

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 24 April 2008
Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors:

Mrs E Draper (Chairman)

Mrs G Crossley-Holland

C Last

M Bryant

B Johnson

S Pattenden

Mrs M Carrington-Brown

P Jenner

J Stacey

Parish Clerk: Leeann Jackson-Eve

Five members of the public

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

1. **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were accepted from County Councillor Charles Michell and District Councillor Sara Michell.

2. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting 27 March 2008.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 February were agreed and signed.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mrs Cheryl Buxton following up on her enquiry about liability insurance for Father Christmas. (Item 7.6, 28 Feb 2008)

4. **Magazine Input:**

Councillors agreed the rota and noted that Cllr B Johnson would prepare a report of the meeting for the RBR Parish magazine.

5. **Members Declaration of Interest on agenda items.**

Cllr Stacey Personal Interest Item 14

6. **Public Forum:**

7.35pm **RESOLVED**, with all agreed, to adjourn the meeting for the public forum. The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.58pm.

RESOLVED, with all agreed, to write to relevant parties concerning the matters discussed in the public forum (see attached Appendix).

7. **Correspondence:**

7.1. **Suffolk CC** – Reply to request for more information regarding bus stops (Item 7.1, 27 May 08). It was noted that Simonds had not replied with the information requested.

7.2. **Suffolk CC** – Traffic Regulation Order – Reporting that first objection period is finished (MSDC, Emergency Services, Road & Freight Transport Associations & RPC consulted) and no objections received. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to SCC stating that the Council still wishes to proceed.

7.3. **Suffolk CC** – Mid Suffolk Mobile Library – The updated visit schedule was noted.

7.4. **East of England Regional Assembly** – RSS Single Issue Review: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the East of England. The document was noted without comment.

7.5. **National Air Traffic Services (NATS)** – Consultation on proposed changes to 'Terminal Control North' airspace which covers Rickinghall Parish. The document was noted without comment.

7.6. **David Ruffley MP** – Post office closures in West Suffolk and Mid Suffolk including press release with information on how and where to write complaining about closures. The information was noted.

7.7. **Suffolk Waste Partnership** – Annual Report. Circulated for information.

- 7.8. **SALC** – Invitation to renew subscription for 2008/09 £315. RESOLVED, with all agreed, to cover the cost.
- 7.9. **Rickingham PCC** – The letter of thanks for a grant of £700 was noted and that the PCC had cleared the blocked culvert at Rickingham Inferior churchyard.

8. **Planning:**

8.1 **Planning Applications:**

None received.

8.2 **Notice of Intent to prune/remove tree(s) in the Conservation Area:**

None received.

8.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:** The following decisions by the District Council were noted.

- 8.3.1 **5 Brook Park, Rick. Sup.** Ref: 0290/08. NO OBJECTIONS 29 Feb 08.
- 8.3.2 **5 Brook Park, Rickingham Superior** Ref: 0345/08. Consent to Carry Out Works Under a Tree Preservation Order GRANTED 29 Feb 08.
- 8.3.3 **5 Brook Park, Rickingham Superior** Ref: 0393/08. Consent to Carry Out Works Under a Tree Preservation Order GRANTED 29 Feb 08.
- 8.3.4 **Falcons Hall Farm, Finningham Road, Rickingham Superior** Ref: 0145/08. Planning Permission REFUSED 4 Mar 08.
- 8.3.5 **Brook House, Bury Road, Rickingham Inferior** Ref: 0291/08. Listed Building Consent GRANTED 6 Mar 08.
- 8.3.6 **Plot 8, St Georges Drive, Rickingham Superior** Ref: 0213/08. Planning Permission GRANTED 11 Mar 2008.
- 8.3.7 **Flint Cottage, The Street Rickingham Inferior** Ref: 0390/08. Planning Permission GRANTED 12 Mar 08.
- 8.3.8 **The Paddocks, Maypole Meadow, Rickingham Inferior** Ref: 0224/08. Planning Permission GRANTED 12 Mar 08.
- 8.3.9 **Oak Lodge, Allwood Green, Rickingham Superior** Ref: 0020/08. Outline Planning Permission REFUSED 26 Mar 08.
- 8.3.10 **The Paddocks, Maypole Meadow, Rickingham Inferior** Ref: 0818/08. NO OBJECTIONS 7 Apr 08.
- 8.3.11 **Highways, Finningham Road, Rickingham Superior** Ref: 0651/08. Planning Permission GRANTED 11 Apr 08.

