

RATTLEDEN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

30 May 2023 7:30pm
Rattlesden Village Hall

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction – Kerry Burn, Parish Council Chairman.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 24 May 2022.
4. Matters arising from the minutes.
5. County and District Councillor Report - Penny Otton.
6. Parish Council Report - Kerry Burn, Parish Council Chairman.
7. Any other reports.
8. Open Forum

An opportunity for any resident or representative of a village organisation to bring a matter to the attention of the village.



Kerry Burn, Chairman, Rattlesden Parish Council
Published: 23 May 2023

RATTLESDEN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Rattlesden Annual Parish Meeting held on 24 May 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: Cllr Kerry Burn (Chairman), Cllr Stephen Atkinson, Cllr Peter Brooke, Cllr Tony Edwards, Cllr David Goodlad, Cllr Russell Morley and
County and District Councillor: Cllr Penny Otton;
Three members of the public; and
Parish Clerk: Mr Andrew Scott (who took the minutes).

2022/01 Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Kerry Burn, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted that both she and Cllr Otton would offer reports following which questions could be addressed to either.

2022/02 Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllr Dan Jewers, Mr William and Mrs Judy Angus.

2022/03 Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting

It was resolved that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 13 April 2021, be approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2022/04 County and District Council

Cllr Mrs Penny Otton gave a full and informative report on both Councils and on matters relevant to the village [written report held with the minutes]. There were no questions to Cllr Otton.

2022/05 Parish Council

Cllr Kerry Burn delivered a detailed account of the activities of the Parish Council in the past year [written report held with the minutes]. There were no questions addressed to Cllr Burn.

2022/06 Rattlesden Open Forum

There was a discussion about problems caused by heavy goods vehicles passing through the village, in particular damage to roadside properties. It was considered regrettable that permission had been given to increase the storage capacity at the Airfield Depot, recognising that as long as this facility operated, HGV traffic through the village was unavoidable. Cllr Otton agreed to talk to the county Highways department with a view to a site visit, in particular to look at the junction at the bottom of Woolpit hill.

Written reports were received from the Parish Tree Officer, Carol Williamson, the Village Hall Committee Chair, Sue Thomas, and from Chard Wadley on behalf of the River Rat Group [held with the minutes].

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Annual Parish Report – 2022/23

Councillor: Penny Otton

Divisions: Thedwastre South

County Council Details

Mobile: 07545 423847

Email: penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk

Ukraine: One Year Anniversary

A year has passed since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It was on the 24th March that Councillors cross-party shared a single motion in support of Ukraine. Our Group recommended the motion, condemning the actions of Putin, as well as committed to support and welcome refugees to become a part of Suffolk communities. The 'Homes for Ukraine' programme continue to provide hosts for refugees but is in dire need of more households to come forward and offer temporary accommodation. If you think you can still help, please visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/Ukraine.

Hosts are entitled to £350 per month, which increases to £500 after 12 months.

A14 MAJOR WORK; we need to make sure that traffic is not using the side roads as a diversion. There us a direct line number to report any problems

LOCALITY BUDGET; I have been able to help fund 2 projects for the Pre-school

CORONATION EVENT; Suffolk county council waived any fees for street closures.

FULL COUNCIL:

Over the past 12 months my Group have submitted motions for Full Council meeting.

In July, we asked this Council to declare a **cost-of-living emergency** in the county of Suffolk. With Winter looming, we believed more emphasis was needed on providing emergency support to the most vulnerable households. This was voted down.

In December, we ask the Council to commit further to **Community Transport**, as well as investigate further into why the council failed in their Bus Back Better bid. Rural bus services have been frequently cut, and the council's failed bid meant millions for investment in restoring the bus network was lost. Again, this was voted down.

I am very proud that the motion I put to **promote cleaner rivers in Suffolk**. Was agreed unanimously. We believe every community should have access to safe waters. The motion committed the Council to investigate further into what further work can be done to protect biodiversity and address polluting run-off in rivers, as well as working with farmers to encourage better practice.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY; in 2019 our motion to declare a climate emergency was agreed, however as there are now 31 new councillors, we decided to ask for that commitment again last month which was approved

Carbon Budget – SCC is Not on Track

Importantly, the Council's progress towards achieving Net Zero by 2030 – a declaration made by SCC in 2019. Current forecasts show that SCC will still be producing 10,000 tonnes of CO2 in 2030.

As SCC has had 31 new Cllrs since the original declaration, our Group will be asking Cllrs to redeclare their commitment to Net Zero by 2030 last month

Suffolk Devolution: Big Deal?

In 2022, the Government published its White Paper on Levelling-Up, within which it has agreed that Suffolk will be one of nine initial 'County Deals' up for negotiation to devolve powers. A public consultation will now follow, asking residents if this is what communities want. The deal will look to install a directly elected leader, commonly known as a Mayor.

HIGHWAYS: I have had at least 3 meetings with highways officers to get | Rising sun hill delat with. The highways contract has been rewarded to another company so maybe they will have better responses. We also drove along Poy Street and that should now be dealt with.

SPEEDING: I'm sure you agree the speed signs have been really successful in getting drivers to slow down, so am pleased to have been able to help with the costs

MIDSUFFOLK

It was a difficult decision to decide not to stand for re-election. But I know you will give Nicky all the help you have given me.

