

Minutes of the Meeting of Rattlesden Parish Council
held on 3 March 2009
at 8.00p.m. in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors Davey, Edrich, Edwards, Evans, Goodchild, and Suter

Apologies: Councillor Keeling

In attendance: District and County Councillor Penny Otton and Ms Jones

123. Minutes

123.1 The minutes of the previous meeting, having been distributed beforehand, were declared a true and correct record. A copy was signed by the Chairman.

124. Matters arising

124.1 The Chairman reported on the following matters arising from the previous meeting:

- Suffolk County Council had agreed that a small 'No Through Road' sign would be appropriate for Half Moon Street. It had asked Mid Suffolk District Council to provide this as part of its road-signage service.
- The parish clerk of Drinkstone had advised that the Drinkstone Road was to be resurfaced when the weather improved and, in the meantime, would be swept regularly.
- The Clerk had sent Jim Nunn an email, thanking him for his help over the years and wishing him well in his retirement.

The meeting was then adjourned

125. Report from District and County Councillor Penny Otton

125.1 Councillor Otton reported that she had met representatives of the Highways Department to discuss the poor quality of resurfacing on some local roads.

125.2 She asked the Clerk to mention in *Rattlesden's Revelations* that she would like to hear from anybody who might be prepared to act as a school governor.

125.3 A new letting scheme for council houses would allow applicants to register on the housing lists for neighbouring councils. Councillor Otton asked the Clerk to advise people to register or check that their registration was still valid, in order to make sure that they were eligible for the new scheme.

125.4 Councillor Otton was trying to arrange for a payment from the Section 106 fund to be made to the Community Council for the new pavilion.

125.5 She had been told that Hastoe Housing was preparing a plan for additional affordable housing next to Windyridge Road, and that the plan would include a play area.

126. Public discussion

126.1 There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

The meeting then resumed.

127. Planning

127.1 Planning applications: The Councillors considered the following planning application:

Reference	Applicant	Details	Decision
3408/08	Mr J Coombes	Single-storey extension to Allerton House, Lower Road with detached building for use as a home office	Support

127.2 Planning permissions: The Councillors noted the following planning permission:

Reference	Applicant	Details
4187/08	Suffolk County Council	Removal of sycamore from Rattlesden School

127.3 Wind turbines: Ms Jones suggested that the parish council should consider the possibility of having a wind turbine for the village. It was agreed that this topic should be discussed and the annual meeting of the parish. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to contact Phil Strickland, as he was believed to have experience of the subject. Councillor Otton volunteered to find out what information and support would be available from the district or county council.

127.4 The Clerk was also asked to find out about the boilerjuice offer of discounts for groups of people ordering heating oil.

128. Flooding

128.1 Councillor Edwards outlined the problems that had arisen for houses on Lower Road during the recent flooding. Most of these were caused by vehicles using the road while it was flooded. Councillor Otton offered to find out whether it would be possible for residents to close the road on such occasions. The Clerk was also asked to find out whether anybody

would be prepared to store sandbags in the centre of the village, as it was felt that the store on Windyridge Road might be difficult to access in a major flood.

129. Finance

129.1 Accounts for payment: The following accounts were approved for payment:

Payee	Description	Amount
Birketts llp	Fee for registration of lease and additional work in connection with the boundary between the Village Hall and Institute House	£189.75
Rattlesden Village Hall Committee	Hire of hall on 28/10/2008 and 25/11/2008	£13.00
Rattlesden Parochial Church Council	Inserts in <i>Rattlesden's Revelations</i>	£40.00
Mid Suffolk District Council	Twelve months payment for garden waste bin for the cemetery	£40.00
Mrs Jean Coleman	Litter-picker's salary for February 2009	£91.68
Mrs Sparke	Gift to mark Mrs Sparke's retirement as chair of the Village Hall Committee	£50.00

129.2 Accounts: The accounts to the end of December 2008, having been checked by Councillor Edrich, were approved by the council.

129.3 Financial Officer: The council was informed that a serving councillor was not permitted to act as Responsible Financial Officer. Councillor Edwards proposed that Councillor Edrich should act as Financial Officer. Councillor Evans seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Councillor Edrich accepted the appointment.

129.4 Updating the Rattlesden Directory: The council approved the cost of reprinting the Rattlesden Directory, as soon as it had been updated. Once the website version of the Directory had been updated, the Clerk was asked to publicise it in *Rattlesden's Revelations*.

129.5 Requests for financial support: The Councillors considered requests for financial support from Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau and Age Concern. It was decided that neither body met the agreed criteria for making grants.

130. 'Your place' project

130.1 The Councillors decided not to submit any priorities to this pilot, either directly or through Councillor Otton, because the council had taken the view that it did not support the aims of the project.

