

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday, 7 December 2023
Rickinghall Village Hall

Present: Cllr Gillian Crossley-Holland Cllr Andy Gordon
Cllr Ian Patterson Cllr Brian Rhodes
Cllr Geoff Short (Chair) Cllr Sally Smith

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve
3 Members of the Public

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** County Cllr Jessica Fleming 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 2 November 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 Rhodes declared an interest in items 7.1.2 and 7.1.3 as the owner of the property and left the room during the discussion.
6. **Public Forum:** None.
7. **Planning:**
 - 7.1 **Planning Applications:**
 - 7.1.1 **Greenacres, Garden House Lane.** Ref. DC/23/04421. Planning Application - Severance of part garden and erection of 1No Bungalow with vehicular access via existing access to Greenacres. The PC agreed that it was a tight plot with limited garden but that it would have little impact on nearby houses. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.1.2 **Bridge House, Bury Road.** Ref. DC/23/05418. Householder Application - Erection of single storey extension to existing kitchen (following demolition of existing conservatory). Installation of new external boiler. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.1.3 **Bridge House, Bury Road.** Ref. DC/23/05419. Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of single storey extension to existing kitchen (following demolition of existing conservatory). Installation of new external boiler. 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 **Newholme, Bury Road.** Ref. DC/23/05507. Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - A 1/3rd reduction of Walnut tree (T1) as it is beginning to interfere with next door neighbour's roof. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:**
 - 7.3.1 **Willowmere, Gardenhouse Lane.** Ref. DC/22/04615. Full Planning Application - Erection of 10No dwellings (following demolition of existing garage and stores associated with builders yard). Planning Permission REFUSED.
 - 7.3.2 **Hillside, Warrens Lane.** Ref. DC/23/04776. Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing extension and shed). Planning Permission GRANTED.
8. **Progress Reports:**
 - 8.1 **Chair:** The Chair reported that there was no resolution for the Community Bus and he would write a report on the options for continuation of the service.
 - 8.2 **Clerk:** None.
9. **Correspondence:**
 - 9.1 **SCC:** The PC noted the outcome following the recent street lighting term maintenance contract procurement carried out by Suffolk County Council and the appointment of J McCann & Co Ltd. from 1st October 2023.

- 9.2 **MSDC:** The PC noted the invitation to participate in consultation on Local Listed Building Consent Orders, a legal tool that would simplify the process for making certain types of improvements to listed buildings. It was agreed that councillors with listed buildings would respond.
- 9.3 **MSDC:** It was noted that the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan – Part 1 2018-2037 was formally adopted by Mid Suffolk District Council on 20 Nov 2023.

10. **General Items:**

10.1 **Flooding Prevention:** It was noted that District Cllr Morgan had visited the Rickinghall flooding “hotspot” with the Chair. Suffolk County Council had removed silt from the waterway on Water Lane, but it was not known whether the work was enough to have an effect on flooding. Cllr Rhodes reported that SCC hadn’t responded yet to his requests for the drains to be unblocked. He also complained that the street sweeper had blown leaves into the drains and it was agreed that the Clerk would investigate this. The Clerk had drafted a two-page flooding emergency guide based on the SCC guide. This had been disseminated via the website and Facebook in order to help residents find the support they needed, and it was hoped that it could be accommodated in the next parish magazine. Other information about financial and practical support from the District and County Council had been circulated via Facebook. It was noted that some residents had received payments from the District Council, but other payments had been delayed for unknown reasons. County Cllr Fleming and District Cllr Morgan had been appealed to for help in this matter. It was agreed to write to them to support a more timely resolution of the problems outlined above. The Clerk would also write to the SCC flooding team to reiterate the need for additional attention to flooding hotspots.

10.2 **Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan:** There was no update.

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

11.1	Account Balance:	£ 39,657.86	
	Bank Balance:	£ 39,657.86	
	Income:	£ 541.84	MSDC Street Cleaning Grant 2 nd qtr

11.2 **Accounts for Payment:**

Admin Payments	£ 1,312.86	Not itemised due to GDPR
Street Sweeping etc.	£ 182.35	St Clean December 23
Starboard Systems Ltd	£ 417.60	Scribe Accounts
Rickinghall Village Hall	£ 315.00	Hall Hire 2024
Rickinghall Village Hall	£ 3,214.20	CIL/PIIP Funds – Solar Project
Botesdale Parish Council	£ 800.00	Christmas Events Contribution

RESOLVED, with all agreed (with the exception of Street Sweeping: 5 for and 1 against), to approve payment of the accounts above.

11.3 **Draft Budget 2024-25:** The PC agreed that the draft budget was ready to be approved at the next meeting.

12. **Highways Issues:** None.

13. **Welcome Pack:** None.

14. **Councillors’ Reports:**

- Local Transport – Cllr Smith had responded to the consultation on public bus services at Suffolk County Council and suggested changes to the timetable servicing students at West Suffolk College which would allow them to take an earlier bus.
- SALC – The Clerk had attended a conference at which the new Highway contractor, Milestone, had discussed its approach to work within the county. The slides had been circulated to councillors.
- Village Hall – Funding contributions to the solar project had been secured.

15. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** It was noted that Government was funding a study to look at offshore alternatives to the Norwich to Tilbury Pylons Project. Also, the Sunnex solar farm decision had been delayed and another large-scale solar scheme in Suffolk had gone straight to the Planning Inspectorate.

16. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 9 January 2024

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:43pm.