Rocklands Parish Council (RPC) Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in Rocklands Village Hall 7.00pm on Monday 17 February 2020

Present: David Howie Chair

Nickie Southgate Vice Chair

Tim Ford

Richard Harrison

Kim Austin Clerk

Sarah Suggitt Breckland District Councillor Ed Connolly Norfolk County Councillor

Also present: 10 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 19:02.

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllr. Shirley Colenutt who was away and Cllr. Martin who was unwell. Apologies also from Cath Jones, Sharon and John Brown, who all provided village reports. All apologies were accepted.

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 6 January 2020

The minutes that had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting were duly signed by the Chair, Cllr. David Howie.

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (6 January 2020) not on the agenda.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation

The meeting adjourned at 19:05. There were no comments from the public.

The meeting re-opened at 19.06.

6. Update from our Norfolk County Councillor, Ed Connolly

A Boundary Commission Review is being carried out because the number of residents in some divisions has increased above an acceptable number. The number of divisions will remain the same at 84. Rocklands should remain the same as part of the Yare and All Saints Ward. Lots of work had been done but was thrown out by South Norfolk due to some disagreement on numbers. It was noted that Great Ellingham and Rockland schools have a joint arrangement as a federation. Technically correct that they could end up in different divisions but hoped they would stay together. Cllr. Connolly said it was an honour and a privilege to support the community and he hoped to continue to do so after the review. Cllr. Connolly's support is much appreciated.

7. Update from our Breckland District Councillor, Sarah Suggitt

Workshops were being held to help with the adoption of the new Breckland Local Plan. Rocklands has its own designated officer, Susan Heinrich, to assist with their Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Howie would like a hard copy of the new Local Plan. PC would be happy to pay if needed. Not yet back from the printers.

8. To receive village reports

8.1 Village Shop and Post Office (Dave Seaton DS)

In the absence of DS, Dave Jones confirmed the shop AGM is on Friday 21 February. Need 10% of shareholders to attend to achieve a quorum in order to pass the necessary business items on the agenda. Last year it was held at the church which was cold, and the sound was not good. Cllr. Howie asked why the AGM was being held at the Church again. DJ said there was a new PA system and new heating at the church. Maybe held there instead of village hall as there was no hire charge.

8.2 Village Hall

Dave Jones said there was a lot going on at the Village Hall, providing services to lots of user groups. Toddler group grateful for the Village Hall allowing them to store their equipment in a dry, rodent free environment. Approx. 20 attending every week. Toilet being converted to a storeroom for equipment. Quotes being obtained for a side fence/barge boards, double gates/fence posts. Would like CCTV after some recent shenanigans at the Hall. Grateful to Cyril Ruffles for looking after the Hall for very many years. Have one candidate for the new caretaker job.

8.3 Little Rocky's Parent and Toddler Group (Sharon Brown)

Sharon had sent a report which was read out by Cllr. Howie.

We have progressed since our last report as we have had our own headed paper designed which will be used for all future correspondence. The Little Rocky's sign is in progress and will be displayed shortly to publicise our group. We continue to have regular committee meetings to look at ways in which to develop our practice. We are extremely grateful to the Village Hall Committee who have kindly allocated indoor storage to the toddler group for all our equipment. This has made an enormous difference to the smooth running of the group. Our toys and equipment are now stored in a dry and relatively damp free environment away from water and vermin. We are still maintaining our rolling programme of washing the toys regularly, but we do not have the fear of water and vermin contamination anymore. We are sustaining numbers with a regular core group of parents. We have attracted two new families with one-year olds recently, so that bodes well for the next few years. We will continue to offer cover during most school holidays wherever we can although we are actually closed this week and May half term. Parents are becoming more involved in the general organisation of the group. We are taking part in the Young Poetry Competition for pre-school children. Each setting which takes part receives a copy of the book compiled from all the respective entries. We have a fire engine visit on Friday 28th February; we have some very excited children and parents. The fire engine is due to arrive at 9.30 am so please do not be alarmed if you see the appliance on the car park; it is a scheduled visit. We are planning a fund-raising coffee morning/cake sale soon which we hope will attract plenty of interest. Our original date clashed with an event in Great Ellingham so watch this space. I remain truly grateful for the commitment of the volunteers who support the Friday toddler group and without whom, we would not be able to offer the children such a range of experiences.

