

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 5 March 2020
Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Robin Brown
Cllr Lesley Free
Cllr Sally Smith

Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Nick Free

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
County/District Cllr Jessica Fleming
5 Members of the public

7.30pm The Vice-Chair welcomed those present and opened the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Short.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** There were no applications.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 6 February 2020:** The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr L Free.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
6. **Public Forum:** County Cllr Jessica Fleming reported that the NHS was consulting on a new orthopaedic centre in Ipswich until 1 April. She noted that eligible students/parents needed to opt in to receive Council Funded School Travel for 2020/2021 (closing date 31 March). She also reported that the SCC cabinet had decided not to support continued work on the Ipswich Northern relief road plans. Finally, she reported that Suffolk Recycling (SCC) had premiered an Online Directory for Bulk Household Goods. Several shops in Suffolk were offering refills for household items to cut down on packaging waste. The directory was available at <https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/reduce-your-waste/refill-directory>.

In her capacity as District Cllr, Jessica reported that a £2.2m upgrade had been approved for the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre, Stowmarket and for other improvements in the District. She also reported that the District Council's 20/21 budget proposals included a 1.66% increase in its share of council tax, adding £2.76 a year to the bill of a Band D Property. The budget had been considered by Mid Suffolk cabinet members and Overview and Scrutiny and would go to Full Council in February; if approved it would come into effect on 1st April. Finally, she reported that the Climate Change and Biodiversity task group were currently focussing on reducing emissions.

A member of the public asked about footway skirting and it was confirmed that Rectory Hill was due to be done in the next month.

7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:** None.
 - 7.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:** None.
 - 7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**
 - 7.3.1 **Mount Cottage, Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/20/00247. Application for works to Trees in a Conservation Area - (T1) Scots Pine Fell, (T2) Ash - Reduce branch ends by 2.5m on west side to leave radius at 4m, (T3) Cypress Reduce branch ends on south side by 2m leave radius at 3m, (T4) Sycamore Reduce branch ends on south side by 2m leave radius at 3m. NO OBJECTION.
 - 7.3.2 **St Mary Church, Bury Road.** Ref. DC/20/00297. Application for works to Trees in a Conservation Area - T1 Oak – Fell. NO OBJECTION.
 - 7.4 **Notification of New Planning Appeals by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
8. **Progress Reports:**
 - 8.1 **Chairman:** None.

8.2 **Clerk:** It was reported that the developer of the land next to Jubilee House had been contacted concerning the unauthorised relocation of the notice board. The Clerk had been assured that it would be returned to near its original location.

9. **Correspondence:**

9.1 **MSDC:** It was noted that from 6 April, parking offences would become a civil matter and enforcement in Mid Suffolk would be dealt with by West Suffolk Council. The PC noted the services that could be provided by District Council funded PCSOs under a referral system which was via PC only. These included visits to schools, community groups and events, home security assessments, speed checks and dealing with neighbour disputes or anti-social behaviour. This information would be put on Facebook and a referral would be made requesting a speed check near the VAS site.

9.2 **MSDC:** The PC noted the increases in cost to PC of dog and litter bin emptying. Dog bin emptying would cost the parish £42.23 per bin, up from £41, and litter bins would cost £36.05, up from £35.

9.3 **East Anglia Children's Hospice:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to make a grant of £50 to EACH. This would be paid at the next meeting.

9.4 **SCC:** The PC noted the consultation on an application to establish a new public footpath in Rickingham from the junction of FP6 and FP26 near Candle Street to West Hall Road. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to support the application.

10. **General Items:**

10.1 **Vehicle Activated Sign:** The most recent data was noted, and it was hoped that the police would carry out a speed survey as per item 9.1.

10.2 **Village Hall Skate Park:** It was reported that grant applications to Awards4All and Sport England were well underway. Sport England had offered £15,000 if floodlighting could be added to the project, with the aim of extending the skate park's hours of use and increasing the impact of the project. The cost of floodlighting had not yet been investigated and it was noted that it might need planning permission. However, it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to support the application to Sport England and the floodlighting in principle, subject to costs and the receipt of funding.

10.3 **Defibrillator:** The phone box adoption had been completed. The Clerk had approached the MSDC Heritage team for advice about Listed Building Consent – further information was required about the equipment – and hoped to have a quote for the equipment from the Community Heartbeat Trust by the next meeting. There had been no interest so far in requests to quote for the refurbishment.

10.4 **Annual Newsletter:** It was agreed to ask St Botolphs School whether the children might be able to write a paragraph about what they liked about the village and what they would like to see improved. Cllr L Free would then turn this into a feature article for the newsletter. The Clerk would advise Cllr Free on the size of article that could be accommodated. Cllr Smith agreed to write the report for the Rickingham in Need charity and the Clerk would email a previous example.

10.5 **Infrastructure Delivery Plan:** It was noted that the first meeting of the Steering Group would take place on Wednesday, 18 March at 7pm in the upstairs meeting room at The Bell Inn. Cllr Short would be asked to represent Rickingham PC.

10.6 **Internal Audit Review:** Cllrs Brown and Smith had carried out the review based on the internal controls checklist provided by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils and had signed off on the accounts. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the review.

10.7 **Internal Auditor:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to appoint the Suffolk Association of Local Councils to carry out the Internal Audit at a cost of £235.

11. **Finance:**

11.1	Account Balance:	£ 35,657.19	
	Income:	£ 426.92	MSDC Street Cleaning Grant 3 rd qtr

11.2	Accounts for Payment:		
	Admin Payments	£ 883.24	Not itemised due to GDPR
	Street Sweeping etc.	£ 176.35	St Clean/VAS Feb 20
	Community Workshop Ltd	£ 300.00	Neighbourhood Plan Printing

RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts above.

12. **Highways Issues:** The Clerk would ask County Cllr Fleming to follow up on the flooding problems on Hinderclay Road. It was also agreed to ask Burgess Homes to make sure that the drain outside the site was unblocked when making good.
13. **Welcome Pack:** 1 to Cllr Brown.
14. **Councillors' Reports:**
 - **Allotments:** It was noted that Maurice Smith was standing down as Chairman.
 - **Local Charities:** Cllr Crossley-Holland reported that the last meeting had been held on 3 March and there were now two new members including Cllr Smith. It had been suggested that Rev Norburn write a history of the charity for the parish magazine.
 - **Public Rights of Way:** Cllr N Free reported that the landowner would install a new fingerpost at the entrance to FP 3 on Hinderclay Road and a new waypost for the Snape Hill permissive right of way to make the route clearer to walkers.
 - **Tree Warden:** The Clerk would send the Warden instructions on how to sign up to receive notice of tree applications directly from the MSDC planning website.
15. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** A house on Rectory Hill was attracting rats to rubbish in the front garden and the Clerk would report this.
16. **Next Meeting:** 2 April 2020 - Annual Parish Meeting to start at 7pm
17. **To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 for consideration of the following items:** It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to close the meeting to the public. The PC noted that the PC's employer contribution to the Clerk's pension would be reduced in the next financial year from 25% to 24%, and to 23% for the two following years. A 41-page pension statement would be added to Dropbox

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.19 pm.