131. Highways and footpaths

131.1 Rising Sun Hill: Councillor Otton asked the Clerk to provide her with a written request for white-lining on Lower Road, opposite Rising Sun Hill, and for measures to prevent parking there.

131.2 White-lining: The Clerk was asked to remind the Highways Department that the white lines should be repainted at the junction of Lower Road and Birds Green and at the junction of Half Moon Street and Lower Road.

131.3 Complaint about speeding: The Councillors sympathised with Mr Carne's complaint about speeding along the Stowmarket Road, but agreed that, as the Clerk had already informed the police, there was little more that they could do.

131.4 Signs for High Town Green: The Clerk informed the meeting that it would cost £110 to reposition the signs for High Town Green. The Councillors felt it was not appropriate to authorise this expenditure.

132. Village Hall

132.1 Retirement of Mrs Sparke: Councillor Davey proposed that the council should give Mrs Sparke a cheque for £50, together with a bouquet, to mark her retirement as chair of the Village Hall Committee. The motion was seconded by Councillor Suter and was carried unanimously.

133. Allotments

133.1 The Chairman reported that neither Mr Clements nor Mr Arnold Davey was prepared to make land available for allotments. Councillor Otton agreed to ask Mid Suffolk District Council if there was any possibility of renting the land behind St. Nicholas Close. The Clerk was also asked to check whether the old playing field off Rising Sun Hill was the subject of a land bid and, if it was not, to approach the Parochial Church Council again to see if it would be prepared to lease the land on a short-term basis.

133.2 The Councillors considered a suggestion from Lady Morris that the council should rent Mr Watts' old garden at the top of Church Path. It was agreed to defer a decision on this until the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to inform Lady Morris that the council was investigating this and other sites.

134. Cemetery

134.1 The Councillors decided against accepting a quotation from John Lee for cemetery maintenance. It was therefore agreed that Woolpit Landscapes should continue to cut the grass for the next year.

134.2 The Chairman reported that Councillor Mahony was hoping to cut the cemetery hedge by the end of March.

134.3 The Councillors agreed that, at the next meeting, they would fix a date to meet in the cemetery and review its maintenance.

135. Correspondence

135.1 A list of correspondence was noted. (The list is set out at the end of these Minutes.)

135.2 Community e-vines: The Councillors considered a suggestion that the village should have an email mailing list to alert residents to recent crimes. They decided not to take this further for the time being.

135.3 Invitation to a parish council quiz night: The Councillors decided that they would not send a team to this event.

135.4 New service from the Citizens Advice Bureau: The Councillors noted a new financial counselling service offered by the CAB. This had been publicised in *Rattlesden's Revelations*.

136. Any other business

136.1 Bus shelter: Councillor Davey reported that the bus shelter on Lower Road had been swept, but that the garden waste behind the bottle bank had not been moved. The Clerk was asked to put a thank-you for the tidying in *Rattlesden's Revelations* and to remind Mid Suffolk District Council about removing the rubbish.

136.2 Drainage ditches: Councillor Davey also pointed out that various drainage ditches needed clearing. These were the ones on Woolpit Hill (where the running water was dangerous if it froze), Cemetery Green and Lower Road, near the Five Bells path.

136.3 Stansted expansion: The Chairman reported that the public enquiry into the proposed expansion of Stansted had been delayed and that NATS would be consulting again on its stacking proposals. .

136.4 Annual meeting of the parish: The Clerk was asked to fix a date for this meeting and to publicise it in *Rattlesden's Revelations*.

136.5 Chairman: Councillor Goodchild stated that he would not be standing as chairman at the next annual parish council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was brought to a close at 9.55 pm.

Rattlesden Parish Council meeting on 3 March 2009

Correspondence received

Item	Date
1. Acknowledgement from Woolpit Health Centre of letter saying that Rattlesden Parish Council would not be represented at its meeting	05.02.09
2. Notification that Dr P Thomas has been granted permission to dispense (no Rattlesden patients are registered with him)	06.02.09
3. Leaflet on Suffolk Walking Festival 2009	
4. Invitation to a Suffolk Preservation Society party on Thursday 19 March	
5. Copy of <i>The Town Crier</i> (Stowmarket magazine)	
6. Information from SALC: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Request for nomination to Buckingham Palace Garden Parties■ Details of courses for clerks	
7. Email introducing Nigel Panting, the new Intelligent Transport Systems and Street Lighting Leader at Suffolk County Council	11.02.09
8. Update from Mid Suffolk District Council Waste and Environmental Services	
9. Copy letter from Save Our Silence Action Group to NATS about stacking proposals	28.01.09
10. January update on 'Your Place' project	