

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 27 November 2008
Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors:	Mrs E Draper (Chairman)	M Bryant
Mrs M Carrington-Brown	Mrs G Crossley-Holland	P Jenner
B Johnson	C Last	J Stacey

Parish Clerk: Leeann Jackson-Eve
District Councillor Sara Michell
County Councillor Charles Michell
PC Nic Kegge
Four members of the public

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

1. **Apologies for absence.**

An apology was received from Cllr S Pattenden.

2. **To confirm the minutes of the Annual Meeting 23 October 2008.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 October were agreed and signed.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:** The following items were reported:

- The Mini Litter Pick had not been a success due to rain.
- There had been no reply from Mr Rose concerning the clearing up of glass.
- The editors of the Parish Magazine thanked RPC for the monthly reports.
- Item 11 – There had been no reply from Wherry Housing Association to the PC's complaint re the way WHA had handled the new tenants' concerns. It was noted that David Ruffley MP had offered to take up the matter if WHA did not reply satisfactorily.

4. **Magazine Input:** Councillor Johnson to draft a report.

5. **Members Declaration of Interest on agenda items.** None.

6. **Public Forum:**

7.40pm RESOLVED, with all agreed, to adjourn the meeting for the public forum. The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.50pm.

7. **Correspondence:**

7.1. **Suffolk County Council:** Draft Fire Action Plan 2009-2010. The PC agreed to return the questionnaire pointing out that it was difficult to form an opinion on the proposed improvements without knowing the associated costs.

7.2. **Suffolk County Council:** The PC noted the request for waiting restrictions at the exits of The Chestnuts onto The Street but without evidence of a particular problem with parking next to the exits, the PC considered that the use of double yellow lines in a Conservation Area had not been justified.

7.3. **MSDC:** The details of a hearing into an appeal by Mrs R Harris re development at Oak Lodge, Allwood Green, Rickinghall were received and it was noted that Cllrs Last and Stacey planned to attend.

7.4. **MSDC:** Local Development Framework Update. Circulated for information.

7.5. **MSDC:** Register of Electors 2009. Copies were requested by Cllrs Carrington-Brown, Draper and Last.

7.6. **Communities and Local Government:** White Paper - The making and enforcement of byelaws (circulated in October). The PC agreed that there was need for some form of central control if all local councils were able to make byelaws. The PC also questioned who would enforce the new byelaws.

7.7. **SALC:** Freedom of Information Act: Publication Scheme. The PC noted the requirements of the new model Publication Scheme which must be adopted by councils by 1 January 2009. The Council RESOLVED, with all in favour, to adopt

the scheme, circulated before the meeting, which outlined where documents covered by the FoI Act could be accessed. A copy would be posted on the website in .pdf format and included in the PC book at the Post Office.

- 7.8. **Suffolk Preservation Society:** Copy of comments to MSDC re Planning Applications 2990/08 – Land at Kiln Farm, Candle Street. This was noted.
- 7.9. **Botesdale PC:** Contribution request for War Memorial Insurance - The Council RESOLVED, with all in favour, to pay £49.05, which was 1/3 of the cost of the insurance when shared by three parishes.
- 7.10. **Cheryl Buxton:** Father Christmas. The PC noted the safety changes in the route and RESOLVED, with all in favour, to increase the donation for 2008 to £75 due to increased costs of the event.
- 7.11. **Jill McConnell:** The PC noted the complaint re removal of bottle banks at VH and the Clerk reported that a reply had been sent.
- 7.12. **Roy Booth:** The PC noted the complaint re removal of bottle banks at VH and the Clerk reported that a reply had been sent.

The following items arriving after publication of the agenda were also considered:

- 7.13. **Suffolk County Council:** Annual surface clearance of public rights of way. The PC noted the letter explaining that SCC did not have the funds to cut all Category 1 paths and asking whether the selected paths met with RPC's approval. It was agreed to consult the Rickinghall Ramblers, and Cllrs Johnson and Last would report on the scheme at the next meeting.
- 7.14. **Circle Anglia:** The PC noted the Landscape Management Plan Document for the land at 1-10 Hinderclay Road and it was agreed that Cllr Stacey would compare the document to the previously approved landscape drawings. The PC also RESOLVED, with all in favour, to appoint Gudgeons Prentice to act on the PC's behalf in the transfer of the land.

