

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in Rocklands Village Hall
7.00pm on Monday 2nd March 2015

| | | |
|----------|------------------|---------------------|
| Present: | David Howie | Chair |
| | David Witt | |
| | Shirley Colenutt | |
| | Cath Jones | |
| | Kim Austin | Clerk |
| | Bill Smith | District Councillor |

Also present: 2 members of the public.

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Nicola Southgate who was on holiday and Roger Steel (conveyed by Cllr. Cath Jones at the meeting).

2. To record declarations of interest from members in any items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the last council meeting on Monday 10th November 2014

RESOLVED to approve the minutes that had been circulated prior to the meeting as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair, Cllr. David Howie. It was noted that the previous meeting scheduled for 5th January 2015 had been cancelled due to lack of councillors able to attend. A decision had been made to wait until the next scheduled meeting on 23rd February. However, this meeting was postponed by a week due to the Clerk's close family bereavement.

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation

Meeting adjourned at 7.10m and opened to the public.

Ridgeon's' hedging and the pond growing in were discussed. There was concern that maintenance of the area had stopped. Because the pond takes away the rain water there was concern about flooding during heavy rain. Ridgeon's' fencing being a barrier to visibility when leaving the junction was raise. Paul Sellick from Highways agreed it was dangerous but not sure what could be done.

ACTION Clerk Cllr. Jones to contact Bill re maintenance of area.

The meeting re-opened at 7.13pm.

6. To discuss dog poo problems in the village

It was reported that the bins were all in good order and were emptied regularly. Since putting up a few posters supplied by the council there had been some improvement in Low Lane but other areas (Playing Fields, The Street etc.) remained a problem.

ACTION Clerk to contact Dog Warden re patrol and siting of official warning notices.

7. To discuss forthcoming elections in May 2015

In May, there is a unique situation where there would be three elections, General, District and Parish at the same time. There was a show of hands from the Parish Councillors who wished to stand again: DW, SC, CJ, DH, and NS. Ian Scholes indicated that he would like to join the Parish

Signed

Date

Council. It was thought that Councillor Steel would not be standing. Councillors would all have to complete the relevant paperwork. Two sheets to complete and two people to propose and second.

ACTION Clerk to distribute election forms/electoral roll.

ACTION Councillors to complete forms and submit before the deadline of 9th April 2015

8. To report on Finance

8.1 Financial position

The bank account balances as at Monday 2nd Mar 2015

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Barclays Community Account | £ 5400.83 |
| Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account | £ 702.27 |

TOTAL as per bank £ 6,103.10

8.2 Money in since last meeting

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 15/12 Co-op - for installation of Defibrillator | £ 100.00 |
| 8/12 Bank interest | £ 0.09 |
| 12/2 Chapel Green Annual payment - Mrs Robinson | £ 1.00 |
| 2/3 Bank interest | £ 0.08 |
| 6/2 Sport England - Final payment for Grant | £ 3133.00 |

TOTAL IN £ 3234.17

8.3 Cheques out (to sign)

| | |
|--|-----------|
| CHQ 538 Pearce & Kemp - Streetlight - Clear Ivy | £ 57.00 |
| CHQ 539 Rogers & Norton Solicitors - Final balance - SE Deed | £ 110.00 |
| CHQ 540 Playing Fields (SE last grant payment) | £ 3133.00 |
| CHQ 541 David Witt - Defib. Installation expenses | £ 20.73 |

TOTAL OUT £ 3320.73

Signatories. There are two signatories on the Parish Council bank account and neither were present at the meeting. The Clerk would have to gather signatures for the cheques outside of the meeting. It was agreed that as one of the two current signatories may not stand for re-election that 1 or 2 new signatories should be arranged. The mandate would however remain the same that cheques needed two people to sign. David Howie and Shirley Colenutt agreed to be signatories.

ACTION Clerk to obtain mandate change forms from Barclays.

Clerks wage annual increase

From Scale SCP21 to SCP22 £10.30 per hour (£144.20 per month) an increase of £5.03.

Chairman checked pay scales and signed letter to Barclays to authorise change in Standing Order starting from 1/4/15.

9 To consider planning applications.

9.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting

3PL/2014/1221/F **Sims**/The Old Rectory, Self contained Annexe - (56) - PERMISSION

3PL/2014/1108/F **Jeness**/Two Oaks Magpie Lane - Extens to front (59) - PERMISSION

9.2 Applications pending outcome

3PL/2012/0654/CU **Breckland Storage**/Swangey/Retail caravans - (15)

3AG/2014/0019/AG **Bidmead**/Tuppins Farm/ Extension to existing agri building - (53)

3PL/2014/1050/F **Colchester**/Cottage Farm, Bell Road/Ground solar array - (55)

Signed

Date

9.3 New applications since last meeting

3PL/2014/1221/F **Sims**/The Old Rectory, Self contained Annexe - (56) (See above)

3PL/2014/0058/UC **Mayes**/Poplar Lane Nursery- Agri to dwelling (57)

3PL/2014/1016/F **Leslie**/Glebe Cottage - New dwelling (58)

3PL/2014/1108/F **Jenness**/Two Oaks Magpie Lane - Extens to front (59) (See above)

3PL/2014/1225/F **Barham**/17 The Street land - 2 dwellings/garages (60)

In Summary:

(56) Permission already granted.