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask MSDC why RPC's point about the retention of the flint wall at Flint Cottage had not been included in the conditions. The Clerk would also ask District Cllr. Sara Michell for further information about the decision on the caravan site at Allwood Green.

9. **Finance:**

• **Account Balances:**

Current A/C	£330.23
Deposit A/C	£ 13,993.11

• **Accounts for Payment:**

L Jackson-Eve	£ 346.06	Sal/Exps April 08
J Rose	£ 103.55	St Sweeping
Pearce & Kemp	£ 47.29	Inv 10762 Mar A/C
Botesdale PC	£ 5.00	Photocopies Jan 08
Cllr Draper	£ 31.13	£23.14 Travel Expenses 7 April
		£7.99 Rubbish sacks for Litter Pick
Rickingham VHMC	£151.20	Hall hire 08-09 plus mtgs in Jan 08
Peter Frizzell	£ 211.50	Work Low Meadow (Item 7.5 28 Feb 08)

Direct Debits:

E.On Energy	£ 52.95	Inv H65658922 Mar A/C
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RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts detailed above.

- RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the following grants allocated in the 2008/09 Budget (Item 8 24 Jan 08). Noted that a grant to Optua would be considered at the meeting of the Council on 22 May 2008 after clarification of their activities. A grant to Redgrave CC would be also be considered at the May meeting subject to determining whether further funding would be needed for liability insurance (Item 3 24 April 2008).

Item

Rickinghall Day Centre	£300	s137 LGA 1972
East Anglian Air Ambulance	£200	s137 LGA 1972
Suffolk Accident Rescue Service	£ 90	s137 LGA 1972
Diss & Thetford Citizens Advice Bureau	£ 60	s142 LGA 1972
Eye Volunteer Centre	£ 30	s137 LGA 1972
R&B Neighbourhood Watch	£ 30	s137 LGA 1972
Pyramids (Playbus)	<u>£ 30</u>	s137 LGA 1972
TOTAL	£740	

Redgrave CC (Father Xmas 08)	tbd	s137 LGA 1972
Optua	tbd	s137 LGA 1972

10. **Councillors Reports:**

Highways Issues:

Briar Lane and Calkewood Lane: Noted that there were potholes. (Report to SCC)

Scheme for Highway Repairs: Clerk to write to SCC asking for feedback on this scheme.

Rectory Hill – Noted that the “Give Way” sign was still rotating. (Report to SCC)

Fen Lane – Noted that debris was still present on Fen Lane. (Report to MSDC)

Village Hall: Noted that the climbing frame posts were rotten at the base and unsafe. The area had been closed off and the Management Committee were looking at options.

Parish Gardens: Help requested with gardening on Wednesday, 30th April at 6.30pm.

11. **Boundary Committee Meeting on 7 April (Kesgrave):** The Chairman reported that the Boundary Committee would decide on a new local government structure for Suffolk. It was likely that Parish Councils would remain with increased powers. There would be a four-stage period of consultation and currently Stage 2 – further dialogue and drawing up of draft proposals – was being carried out (14 April – 4 July). The draft proposals would then go out to public consultation at which time parish councils would get their say. The Boundary Committee would submit their findings and proposals to the Secretary of State by mid-December. It was noted that information on a proposal put forward by Suffolk County Council had been received and would be circulated for discussion at the May meeting.
12. **Local Bus Times:** The Council noted that there was bus provision for working people but there were significant gaps between “rush hour” buses, e.g. in the evening buses from Bury St Edmunds to Rickinghall left at 17.18 and then not again until 19.10. It was agreed that the subject would be raised at the Parish Meeting on 7th May.
13. **Rights of Way Maintenance:** It was noted that SCC officers could not yet confirm that the P3 grant scheme would continue. It was also noted that in 2007 Mr Rose had worked 10 hours per month for five months on rights of way maintenance. RESOLVED, with all agreed, to pay Mr Rose for up to 50 hours of footpath maintenance at a rate of £6.61 per hour, plus any agreed associated costs, with effect from 1 May to 31 September inclusive. Every effort would be made to claim back these costs should a grant scheme be reinstated or a new scheme introduced.
14. **Low Meadow:** The Council considered a quotation from Peter Frizzell for the mowing of Low Meadow in 2008/09 - £57.50 for each cut (three cuts = £172.50). RESOLVED, with all agreed, to cover the cost. The Chairman reported that the chain on the gate to Low Meadow had been cut and a new lock put on, rendering the Council’s lock useless. There was some evidence that Barwoods had been using the new lock to access the site. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate.

