

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 5 October 2023
Rickinghall Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Brian Rhodes
Cllr Sally Smith

Cllr Geoff Short (Chair)

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland, Cllr Andy Gordon, Cllr Ian Patterson and 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 7 September 2023:** The minutes, circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed as a true record.
4. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Smith.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
6. **Public Forum:** A member of the public complained about the new paving along The Street in front of Maypole Meadow. It was noted that this was private property. Another member of the public asked whether another Speed Indicator Device could be sited on Bury Road near the Hinderclay Road junction to influence traffic leaving the village. County Cllr Jessica Fleming reported that:
 - Suffolk schools known to be affected by RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) included East Bergholt HS, Hadleigh HS, Claydon HS, Farlingaye HS and Stowupland HS. Affected areas were closed off and alternative arrangements made. If further schools were identified steps would be taken ensure they were safe.
 - Pylons Meeting in Wortham/Royden – A public protest meeting was held on 30th September attended by MPs (Jo Churchill, Dan Poulter and Richard Bacon), Rosie Pearson, founder of the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons group, Council leaders and others. A strong message was sent that the project needed to be reviewed, options and costs made transparent, and National Grid made accountable to the public. It was noted that exploratory drilling has already been initiated for potential pylon locations.
 - Major Planning/Shepherd's Grove Stanton – Evolution's warehousing application DC/23/1154/OUT at Shepherd's Grove was live on the West Suffolk Council website with a deadline for comments by 11th October. The project was suggesting employing around 2,000 people. CoPart DC/22/1290/HYB was also live although the formal deadline for comments had passed. Both applications had major traffic implications for the A143, A14 other major and local road systems and communities as well as impacts such as water use, contamination and fire risk.
7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:** None.
 - 7.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:**
 - 7.2.1 **The Old Four Horseshoes, The Street.** Ref. DC/23/04351. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 10No conifers due to their poor condition, owners will replace with deciduous trees. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.2.2 **Brook Place, Water Lane.** Ref. DC/23/04352. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduction by one third of 2 Hollies, 2 Ash, 1 Sycamore, 1 Beech, 1 Hazel and 7 Conifer Trees, all of these have been previously reduced with the exception of the Conifers but are too large. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.2.3 **4 Brook Park.** Ref. DC/23/04353. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Remove 4No medium Limes, including roots, due to becoming too large for

their location causing deprivation of light and potential foundation intrusion. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.

7.2.4 **Nutmeg Cottage, The Street.** Ref. DC/23/04354. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce and reshape 2No Hawthorns, 1No Elder and 1No Lime Tree to re balance hedge line. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.

7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**

7.3.1 **Stanley Cottage, Bury Road.** Ref. DC/23/04130. Application for works to a tree in a Conservation Area - Reduce damaged Yew Tree by one third and collar trunk. NO OBJECTION.

7.4 **Notification of other Planning Matters:**

7.4.1 **The Anchorage, The Street.** Appeal Reference: APP/W3520/D/23/3324776. Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension and removal of section of roof and replace with shallower lean-to roof (following demolition of rear canopy and decking) Alterations to doors and windows as per schedule of works.

8. **Progress Reports:**

8.1 **Chair:**

- The Chair noted that Rickingham would be included in the Waveney Valley constituency, a new seat created by the Boundary Commission in its latest review. It included parts of south Norfolk including Diss and Harleston, along with communities in north Suffolk, including Bungay, Halesworth and Eye.
- The Chair noted that the new village name sign opposite the Greyhound Inn and the new fingerpost sign in the Rickingham churchyard were attractive additions to the street scene.

8.2 **Clerk:**

- The Clerk reported that the new directional signs at Fen Lane (to omit the Bowls Club) had been installed.

9. **Correspondence:**

9.1 **MSDC:** To note the publication of the Inspectors' Report on the Examination of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan 2018-2037.

10. **General Items:**

10.1 **Review and Update of Council Documents:** The PC reviewed the documents and it was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to accept the unamended Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Environmental and Sustainability Policy as well as the Reserves Policy, amended to increase General Reserves to £17,000 which was approximately 6 months' operating costs

10.2 **Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan:** The PC carried out the annual review of the PIIP and noted that references to the After School Club which had now closed would be removed. It was also noted that references to the old Speed Indicator Device needed updating. The number of places and children attending St Botolph's School would also be checked. It was agreed to write to organisations again to see if they were going forward with their projects and to advertise in the parish magazine for further local projects. The PIIP would be brought back to the PC in December. It was agreed that it might be worth reviving the PIIP Sub Committee to undertake a more thorough review once the consultation with local organisations had been completed.

10.3 **Remembrance Day:** Cllr Crossley-Holland usually represented Rickingham PC and would be given the wreath.

10.4 **Speed Indicator Device:** The PC looked at an initial estimate of around £3,000-£3,500 for an additional SID for Bury Road to be sited opposite the existing SID. It was agreed to consider this as part of the budget-setting exercise. However, it was agreed that if approved, it would be better sited closer to the junction with Rectory Hill, opposite the stone milepost. The location would need to be agreed with Suffolk County Council.

10.5 **Parish Assets Remedial Work:** The fingerposts opposite Hinderclay Road and next to the bus stop had been removed. The remaining fingerpost sign in the churchyard and the 'Rickingham' sign opposite the Greyhound Inn had been replaced. The Micklewood Green info board had been repaired, the litter bin next to phone box had

been relocated nearer the walks notice board and a new dog bin had been installed nearby. All work had been carried out by Parish Assets Management Ltd.

11. **Finance (as of 30/09/23):**

11.1 Account Balance:	£ 47,802.39	
Bank Balance:	£ 47,802.39	
Income:	£ 15,800.00	MSDC Parish Precept 23-24 (1/2)

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£ 933.46	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 279.85	St Clean/PRoW/etc September 23
Clear Councils (form. BHIB)	£ 635.03	Insurance Renewal 2023-24
Pear Technology	£ 90.00	PT Mapper Pro Support & Updates
Peter Frizzell Ltd	£ 165.00	Low Meadow – Cut & collect grass
Parish Assets Management	£ 5,045.48	Work to signs and village furniture

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

Payments by Direct Debit:

Info Commissioner	£ 35.00	Data Protection Registration
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12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Welcome Pack:** 1 to Cllr Short.

14. **Councillors' Reports:**

- Local Charities – A meeting was due to be held at the end of October.
- Public Rights of Way – The steps/handrails at the A143 crossing still needed attention. It was noted that they had been reported some time ago and were on the list for repair by SCC.

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

16. **Next Meeting:** 2 November 2023

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:25pm.