

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 29 June 2023

Rickingham Village Hall

Present: Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland
Cllr Ian Patterson
Cllr Geoff Short (Chair)

Cllr Andy Gordon
Cllr Brian Rhodes
Cllr Sally Smith

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
County Cllr Jessica Fleming
6 Members of the Public

7.45pm The Chair welcomed those present and opened the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** District Cllr Gilly Morgan.
2. **Casual Vacancies:** There were no applications for seats on the Council.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 1 June 2023:** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed as a true record.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Short.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**
 - Cllr Short declared an interest in item 7.1.1 as the owner of an adjacent property.
 - Cllr Smith declared an interest in item 7.1.2 as the owner of the property and left the room during the discussion.
 - Cllr Crossley-Holland declared an interest in item 7.2.1 as the owner of an adjacent property.
 - Cllr Gordon declared an interest in item 7.2.2 as the owner of an adjacent property.
6. **Public Forum:** County Cllr Fleming reported that the National Grid's consultation on the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Project had started and would continue until August 21st. 'Drop-in' events were taking place along the line, the nearest being Diss Youth & Community Centre on 7th July, 2.00 at 7.00 pm. At its May meeting SCC Cabinet approved updates to the County's 2021 Energy Infrastructure Policy to include water infrastructure projects. New infrastructure was needed to secure water supplies and a new reservoir in Suffolk was under consideration to meet anticipated demand. The Government had committed to funding the replacement of West Suffolk Hospital. Outline planning permission was granted in 2022 for the Hardwick Manor site adjacent to the existing hospital and public outreach concerning details of related services would follow. A rare discovery of late Roman pewter plates, platters, bowls and a cup found in Euston in 2022 was now on public display at the West Stow Anglo-Saxon village and Museum until January 2024. The current 10-year contract with Suffolk Libraries came to an end in July 2024. Preparations were underway for a tender process to find a new provider/partner. The Suffolk Trading Standards Imports Surveillance team had detained over 13,000 e-scooters and e-bikes at Felixstowe Port over the past year on safety grounds and a further 9,000 were refused entry due to substandard batteries and chargers which posed serious risks of fire or electric shock.
A member of the public asked that the bench by the White Horse be cleared of bird mess and overhanging foliage. Another member of the public offered to clean the bench.
A member of the public asked whether there would be any EV charging points added in the village. It was noted that the Village Hall had expressed an interest in a scheme organised by Suffolk County Council. It was also noted that the proposed new solar panels should be able to accommodate EV charging points.
A member of the public asked about recent modifications to the Joint Local Plan, and it was confirmed that the PC had not been consulted about them.
Joolz Thompson, from a Community Benefit Society based in Thelnetham and a member of Hopton Parish Council, spoke about item 9.2 which aimed to support the County's net zero target. There were three possible pathways: 1) joining the Green Cluster; 2) engaging in writing a Community Action Plan; and 3) joining in a proposal to Community Energy South Pathways project which would provide advice on energy saving and possible community energy generation sites.

7. **Planning:**
- 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
- 7.1.1 **Park Lodge, Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/23/02354. Householder Application - Erection of a single-storey side and rear extension. It was noted that the plot was large enough to accommodate the extension and it was single-storey so would not be visible from adjacent properties. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
- 7.1.2 **The Uplands, The Street.** Ref. DC/23/02942. Householder Application - Construction of a new workshop/potting shed and construction of outbuilding to create home office and garden room. It was noted that the plot was large enough to accommodate the additional outbuildings and the application was well presented. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
- 7.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:**
- 7.2.1 **Lamorna Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/23/02885. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area 1) To dismantle to ground level one Red Maple, due to potential subsidence as garden too small. 2) To dismantle to ground level one Rowen, due to potential subsidence as garden too small. It was noted that the trees were poor specimens, and it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
- 7.2.2 **The Rosery, 6 St George's Drive.** Ref. DC/23/02886. Application for works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order MS/168-A1 - Reduce 2No Beech trees by a third and re-shape. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection but to request that the work not be carried out until autumn to prevent damage to the trees.
- 7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
8. **Progress Reports:**
- 8.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman had received an invitation from St Botolph's School to an event on 11 July to celebrate the completion of the School's decarbonisation project and the PC's contribution to the project. He would be attending.
- 8.2 **Clerk:** It was reported that the Bowls Club had written to confirm their request to amend the directional sign at Fen Lane to omit the Bowls Club. The new signs had been ordered.
9. **Correspondence:**
- 9.1 **Resident:** The PC noted the letter to the Planning Inspectorate concerning the Solar Farm appeal which argued that Government guidance to planning authorities indicated a strong presumption against solar farms on land classified in law as grade 3b or above. It was felt that the land in question should be classified as such due to its relatively high agricultural production.
- 9.2 **Suffolk Green Cluster:** The PC considered the invitation to join the Suffolk Green Cluster (Hinderclay, Hopton, Thelnetham, Blo Norton and Ixworth) and noted the information given in the public forum. The PC expressed an interest in learning more about the project and its benefits and agreed that it would be vital to have Botesdale on board before accepting the invitation.
10. **General Items:**
- 10.1 **Parish Assets Remedial Work:** The PC considered a quote from Parish Assets Management for replacement of village name sign at corner of Fen Lane, replacement of 3 wooden fingerpost signs near junction of Hinderclay Road, repair of Micklewood Green info board, relocation of litter bin next to phone box and new dog bin at corner of Fen Lane. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to go ahead with replacement of the sign at Fen Lane, the info board at Micklewood Green and the litter and dog bins. Councillors would inspect the fingerpost signs and determine whether all three were necessary.
- 10.2 **Northfield Wood:** No update.
11. **Finance (as of 29/06/23):**
- 11.1 **Account Balance:** £40,875.00
Bank Balance: £40,875.00
Income: £ 0.00
- 11.2 **Accounts for Payment (July):**
- | | | |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Admin Payments | £ 1,093.53 | Not itemised due to GDPR |
| Street Sweeping etc. | £ 287.55 | St Clean/PRoW July 23 |

Community Workshop Ltd	£ 429.00	Rickinghall News printing
Redgrave Parish Magazine	£ 25.00	Rickinghall News delivery
Suffolk County Council	£ 1,938.00	Street Light LED Updates – 2 units
Parkview Chapel	£ 500.00	PIIP Contribution to Youth Club

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

11.3 **Accounts for Payment (August):**

Admin Payments	£ 913.06	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 287.55	St Clean/PRoW Aug 23

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

12. **Highways Issues:** It was reported that there was a lot of foliage obscuring signs but noted that SCC was unlikely to have the resources to cut it back.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

14. **Councillors' Reports:**

- Parish Assets – It was agreed to ask Tim Gaddis to cut back the foliage around the bench near the White Horse.
- Village Hall – The Chairman read out a thank you note from the VH for the promised contributions to the solar panel project. It was also noted that the Market had a new fruit and vegetable seller.

15. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** None.

16. **Next Meeting:** 3 August 2023 (Planning only) or 7 September 2023

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:43pm.