8.4 Rocklands Primary School (David Jones DJ)

DJ mentioned the floodlights at the back of the hall, vital for Youth Club, and thanked Al Bainbridge for investigating and arranging free of charge. Al was also thanked for performing the annual PAT testing of electrical equipment. Very much appreciated. DJ thanked RG for mentioning the possibility of GE/R becoming separated as a result of the boundary review. GE/LE/R working together. Enormous amount of work where the school is concerned. Rocklands is an excellent school. Small but pupils achieving good results. Help from the politicians is much appreciated.

8.5 Rocklands Playing Fields (SG)

Cllr. Howie said the AGM was held last week. Plans agreed to improve the pavilion as it was not now fit for purpose. Has no disability access. No separate changing facilities for referees. Changing rooms need to be bigger for cricket matches. Would like to progress up the league. Better to demolish and rebuild as would be cheaper. Similar footprint. ECB (England Cricket

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Board), Norfolk FA and Football Foundation meeting in next few weeks. Even with a grant of $\sim £150 \text{K}$ they would still be short. Will look at money situation in detail before applying for planning permission.

8.6 Rockland St. Peter Church (RSP) (John Brown JB)

February has been a rather quiet month for RSP, but our church doors remain open to the many visitors we receive. The handbell ringers have started to practise again on Monday evenings creating (in the main) some melodic sounds. There is a new member to the handbell ringers' group who is currently getting to grips with the 'quirky' behaviour of the bells. For some reason the 'bells' miss notes, have issues with timing or select the wrong piece of music; we cannot think why this happens as it has nothing to do with the operators?!

Services at RSP in March are as follows: Sunday 1 March Family Service 10.30 am Sunday 22 March Mothering Sunday Service 10.30 am

We look forward to welcoming new families into our church. As you may be aware Beryl Chilleystone had a nasty fall before Christmas and we are delighted to report that she is now truly 'on the mend.' Beryl would like to extend her sincere thanks to her family and friends for all the get well wishes, cards and prayers for her speedy recovery. We are looking forward to seeing Beryl 'up and about' in the village very soon.

8.7 Rockland All Saints' Church (Cath Jones CJ)

DJ read out CJ report. January was a quiet month at All Saints, as there were no services.

We were very pleased to welcome the children from Class 2 one cold Monday morning, however, as they were finding out more about the history of their village and walked up to see the church with Mrs Berry, Mrs Thacker and Mrs Spratt. They divided into two groups and took it in turns to explore the church building, where they enjoyed having a go at pumping the old organ (some were surprised to see graffiti scratched next to the pump, done by generations of pumpers over the years) and looking at the Anglo-Saxon gravestones and relics. Whilst group one was looking at the church, the other group was investigating the Victorian schoolroom and tried to work out what the hooks in the ceiling were for (somewhere to put naughty children perhaps?), why the huge painting from about 80 years ago wasn't completely finished and where the mouse who had chewed an arch-shaped hole in the old oak outside door had gone....following the trail of sawdust didn't come up with a solution! The two groups swapped over after a while, but all the children were, as always, impeccably well behaved despite the freezing weather and asked some very searching questions, before walking back to school!

On February 2nd, we celebrated Candlemas and a large congregation, aged from 2 years to well over 80 took part in singing, drama, writing acrostic poems and lighting candles. It was a very moving and meaningful service, one that will remain in our memories for a long time. Some dates for your diary.

Friday 10 March 2pm. A service of reflection about the events on Good Friday, following the Walk of Witness from St James' church in Gt Ellingham, leaving at midday. Other services during Holy Week will take place at the other churches in the benefice.

17 May - Pet Service 3pm

Wednesday 27 May Barbara's Day at Julie Dekker's house. All the usual favourite stalls etc., just a different venue.