15. **Allotments:** It was noted that officers at SCC had accepted a quote for the valuation work and the valuation might be carried out before the next meeting of the Council. The decision on whether to form a working party would be deferred until the May meeting.
16. **Affordable Housing Site – Hinderclay Road:** It was noted that planting proposals were currently being re-drawn by the contractor. Circle Anglia had confirmed that RPC would incur no costs other than legal in the land transfer. However, it could not offer RPC the same terms as outlined in the s106 agreement drafted by MSDC, which included site maintenance for a 24 month period and payment of a commuted sum for future maintenance. The contractor was liable to maintain the property for 12 months and to replace any trees which didn't survive within a period of five years but Circle Anglia had made no provision for paying the commuted sum. Members questioned the value for money of acquiring the property without financial support for its maintenance, which could be a significant responsibility in future years. It was agreed that RPC was prepared to take on the site but only on terms that were entirely cost neutral to the Council, ensuring maintenance of the site for an indefinite period.
17. **Mid Suffolk Walking Festival:** Nothing to report.
18. **Registration of Parish Council owned land with HM Land Registry:** The Clerk reported that Andersons of Eye could not do the registration work due to its upcoming merger with another firm. The Clerk would contact Gudgeons Prentice in Stowmarket.
19. **Village Litter-Pick 2008:** The Vice-Chairman reported that MSDC had generously supplied free equipment for the litter pick and would clear the area alongside the bypass prior to the litter pick on 26 April. MSDC would also collect the rubbish afterwards.
20. **Rickingham News:** The Council suggested a number of changes in the first draft. It was agreed that a picture of Basil Brown, a native of Rickingham and the archaeologist who discovered the ship at Sutton Hoo, would be appropriate for the cover.
21. **Parish Meeting:** The Clerk would write to the Village Hall Management Committee asking for written authorisation to serve alcoholic drinks at the PM.
22. **December Parish Council Meeting:** It was noted that the date would not change.
23. **Any urgent business/Items for the next agenda:**
 - It was requested that officers at MSDC be asked to write in plain English when communicating with parishioners. The Clerk would write.
 - It was reported that individuals who wanted to apply for a senior citizens rail pass now had to go to Council offices at Eye rather than mail in an application. The Clerk would write to MSDC asking why the rules had been changed.
 - It was requested on behalf of Albert Close residents that MSDC be asked to clear away the grass cuttings after mowing the area between the drive and Hinderclay Road as the clippings were attracting rats. The Clerk would write to MSDC.
 - The Clerk reported that a member of the public had expressed frustration about the limited availability of brown bins in the new Subscription Garden Waste Service. The Clerk would write to the District Councillor, Sara Michell concerning the complaint.
24. **Next Meeting:** 22 May 2008 (in the Main Hall).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

Appendix – Public Forum Notes

In reference to item 7.6 on the agenda, a member of the public asked how Mr Ruffley was able to reconcile his activities in protest of PO closures when the Conservative party was in favour of the closures and supported the EU Commission, whose actions had ultimately led to the closures. Councillors suggested that the County Councillor, Charles Michell, was best placed to answer the question.

Further to a previous enquiry about Kiln Farm, Candle Street, it was noted that the District Councillor, Sara Michell, had undertaken to find out MSDC's position on the pheasantry at the site. Members of the public reported that they had written repeatedly to MSDC with a number of complaints about the pheasantry. Another member of the public had written to MSDC and reported that a reply had been received from planning officers saying that the pheasantry was not in breach of planning control. Environmental Health had also investigated and had found no breach. However, the members of the public did not agree with this result. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to District Councillor Michell reporting this.

Neighbourhood Watch reported that it was not aware of any crimes during the previous month. Parisioners were encouraged to report crimes no matter how insignificant they might seem.