8. Planning:

- 8.1. **Planning Applications:** None.
- 8.2. **Notice of Intent to prune/remove trees in the Conservation Area:** None.
- 8.3. **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:** The following decisions by the District Council were noted.
 - 8.3.1. **Land to the rear of Northdene, The Street, Rickinghall.** Ref: 3147/08. Planning Permission REFUSED.
 - 8.3.2. **Land to the rear of Northdene, The Street, Rickinghall.** Ref: 3147/08. Conservation Area Consent REFUSED.
 - 8.3.3. **The Old Four Horseshoes, The Street, Rickinghall Inferior.** Ref: 3301/08 and 3304/08. Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent GRANTED.
 - 8.3.4. **Sumlan Place, Newdelight Road, Rickinghall Superior.** Ref: 3308/08. Planning Permission REFUSED.

9. Finance:

- **Account Balances:**

Current A/C	£671.81
Deposit A/C	£ 19,546.23
- **Accounts for Payment:**

L Jackson-Eve	£ 346.27	Sal/Exps Nov 08
J Rose	£ 103.55	St Sweeping Nov 08
Pearce & Kemp	£ 49.66	Inv 24921 Oct A/C
- **Direct Debits:**

E.On Energy	£ 52.95	Inv H719B8359 Oct A/C
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RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts detailed above with the addition of the following payments agreed by the Parish Council:

Botesdale PC	£ 49.05	War Memorial Insurance (Item 7.9)
Redgrave CC	£ 75.00	Father Christmas s137 (Item 7.10)

- **Car Allowances:** The PC noted the car allowances Casual User Rate (less than 8,500 miles pa) agreed on by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services for use from 1 April 2008.
 - **Budget/Precept 2009/10** The draft budget was considered by the Council and the comments made by the Clerk relating to the need for a rise in the Precept to meet the Council's commitments for the next year were noted. The Chairman asked that the Council give the matter serious consideration and it was agreed to discuss the detail of the budget again at the December meeting. The PC considered the following correspondence along with the budget:
 - **Diss Citizens Advice Bureau:** Request for donation and the Annual Report (Circulated for info). To be considered at May meeting with other grants.
 - **Rickingham PCC:** The PC noted the request for increased grant towards the upkeep of two churchyards for 2009 and would consider it along with other budget discussions.
10. **Councillors Reports:**
Highways Issues:
- It was reported that the road name sign at the junction of Calkewood Lane and Briar Lane had been knocked into the ditch. The Clerk to notify SCC.
 - It was reported that the light at the bus stop was out. The Clerk to notify P&K.
- Public Rights of Way:** It was reported that the ploughed-up section of the Candle Street footpath had not yet been dealt with. The Clerk to follow up.
- Village Hall:** It was reported that Bob Clark was the new chairman of the VH Management Committee.
11. **Allotments:** The Clerk reported the valuation for the land was still not available but SCC had promised that it would be ready by the end of the year. It was agreed that the Clerk would write with details of the proposed use to aid in the valuation.
12. **Registration of Parish Council owned land with HM Land Registry:** The Clerk reported that Gudgeons Prentice had drawn up the paperwork for registration of the Royal Observer Corps site.
13. **Village Hall Play Equipment:** It was reported that further grant aid had been sought but the VHMC had not met the criteria and no other sources of funding had been identified. The grant application to MSDC would be considered again at the start of the next financial year.
14. **Village Hall Bottle Banks:** It was reported that the bottle banks had been relocated by MSDC to the Snape Hill lay-by for a six month trial. The VHMC would receive the proceeds as before.
15. **Emergency Planning Policy:** The PC agreed to develop a policy together with Botesdale PC. Cllr Crossley-Holland to liaise with BPC.
16. **December Meeting:** Agreed to ask Cllr Pattenden to take minutes at this meeting.
17. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council / Items for next agenda:** None.
18. **Employment matters:** 9.20pm Under the **Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960** the Council RESOLVED to close the meeting to the public to discuss the Clerk's employment contract.
19. **Next Meeting:** 18 December 2008
Agreed meeting dates for 2009: 22 Jan; 26 Feb; 26 Mar; 23 Apr; 28 May; 25 Jun; 23 Jul; 27 Aug (Planning only); 24 Sep; 22 Oct; 26 Nov; 16 Dec (Wednesday).
 Annual Parish Meeting to be confirmed in 2009.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.