Saturday 11 - Monday 13 July (inclusive) Flower Festival (more details to follow)

Finally, we would like to send our love to the Strutt family as they come to terms with the loss of David, Rev. Sue's husband who died recently. Although we have only known David for a comparatively short time, we will miss his sense of humour and his gentle ways, along with his knowledge and enthusiasm about all sorts of different things.

8.8 White Hart Public House (Dave Thomas DT)

An update from DT was read: The White Hart Team, together with its organisers and partners, are working collaboratively to deliver the VE Day and the forthcoming Gina's day celebrations. We are also striving to support other work in the community including the air ambulance and pancreatic cancer charities.

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8.9 To update on Chapel Green Meadow (Carolyn Emblen CE)

It's a quiet time of year for the meadow. There is evidence of snowdrops growing which we will endeavour to remove to All Saints Churchyard – depending on the weather!

More concerning is the damage caused by a Morrison's van delivering to Chapel Green Cottage on or about 31st January 2020. The PC was emailed on 31st January and we would like this matter taken up with Morrison's. The PC weren't sure Morrisons would do anything, but CE said she would follow it up.

Work on the pond is hopefully going to take place at the end of this month. It would be an ideal opportunity to gain local publicity e.g. Radio Norfolk, for both the meadow and the pond both of which are important areas for local biodiversity.

Finally, as mentioned at the last meeting, someone has pulled up and destroyed all the parking signs.

9.0 To report on financial matters

9.1 Financial position

Barclays Community Account	£	1216.53
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	1335.93

TOTAL a	s per	bank	£	2552.46	,
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Summary

RPC Rocklands Parish Council	£	2301.86
RNP Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RG)	£	200.60
Rocklands Play Park (KR)	£	50.00

TOTAL	as	per	bank	£	2552.4	16
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9.2 Money in since last meeting (6 Jan 2020)

No money in since last meeting.		£	0.00
	TOTAL TAL	£	0.00

NOTE: Precept will be paid end of March 2020.

NOTE: Vat reclaim to be made end of March 2020.

9.3 Money out since last meeting (6 Jan 2020)

9.3.1 Standing Orders/Direct Debits

15/1/2020	Eon-Electricity (DD)	£	35.62
3/2/2020	Clerk's wages (SO)	£	273.87
		TOTAL OUT &	309 49

9.3.2 Cheques out (to sign)

	TOTAL OUT	£	453 42
CHQ 689	K&M Lighting – 1 months maintenance (Feb20)	£	13.78
CHQ 688	NCC Road closure VE Day Reimburse Clerk	£	37.64
CHQ 687	Parish Noticeboard Co. 50% deposit. Reimburse Cler	¹k £	402.00

Chapel Green Licence

Letter posted to Pat Robinson for Chapel Green Licence annual payment of £1.

10. Street Light Maintenance Contract.

The contract is not due for renewal until July 2020, but K&M Lighting have been very organised and have sent out new contracts so that Parish Councils have plenty of time to discuss at a PC meeting. We currently pay:

£11.48 (plus VAT per month) = £137.76 (plus VAT per annum).

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According to schedule 1 in the new contract - new charges would be:

£12.75 (plus VAT per month) = £153.00 (plus VAT per annum)

An increase of £1.27 (plus VAT) per month, £15.24 (plus VAT) per annum.

They do provide a very good responsive service at what seems a very reasonable price, especially considering what we used to pay, being £38.07 per month (plus VAT).

There is also an option for a three-year undertaking where the price will remain the same for the three-year duration. The new contract had been circulated to all councillors for their perusal prior to the meeting. The councillors agreed unanimously to renew the contract with K&M for a 3-year undertaking. Cllr. Howie signed the contract. The Clerk would post.

