

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)
Minutes of EXTRAORDINARY Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 9 August 2021 at 7.00pm 'in Rockland Village Hall

Present: David Howie Chair
 Nickie Southgate Vice Chair
 Richard Harrison
 Bryan Swaddling
 Paula Bidmead
 Sarah Martin
 Kim Austin Clerk

Also present: 6 members of the public.
The meeting opened at 19:01.

Members of the public attending provided name and contact details in case needed for track and trace.

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

Resolved to accept apologies from Cllr. Tim Ford who was on holiday. Apologies received from Amanda Buckland (Adult football).

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

Cllr. David Howie, also chair of the Playing Fields committee and Cllr. Swaddling a resident of Green Lane expressed an interest but this was not a pecuniary interest.

3. To discuss NEW planning application - 3PL/2021/1015/HOU (231)

Applicant: JACKSON

Location: Shepley House, Scoulton Road, NR17 1LW

Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension and associated internal works, finished in render/tiles to match.

Deadline for comments: 12 August 2021

Cllr. Southgate had spoken to both next door neighbours. They had no issues with the extension. There were no comments from the members of the public present. It was a unanimous decision that the Parish Council had NO OBJECTION to this application.

4. To discuss NEW planning application - 3PL/2021/1038/VAR (232)

Applicant: ROCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL, PLAYING FIELDS

Location: Green Lane, NR17 1UA

Variation of Condition: No. 3 on 3PL/2004/1524/F - Allow Use of floodlights 4 evenings per week (Tues to Fri) instead of just 2 evenings.

Deadline for comments: 31 August 2021

All agreed the playing fields were an asset the village was lucky to have and should be used to its fullest but always in the interest of the amenities of nearby residents. The PC is the trustee of the Playing Fields. The playing fields committee is very small. They pay for the electricity.

Cllr. Swaddling, resident of Green Lane said he was for the playing fields but was not happy that there had been no communication with residents before the application was lodged. He was concerned about increased traffic on Green Lane and increased dust. Cllr. Swaddling said he had objected online because he wasn't given the information, he needed to make an informed decision. It was commented that litter was left on the fields and goal posts were just left and not tidied away after football training.

Speeding is an ongoing problem. The Parish Council had recently placed slow down signs on the lane.

Maybe need even more signs. Ian Scholes confirmed he had asked all clubs to ask their members to be considerate and drive slowly on the lane. Perhaps need traffic marshall on training nights.

Signed

Date

Green Lane. Green Lane surface had been scraped and could do again when the surface gets bad. Was suggested the football club contribute to the cost. It was reported there were 26 cars for a cricket match one afternoon.

Environmental Health (EH)

Environmental Health commented on the application as follows.

Need to submit information to include:

- Times when the lighting will be operated, including measures to ensure times are complied with.
- A layout plan with beam orientation,
- A schedule of equipment in the design (luminaire type, mounting, height, aiming angles and luminaire profiles)
- The spill area for each light
- Details of predicted light levels at the neighbouring residential properties in Green Lane and, measures to ensure the lights do not cause annoyance or loss of amenity to those properties.

Maintenance

It was thought the lights (x16) had been in place for 15-20 years and they may even have been purchased second hand at that time. Ian Scholes confirmed there were no plans to use mobile lighting and this would indeed involve submission of a separate planning application. This application is just to increase the number of evenings from 2 to 4. A resident reported that whilst cycling, he had recently been blinded by a misdirected floodlight. Another resident reported that 2 of the lights shine into her garden. Apparently, the lights were very bright at Barnards Farm. It was agreed there was an immediate need to alter/correct the orientation of the floodlights away from dwellings and roadways. This would involve the use of a cherry picker. The Clerk suggested that the Parish streetlight maintenance company might also service floodlighting. It was deemed a good idea to investigate. The Clerk would contact K&M Lighting so see if they deal with floodlights. Need to consider the points raised by EH. It was suggested the rental costs paid by the teams should be reviewed.

Post meeting note: A meeting is scheduled with K&M Lighting for **Monday 23rd August at 10am**, meeting at the pavilion to discuss the immediate need, continued maintenance and conforming with the EH report, possibility of using light shields if required, an annual maintenance certificate and converting to LED at a later date if considered beneficial.

Some questions remained:

If training evenings were increased from 2 to 4 - would training actually finish earlier ? It was possible that adult training could start earlier and therefore finish earlier.

How many clubs/teams used the facilities ? It was noted the cricket club was well organised and mindful of social responsibilities and did not use the floodlights. There are 9 youth teams, possibly adding an extra team every year for the next 3 years, to a total of 12. There are 4 adult teams with no plans to expand. Would floodlit training increase by non-village teams using the facilities ? Would traffic increase ?

In Summary. It was decided an interim comment could be placed on the Breckland Planning website. In the meantime, answers to outstanding questions would be sought. Not against the extra nights as long as residents considered and environmental Health points addressed.

The Clerk to contact case officer, Sandra Bunning to see if the already extended deadline for comments could be further extended until after the next PC meeting scheduled for 6 September 2021.

5. To discuss any other NEW applications received since this agenda was issued.

There were now new applications since the agenda was issued.

The meeting closed at 19:52.

Signed

Date