(57) No comments required.

(58) Application discussed by email. Parish Council comments posted by deadline 13/1/15.

(59) **Jenness**. Permission already granted but possibly not building as per this application but would be now considering submitting an alternative application, for maybe two dwellings instead.

No room to build at the side, would have to be behind. Parish Council not keen on back building.

Access would be a problem. Might not be allowed to cut the two large trees down in the process.

(60) **17 The Street**. It was thought that permission would be granted for this and others would follow. The Parish Council would watch with interest.

9.4 New applications since agenda issued

NONE

10 To update on the Defibrillator

Cyril Ruffles and David Witt were thanked for installing the defibrillator, donated by the Co-op at the Village Hall. The unit has been connected to an existing spur and will be included in the next PAT testing. The councillors were not sure if they wanted to pay for an awareness/training session after all (Cost would be ~£100) but agreed to do a leaflet drop with the shop leaflet and to arrange a 'Meet the Defibrillator' session at 7pm before the next Parish Council meeting.

ACTION Clerk to produce leaflet to advertise 'Meet the Defibrillator'.

11 To update on Village Shop and Post Office

The shop/post office had had its first AGM and was reported to be doing OK. They had made more money than expected but always room for improvement. Had a good bonus from the PO. Staff had coped well with the increase in customers in the run up to Christmas. A rumour was reported that Hingham PO might re-open.

12 To receive update on Trees.

A new tree warden is needed. First option to ask Jim at Walnut Tree Nursery if he would like to take on the role. Second, to ask John Burrell if he knows anybody that would be interested from the Green Fingers group.

ACTION Clerk to approach Jim at Walnut Tree Nursery.

13 To receive update on Playing Fields and Deed of Dedication

All now complete and have copies of the final deeds and the Deed of Dedication. Has taken such a long time that contacts have changed, retired and been taken over !! Solicitors 'Daykins' have now become Rogers & Norton. They have honoured the original fee but had to have their arm twisted ! Final cheque for £110 shown in above payments. Jackie Raggett, the solicitor who has done the work for Rockland's has asked for a reference of our dealings with her and also asked if they could have some free advertising space in the Rocklander. Just remains to let Playing Fields and Cricket Club know what they owe for Accountancy and Solicitors fees. Have new contact details for treasurer and secretary as Alan Fisher has now left the Playing Fields Committee.

ACTION Clerk to write to Playing Fields summarising costs incurred.

ACTION Clerk to include future grant payments not going through PC unless prepared to pay fees/costs/additional expenses.

Signed

Date

14 To receive update on Highways

Streetlighting. Two lights, 9013 and 9019 were reported and repaired. Cllr. Howie had spoken to a man from Marwoods Electrical - Streetlighting manufacturers and said there would be a new LED streetlight being introduced. No timescale. Running costs would be a fraction of current costs. New LEDs spread the light. At some point all streetlights (~20) would need to be replaced as all were old and becoming increasingly difficult to source spares.

ACTION Clerk to get quote from Pearce & Kemp for replacing current streetlights.

15 To update on flooding

No issues with flooding.

16 To discuss any correspondence

Road closure was very badly communicated by Council/Highways and then never happened.

17 AOB - To receive items for next agenda

Break-ins. There had been several break-ins in the village of late. One at Thieves Lane, next to Cllr. Colenutt. After some discussion it was decided to resurrect the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Cllr. Jones agreed to find out more about the old scheme that was originally set up by David Witt, Harold and Cyril. David Howie was recommended to co-ordinate as an ex-policeman.

ACTION Cllr. Howie to obtain information on current schemes.

Police office closures. It was agreed that closure of the police offices was a shame as have lost/losing touch with the public.

Neighbourhood Plan. (Parish Plan). Breckland is considering financial help for communities wanting to develop their own Neighbourhood plans which it is said would give residents a greater say over the future of their local areas. Producing these plans can be complicated, time consuming and hard work for all those involved. Developing such a plan can also be expensive as it would involve extensive research, evidence gathering, consultations with residents and businesses and drafting of planning policies and assessments. Breckland is asking those interested to bid for a grant of up to £8000 to aid in this process.

Concerns were raised that this Neighbourhood Plan could conflict with the District Plan. In light of this, discussion was had as to whether the plan has any worth and it was concluded, possibly not.

19 Date of next Meeting - Monday 13th April 2015, 7pm, Rockland's Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed

Date