11. To consider planning applications

11.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting

3PL/2019/1440/HOU Robertson/St. Peters Vista, 8 Chapel St/Single storey fr/loft ext (183) **PERMISSION** 3/PL/2019/0262/DOC Francis/Land adj. Coach House/Discharge conditions 9-12. The Parish Council had concerns about the discharge of these conditions. Not invited to comment but did raise concerns on website regards drainage and sewerage. PC pointed out general bunding conditions, 30m vicinity. How to deal with surface water and foul water. New drawings and specifications were submitted as a result, confirming that foul water will now be connected to the public sewer and surface water to the existing pond. For the spray tar and shingle driveway/parking area, there is now a slot drain which should intercept water run-off and divert it to the pond. **DOC COMPLETE**

Applications pending outcome

3PL/2019/1058/VAR Shadrack/Peels Farm/ Amend condition 2 (174)

3PL/2019/1091/F Shadrack/Peels Farm/Retrospective planning, erection of agri storage building (175) 3PL/2019/0971/F Woodroffe/Allison's Farm 82 The Street/New build (172) REVISED (177) APP/F2605/W/19/3236051, 3PL/2018/1533/O Corcoran/Land south of the street/1 dwelling, parking, turning/access (157) REFUSED and then APPEALED.

11.3 New applications since last meeting

3PL/2020/0013/HOU Schaay/Sherwood, Anchor Corner/Single storey ext. carport (185) comments by 18/2/20. Cllr. Southgate had visited both the neighbouring properties to gauge their opinions. They had no concerns and the PC agreed they had NO OBJECTION to this application.

12. VE Day Celebrations (SS)

2-day event on Saturday 9 May and Sunday 10 May 2020.

Saturday 9 May - Rocklands Rocks

Road will be closed 12 - 8 pm from the Shop down past the Pub to the School. DH to apply for closure. A stage at the pub will have various groups performing throughout the day including: Tom Bainbridge, Blue Train Quintet and the Roskettes and another group.

Street party (Bring your own food - pub/shop open for drinks etc.) 1940s style. Cake stall (possibly).

School Fete in the afternoon (2-4pm) with adult and child fancy dress 1940's theme.

House Competition. Theme is VE day (red, white and blue) £ 5 entry and monies raised will be donated to the Royal British Legion. Judged on the Friday and prize presented on the Saturday.

Sunday 10 May - Rocklands Remembers

Sunday service at St Peters Church. 10.30 procession to Wayland Close.

Hopefully short blessing of new raised flower bed (8x4ft) with '75' in flowers and 6 foot, cut out permanent statue on the green at Wayland Road. Cllr. Southgate recommended a blacksmith in Nottingham.

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13a To discuss a new Parish Notice Board

New noticeboard has been ordered from the Parish Notice Board Company from their 'Classic' range. Aluminium, magnetic and comprising $2 \times A2$ size display areas, double doors, in green, at a cost of £620 plus Vat. The Clerk has also ordered magnets from a different company at a good price. Cllr. Ford offered to help put the new notice board up.

13b To discuss Chapel Green Pond regeneration

In December 2019 we were informed that the Chapel Green Pond would be regenerated as part of the new Natural England project for creating and managing Great Crested Newt habitat. A meeting between CGMC and NCC was planned for January 2020 to determine the next steps. Cllr. Martin and Carolyn Emblen met with Ed Stocker (NCC Ecologist). He agreed the Reed Mace should be cleared by a contractor at no cost to the PC. There were concerns that the sides of the pond may collapse due to the recent wet weather and it was wondered if it would be best to wait till later when it was drier. Thanks must go to Cllr. Ed Connolly for making this regeneration possible.

14. To update on First Time Sewerage System for Rocklands St. Peter (Report from Cllr. Harrison)

On 18 January, I contacted the Pre-Development Senior Engineer at Anglian Water (AW) for an update on progress, and an understanding of the steps in the process going forward. I found her very helpful. Under Section 101A of the Water Industry Act, AW have a duty to provide a sewer to those properties which are causing, or have the potential to cause pollution, or where significant damage to amenity may arise. These are called 'Duty Properties'. Do not have to connect if not having problems.

