

# RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 5 April 2018  
Main Hall, Rickinghall Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Robin Brown  
Cllr Nick Free  
Cllr William Maskell  
Cllr Sally Smith

Cllr Dominic Ebert  
Cllr Rosemary Jones  
Cllr Geoff Short

Parish Clerk – Leeann Jackson-Eve  
District Councillor Derek Osborne  
County Councillor Jessica Fleming  
9 Members of the public

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Gillian Crossley-Holland and Nic Joubert.
2. **To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 1 March 2018:** The minutes of the meetings were agreed and signed.
3. **Magazine Input:** Cllr Maskell.
4. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None.
5. **Public Forum:** Peter Beck, from the Neighbourhood Watch, advised there were three areas requiring coverage: Water Lane/Bury Road, Rider's Way & Wheatfields. Anyone wanting to represent these areas could contact Peter. Peter also advised there were no reported crimes for March.  
Councillors discussed methods of reporting a crime, noting that the 101 non-emergency phone service was often busy and it could take a while to get through. Members of the public were advised to report crime via the online service where possible.  
Gordon Lawrence, the Community Bus Co-ordinator, expressed concern that the bus warranty would be expiring soon, leading to an increase in running costs which might not be covered by fares. He felt that more parish councils should be contributing to the service for their parishioners.
6. **Planning:**
  - 6.1 **Planning Applications:**
    - 6.1.1 **Land Adj. To 9 Rectory Hill.** Ref. DC/18/00864. Application for approval of reserved matters following Outline Planning Permission DC/17/04342 approval (appearance, layout, scale, landscaping for 5 No. dwellings). Cllrs Free and Short had met the developer on site and had discussed measures to make the application more acceptable where one house overlooked an existing property. This included one Velux window to be removed, hedging to be reinstated to obscure view from the neighbouring property, bi-folding doors to be replaced with partially obscured French doors and the house to be positioned 1 metre from the original plan footprint. It was also noted that all properties would have soakaways to prevent drainage issues. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection to the application.
    - 6.1.2 **Land North East of Sumlan Place, New Delight Road.** DC/18/01274. Prior Approval Application under Part 3, Class Q (A) and (B) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 - Conversion of existing pig shed into a 1No. three-bedroom dwelling and a 2No. two-bedroom dwellings with garage/store to remain amenity space. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection to the application.
  - 6.2 **Notice of Intent works to tree(s) in the Conservation Area:** None.
  - 6.3 **Notification of Planning Decisions by Mid Suffolk DC:** None.
  - 6.4 **Neighbourhood Plan:** The Neighbourhood Plan is currently in progress and the first draft will be submitted towards the end of April.

7. **Progress Reports:**
- 7.1 **Chairman:** The Chairman had spoken to the agent for the owner of the Newsagent shop, who had confirmed that they would be resubmitting an application for a takeaway.
- 7.2 **Clerk:** The consultation period for the Traffic Restriction Order for double-yellow lines at the Co-op and Gardenhouse Lane had ended and the proposals would go to the Rights of Way Committee at SCC, hopefully at the end of April.
8. **Correspondence:**
- 8.1 **Boundary Commission:** The consultation on new electoral arrangements was noted.
- 8.2 **Resident:** A resident had written giving suggestions to combat speeding on Bury Road. Councillors discussed the issue and noted that any requiring work to the roads would require a legal order and would therefore be expensive. Unfortunately, as previously discussed, funding was not available from the Highways Agency for preventative measures at this time.
9. **General Items:**
- 9.1 **Vehicle Activated Sign Report:** The latest VAS report showed an eleven-day period during March at the Bridewell junction with The Street. Most vehicles were found to be travelling under the speed limit of 30mph. It was agreed by councillors that this was an expected result due to the sign's central location in the village. However, the maximum speed recorded was 57mph.
- 9.2 **Payment of Grant funding: Payment of Grant funding:** The Council RESOLVED, with all agreed, to make the following payments from its 2017/18 budget:
- |                              |        |                                   |
|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Village Hall (Toilet Refurb) | £ 2500 | s137 LGA 1972                     |
| RBR PCC                      | £ 600  | Churchyard Maint s214(6) LGA 1972 |
| Rickinghall Day Centre       | £ 300  | s137 LGA 1972                     |
| RBGNS Community Bus          | £ 180  | s137 LGA 1972                     |
| Royal British Legion         | £ 60   | s137 LGA 1972                     |
| Diss CAB                     | £ 30   | s142 LGA 1972                     |
| Botesdale & Rickinghall NHW  | £ 30   | s137 LGA 1972                     |
- 9.3 **Street Sweeping and Grass Cutting Contract:** The PC considered the level of the hourly rate in 2018/19 (currently £8.28/hour) and noted that a 3% increase (in line with state pension increase for 2018) would be £8.53/hour. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to accept the proposed increase to £8.53.
- 9.4 **Hedge next to White Horse Cottage:** It was agreed that the hedge needed to at least have any brambles overhanging the footway and seating area removed. Councillors agreed to form a working party to carry out the work and save funds.
- 9.5 **Internal Audit Review:** Cllrs Short and Smith had carried out the review based on the internal controls checklist provided by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils and had signed off on them. It was RESOLVED, with all in favour, to accept the review.
10. **Finance:**
- 10.1 **Account Balance:** £23,617.21  
**Income:** £ 0.00
- 10.2 **Accounts for Payment:**
- |                          |            |   |
|--------------------------|------------|---|
| Admin Payments           | £ 1,888.84 | Not itemised due to new Data Protection Regulations |
| Street Sweeping etc.     | £ 163.52   | St Clean/VAS Apr 18                                 |
| Glasdon UK Ltd           | £ 296.02   | Dog Bin and Fixings                                 |
| East County Classics     | £ 103.38   | Welding ROCP Post                                   |
| Bryant Bros.             | £ 161.00   | Supply Materials for ROCP Post                      |
| Redgrave Parish Magazine | £ 130.00   | Mag Page for 12 Months                              |
| Suffolk County Council   | £ 860.42   | Street Lighting Electricity Supply and Maintenance  |
- RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts above.

11. **Highways Issues:** None.
12. **Welcome Pack:** None.
13. **Councillors' Reports:**
  - **Barwoods:** Cllr Jones reported that an informal tree planting ceremony for the late Botesdale Tree Warden took place in March. Pollarding in Low Meadow would take place over the coming days, weather permitting.
  - **Rights of Way:** Cllr Free reported that the dip hazard adjacent to the footway on Rectory Hill, left by work carried out in the verge, was filled and grass seeded by a local resident after it was deemed a non-priority issue by SCC. Overhanging trees at Bury Road were reported to the responsible parties and agreed to prune. The newly installed dog waste bin was well used.
  - **Street Lighting:** There were still two lights out – on Bury Road and near Jubilee House.
14. **Matters to be brought to attention of the Council:** Councillors noted that there was a new app called Next Door which was available to advertise events, etc in the community. The Litter Pick was coming up on 21 April.
15. **Next Meeting:** 3 May 2018

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.42pm.