The new Green Party administration will take time to settle in.

BIN LORRIES; the competition to name the new ones took place.

PARKING ON ADSA CAR PARK; I have raised the problems there and the new machines are now in place.

BUSES; again we have tried to get help with a bus route to Stowmarket, there is now a Wednesday one run my David's coaches through Rattlesden to Stowmarket

GRANTS FOR CHARITIES AND COMMUNITIES' a new "pot" on top of locality fund

Find us on:

Twitter - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/

Facebook - Search 'Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group'

Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Annual Parish Meeting – 30 May 2023

Rattlesden Parish Council 2022-2023 Report

The Council met ten times during the year, ably assisted by our new Clerk, Andrew Scott.

Finances

The general budget for the year was slightly underspent, and in view of the satisfactory reserve position, we were pleased to be able to propose no increase in the precept on residents for 2023-24, despite the need to provide for unavoidable inflation in running costs. We received significant income during the year from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in respect of the developments at Rising Sun Hill and Top Road, leaving us with a balance of over £70,000. As the name suggests, this has to be spent on improvements to the village infrastructure, and we are launching a consultation on how people would like to see it used.

Jubilee Field Wood

Plaques commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were installed at the Jubilee Field. Unfortunately the saplings planted last Spring suffered very badly from the glorious but dry summer. During the winter replacement trees were received from the Woodland Trust, Babergh and Mid Suffolk Biodiversity Team and Hartog Hutton, and we hope that these will get off to a better start. We are indebted to Cllr Atkinson for organising the sourcing and replanting, and taking the lead in thinking about the longer-term development and management of the site.

Keeping the village clean and tidy

Our new Village Warden Freya McBain did a tremendous job throughout the year keeping the village clean, tidy and litter-free. We are very fortunate to have such a committed and resilient young person in the role.

Roads

CIL funding and a grant from our District Councillor's locality budget were used to purchase a fourth speed indicator device, which was deployed in High Street. Cllr Goodlad oversaw the installation and very kindly carried out the regular maintenance and charging of the devices on a voluntary basis. The records show that the devices do work in reducing average speeds in the village.

We were not immune from the nationwide plague of potholes this year. A pothole has to reach a certain size before it can be reported on the Suffolk County Council web site, and unfortunately this means that the job only ever seems to be half done. This was and continues to be most noticeable on Rising Sun Hill, which after persistent lobbying by Penny Otton has been listed for re-surfacing, although it is in a rather long queue.

Footpaths

The Parish Council continued to work with Suffolk County Council to deal with footpath issues during the year. We were very pleased to see the replacement of two foot bridges which enabled the cutting of footpaths 9 and 10 to be resumed at last. Thanks are due to Gaye Reid for carrying out the role of Footpaths Officer so conscientiously and efficiently.

Trees

We are grateful to Carol Williamson for standing by ready to bring her knowledge and experience to bear on relevant planning applications, and also this year for her valuable contribution to the planning for the Jubilee Field Wood.

Cemetery Green

Some funding was again made available to a resident who kindly volunteered to organise planting on the Green around the Village Sign, the results of which are widely appreciated.

Cemetery

There was just one burial during the year at the cemetery, which is owned and maintained by the Parish Council. A poppy wreath was laid at the War Memorial on behalf of the Council at the Armistice Day service.

447th Bomb Group Memorial

The Council continued to arrange and pay for the cutting of the grass at the Memorial. This has worked well and ensures the Memorial is kept at its best.

Allotments

The lease from Suffolk County Council for the Hanging Hill Allotments was renewed during the year, and we look forward to the new allotments at Jubilee Field being handed over following the completion of the Pightle Grove and Wheelwright Green developments.

Grants

During the year the Council made grants supporting new equipment for the children's playground, furniture for the Pre-School, equipment for the River Rat Volunteers, the printing of Rattlesden Revelations, and the Christmas Tree at the Village Shop. We made donations to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, Headway Suffolk, and Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk.

Council/Village Assets

Councillors carry out regular inspections of village assets such as seats, the bottle bank, the bus shelters and the grit bins. A number of repair jobs were identified and carried out during the year. A group of volunteers arranged the re-location of the old red telephone box to the centre of the village where it undoubtedly enhances the character of the village, and can better serve its new purpose as an information kiosk.

Planning

The Council was consulted about and responded to 21 (2022 33) planning applications during the year. These were largely uncontroversial, and Council made no objections.

Website

As ever, Parish Council information is readily available on the village website - please have a look if you have not already done so or are unfamiliar with the facility.

Thanks

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks, as Chairman, to all the other councillors for their hard work on the Council. It is entirely voluntary, and can occupy a significant amount of their time. Their personal commitment is very much appreciated.

Thanks particularly this year to Peter Brooke who has stood down after serving for the last seven years. Peter acted as our liaison with the Rattlesden Airfield Group and also looked after the Village Hall defibrillator. As there were no new nominations at the elections we will be looking to appoint to the vacancy at our June meeting, and anyone who is interested should contact the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

Finally the Council would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to Penny Otton who has retired as our District Councillor after an astonishing 32 years of service. We are delighted that she will continue to represent our ward at the county level.

Cllr Kerry Burn
Chairman