The Rockland St Peter end of the village was assessed, and in February 2018, Anglian Water accepted a duty to provide a mains sewerage system to Duty Properties. This is primarily on the basis that high groundwater levels threaten to make septic tank systems ineffective and threaten to cause pollution to the environment.

Later in 2018, Anglian Water made a submission to Ofwat requesting funding - of which Rockland St Peter was one of a number of named Section 101A schemes.

In January 2020, AW received Ofwat's final determination - which defined the budget for all departments, including Section 101A schemes.

The Pre-Development Senior Engineer is currently waiting for an official instruction from within AW to formally contact the applicants and Parish Councils of Section 101A schemes which they have been provided funding for.

The '@one Alliance' is a joint venture between AW and a number of approved contractors/suppliers. It exists to deliver the AW capital investment programmes. When the Rockland St Peter scheme has been forwarded to @one Alliance, they will contact all residents individually.

Before construction can start, AW will have a fully designed layout which they will be able to discuss with residents, and this will indicate where the lateral will be placed if they wish to connect to the main sewer. However, at this stage this will be an indication - as things could change once construction starts.

AW will endeavour to keep residents informed throughout all the stages of the project. There will be some public meetings during the design of the project - possibly in the Village Hall - where residents will be able to view the proposed design and discuss any issues they may have.

Properties served by either a cesspool, or a private package treatment plant that discharges to either a ditch or other type of watercourse, do <u>not</u> qualify as 'Duty Properties'. However, if the new sewer is laid past such properties, the design team would look to providing a connection to them - providing that they wished to have one, and the levels of the new sewer allow this.

In all cases, property owners remain responsible for:

- the cost of laying a pipe (house drain) from their property to the boundary of their land.
- application to the Building Control section of Breckland Council for a Building Control Inspection, for which a fee is normally charged.
- Anglian Water will <u>waive</u> certain charges, so 'Duty Properties' will not have to pay for the following:
- a one-off fixed charge to connect to the new sewer, known as the zonal charge.

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- the cost of the lateral drain from the edge of the property to the new sewer (up to 15 metres or to the boundary of the property, whichever is the shorter. This can be thousands of pounds).
- your ongoing sewerage charges for the first six months after the public sewer is made available.
- <u>in addition</u> to the above, <u>if you make your connection within three months</u> of the sewer being made available, AW will double the period for which annual sewerage service charges are waived to twelve months from the date the sewer is made available. This means you can get a maximum of one year's sewerage service for free just for connecting quickly once AW have notified you that the sewer is available.

If you apply for a sewer connection after the connection offer ends, the standard connection costs will apply; the charges above will not be waived.

Those properties which are <u>not</u> classified as 'Duty Properties' will be liable for <u>all</u> connection costs and will not be entitled to waiver of any of the charges above.

We await notification from Anglian Water that internal authorisation has been given to progress the Rockland St Peter scheme.

15. To update on the Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) and Local Plan (LP) - RG

RG thanked Parish Councillors for responding to Cllr. Howie's email for additional ideas to input to RNP. RG has enough data now to proceed to first draught. Will have something to put forward in a few weeks' time. Great Ellingham PC approached Rocklands in January to meet to discuss neighbourhood planning. They are now concerned about the building continuing in the village, but it was thought they may have missed the boat after opening the flood gates to so much building and development. It was thought there were no representatives from Great Ellingham at the recent Planning workshop.

Martin Kaye from Thompson had called RG. He is still considering Rocklands as a suitable place for building affordable housing, although as yet has not sourced any land. RG made it clear that there was not a requirement for social renting/affordable housing in Rocklands. He may look at Great Ellingham. New Local Plan policy applies to Rocklands and the quota is 5%. RG asked that the PC ask for clarification from Breckland as to how this quota is being administered. Already have more than 8 buildings approved, but not yet built. Unclear whether quota applies to applications passed prior to new Local Plan being adopted. RG would draft a letter asking for clarification. Letter would be sent to Breckland from Parish Council.

Possible to apply for extra funding/top-up grant to cover costs of publicity, information to residents and miscellaneous expenses. RG will check deadline for application.

