robert Hobbs;
32 members of the public; and
Parish Clerk: Mr Doug Reed (who took the minutes).

2018/01 Welcome and Introductions

Those in attendance were welcomed formally by Cllr Kerry Burn, Chairman of the Parish Council, who chaired the meeting. Cllr Burn noted that the format of the evening would follow that of the BBC programme "Question Time" such that those present could ask questions of the panel members on any matters of concern to Rattlesden. Given the composition of the panel she noted that issues relating to highways were likely to be the focus.

2018/02 Apologies for Absence

Received from Parish Councillor Cllr Russell Morley.

2018/03 Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting

It was resolved that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 23 May 2017, be approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2018/04 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].

2018/05 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].

2018/06 Rattlesden "Question Time"

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 Panel comprised: Kerry Burn, Chairman of Rattlesden Parish Council; Penny Otton, County and District Councillor; Jane Storey, Deputy Leader of Suffolk County Council and Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Matters; and Robert Hobbs, Corporate Manager - Strategic Planning, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

Questions focused on highways issues including the significant rise in the volume of HGVs using the village, problems with the Buffer Depot in High

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Town Green, the installation of poor/inadequate advisory signs for HGVs relating to Birds Green and Lower Road, the narrowness and unsuitability of village roads for HGV traffic, the safety of pedestrians, damage caused by HGVs, the potential for a one-way system for HGVs through the village, concerns regarding the bridge near the School, speeding (related to several locations) and the increasing numbers of pot holes.

It was agreed by the panellists that they would, where possible, seek to take action on the matters raised although it was acknowledged that the majority of the subjects could only be dealt with by Suffolk Highways which, regrettably and despite ample notice, had declined to send a representative to the meeting.

2018/07

Close

The Chairman thanked Cllr Otton, Cllr Storey and Mr Hobbs for comprising the panel with herself - for answering questions where they were able; for committing to follow-up issues which could not be answered on the night; and for acknowledging and understanding criticism where it was forthcoming.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.