New agricultural bill introduced by Government. Can foresee, if the bill is revolutionary and far reaching that it may affect Rocklands as the village is surrounded by farmland. In our interest to coordinate with local farmers. Just need to be aware of.

16. To update on SID (Flashing Speed sign) (RH)

On 16 January, Dave Howie and I attended the Attleborough Police SNAP (Safer Neighbourhood Action Plan) meeting at Attleborough Town Hall - where I presented the results of our SID speed monitoring so far. The Police agreed to make speeding one of their priorities for the next period. Indeed, it has since been reported that they were seen carrying out speed checks in Rocklands. I provided a full set of data analysis reports to the Attleborough policing team on 18 January.

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06 January 2020 - 05 February 2020

49,653 vehicles detected

Average 1,653 vehicles/day

Morning peak time - 07:15 to 08:15. Afternoon peak time - 15:30 to 16:30

38,266 vehicles (77.1%) within 40 mph speed limit

11,387 vehicles (22.9%) exceeding speed limit. 3,932 vehicles (7.9%) over 45 mph, would attract a fine* Top speed: 80 mph - 17/01/2020 @ 21:45 hrs (two vehicles) - could be emergency vehicles, but the police said even they would not be travelling at 80mph!

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Since Sep/Oct last year, there has been a 16% increase in daily vehicle movements at this location, a 1.7% increase in vehicles exceeding the speed limit, and a 0.4% increase in vehicles which would attract prosecution, and we have record top speeds.

Tim and I were surprised to find the sign slightly out of alignment when we went to move it on 05 February and, on inspecting it, found a long impact gash near one corner - the upper corner nearest the road. We don't know what may have caused this, but the sign appears to be functioning normally, and I will get some touch-up material from the manufacturer.

The sign is currently back on The Street, facing towards the School this time.

On 06 February, I received a new signed 'Memorandum of Understanding' from NCC Highways - agreeing to two extra monitoring positions at the North end of The Street. Thanks go to Robin Apps and Cyril Ruffles for assisting Tim and I in selecting the locations. So, now have 6 locations.

After speaking with the SID manufacturers, we have been offered a small discount on the purchase of further mounting brackets for the new monitoring locations. We will order them this week, and then mount and align them next time we move the SID. Did consider getting the brackets made.

* The SID is limited to grouping vehicle speeds into 5mph blocks. However, for a 40mph speed limit, enforcement action is normally applied at 46mph and above – so a very small proportion of vehicles above 45mph could arguably be travelling at less than 46mph (e.g. 45.5mph). The SID also has a specified accuracy of \pm 0.5mph. Enforcement action is not always a fine – depending on circumstances, drivers may be offered a speed awareness course.

Cllr. Harrison was thanked for all the work he has put in. The data is very useful to help the police prioritise. Thanks also to Cllr. Ford for assisting in movement of that equipment.

17. To update on Highways

Highways, Matt Wood, attended that last SNAP meeting after Cllr. Connolly had put the pressure on for them to attend. Cllr. Howie thanked Cllr. Connolly for John Cotton's support of the community. Some councillors will be attending the Footpaths meeting at Thompson Community Hall on 27 February. Opening old footpaths mentioned. Would be a nice thing to do, but the cost of doing so is prohibitive. Cllr. Connolly would forward email address of Dee Rupert to Clerk.

18. To update on Flooding (RH)

After reporting the 'fix' to the drainage culvert on The Street to the NCC Flood Risk Team on 9 January, and requesting a schedule for the promised drainage survey, I again chased this up with them on 5 February. I have not been too pushy, as they are a small team, with limited resources, and the very heavy rainfall over the Christmas period and beyond would have been challenging them. Our designated contact has also been away ill recently. I will request an update in due course. As far as I am aware, the recent heavy rainfall has not caused significant surface water flooding.

19. To discuss any correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

20. AOB

21. Date of next Meeting

Monday 6 April 2020, 7pm, Rocklands Village Hall

The meeting closed at 20.57

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