

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in Rocklands Village Hall
7.00pm on Monday 6 January 2020

Present:	David Howie	Chair
	Nickie Southgate	Vice Chair
	Shirley Colenutt	
	Tim Ford	
	Richard Harrison	
	Sarah Martin	
	Kim Austin	Clerk

Also present: 14 members of the public.
The meeting opened at 19:01

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

RESOLVED to accept apologies from County Councillor Ed Connolly who had other commitments, Sarah Suggitt and Sarah Eagleton who both had family commitments and from Carolyn Emblen and Dave Seaton. 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 4 November 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 (4 November 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 19:03. Mr Marin Kaye (MK), a resident from Thompson addressed the meeting to discuss the possibility of building a small number of affordable houses in the village. MK was looking for a village that would be agreeable to his venture. When asked what sort of affordable homes, MK confirmed they would be social, rented. MK would be the landlord under a Hastoe Housing Association licence. MK would manage the project and Hastoe would contract out the build. MK was looking to put a business plan together that would give him a profit. Rocklands PC confirmed they had engaged directly with Hastoe about 18 months ago when they carried out a housing survey and determined that there was no discernible need for affordable housing in Rocklands, at that time. MK confirmed when asked, that his intention was for 2-3 semi detached dwellings. MK said he didn't currently have the land but mentioned rural exception sites, where land value was less and not normally considered for building, possibly outside/adjacent to the settlement boundary. MK said Breckland were looking to build 220 per year across Breckland. RG said Rocklands has a quota of 8 new houses under the new Local Plan and permission is already granted for some, so quota may already have been fulfilled.

RG mentioned that Rocklands had a long and successful history of opposing planning developments/applications that were either not needed or deemed inappropriate for the village. Any builds that increased the flooding potential or caused further drainage problems or were outside/adjacent to the settlement boundary would not be looked upon favourably. There are very few sites within the boundary that are suitable for building. Cllr. Howie confirmed Rocklands wanted to keep their settlement boundary and wanted to keep the village linear. Rocklands does not have a bus service, so residents need a car. Residents are naturally suspicious of development. When Cllr. Harrison asked about building in Thompson where MK lives, he said it was not suitable because they had a tight

Signed

Date

settlement boundary and Thompson didn't want affordable housing. MK said he would be approaching ~6 villages and Rocklands was the first.

The meeting re-opened at 19.25.

6. Update from our Norfolk County Councillor, Ed Connolly

There was no update from Cllr. Ed Connolly who had sent his apologies.

7. Update from our Breckland District Councillor, Sarah Suggitt

There was no update from Cllr. Sarah Suggitt.

8. To receive village reports

8.1 Village Shop and Post Office (Dave Seaton DS)

The Clerk delivered a message from DS saying that, on behalf of the shop, they wish all their customers a very Happy New Year. Also, the shop had a good run up to Christmas, with a very busy shop, and would like to thank everyone for their custom over the past year.

8.2 Village Hall (Sarah Good SG)

The Clerk read the report from SG. The Rocklands Village Hall committee have their next meeting on the 29th January 2020 at 7:30pm. Representatives from our user groups and other village organisations are always welcome to attend.

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

Sharon read out the following report: Pleased to report that we are continuing to attract young families and now have a regular core group. Most families come from outside our village thus bringing fresh interest to Rocklands. Our little people are becoming more independent and socially tolerant of their peers. The children play well together with very few altercations. We have decided to rename our group thus providing its own identity. We will be called **Little Rocky's Parent and Toddler Group**. There will be a new sign over the next few weeks so watch this space. We now have a committee to oversee the performance of the group and to be held to account. We meet regularly to discuss the management and future planning of the sessions. Our final session before the Christmas break gave rise to much excitement from both parents and children alike. We set up a Santa's grotto in the back room and all our regular children went to visit Santa and received a present. 23 children visited Santa which made it an incredibly busy but rewarding session. We must say an enormous thank you to Linda and Andrew Mardling who helped us to set up the grotto and especially with untangling the slash curtain. We invite older siblings to join us during the holiday period, so our little ones do not have to miss a session. We watch with great amusement and pride as our little people confidently take the lead when their siblings join them. There is evidence of role reversal as the younger ones support their apprehensive siblings. We continue to be indebted to both Dave and Cath Jones who continue to support us on Fridays. Thanks also to Linda Mardling is also one of our regular volunteers; we are well blessed with professional expertise. We do, however, need to look to the future of the group in order to make it sustainable on the long term. There are many ways in which people can help just speak with me or Shena Scholes at some stage.

8.4 Rocklands Primary School (David Jones DJ)

No update since the last PC meeting.

8.5 Rocklands Playing Fields (SG)

DH read a report from SG. The Rocklands Playing Field committee had their last meeting in November. We are currently discussing ways in which to improve the facilities at the site and once a decision is reached, we will report back. The bar is run by volunteers, who are members of the management committee. We occasionally open the bar on a Friday night from 7:30pm and it is often open on Saturday afternoons and some Sundays for sports matches. We are now able to take card payments at the bar. We are always on the look-out for new committee members and volunteers.

The next committee meeting is for Thursday 13th February 2020.

8.6 St. Peter's Church (John Brown JB)

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Doors are open daily and is appreciated by many. Services are shared on a rota basis. Church was packed for carol service. Have had own hand bells for 3 years and the hand ringers did a special gig. World service on Christmas Eve setting the tone for Christmas. Raised £271.70 which will be donated to Pancreatic Cancer Charity. New church calendar - biggest hurdle is meeting demand. Fundraising is a major feature. £5000 needed by end of year for church upkeep. Barn dance, July, possibly 25th, to be confirmed. Contact JB to join committee.

8.7 Rockland All Saints' Church (Cath Jones CJ)

The telltales were installed at the church shortly after the last PC meeting, thanks to a friend of a friend and a cherry picker. They will be monitored so that any further movement of the tower can be measured - that way the urgency of getting the job done can be decided, when we know the full facts !

The last couple of months have been busy for the churches in the benefice. The Advent Lunch was a success, in spite of worries beforehand that fewer tickets had been sold than previous years (sadly due to 'natural wastage') and about 60 sat down to a three course meal on the day, with a few housebound villagers having the takeaway option. The profits amounted to about £300 each for St Peter's and All Saints, which was good.

All Saints had the Advent Carol Service on 1st December - a traditional celebration of the 4 weeks before Christmas- and the service was well attended, with the Benefice Handbell Ringers playing before and after the service and the choir singing two anthems during it ! The following week saw 33 small children, a few teenagers and lots of parents and grandparents come for the Christingle Service - always a lovely event with lots of fun and laughter. About £90 was sent to the Children's Society after the service. (It would be interesting to add up the total amount that we, in Rocklands raise over a year for various charitable causes - it always amazes me how generous Rocklanders are when it comes to supporting events !)

On Christmas Eve we held the usual traditional Christmas Candlelit Eucharist at 10pm, led by Rev. Christina who had to rush off afterwards to take a similar service at St James' in Gt Ellingham. The service was not quite as well-attended as in previous years, but the church was still fairly full and looked beautiful! You may already know that the villages of Rockland St Peter, Rockland All Saints, Gt and Lt Ellingham and Shropham all share two part-time priests, who share a part-time post between them.... in theory not many hours to do everything that is expected of them ! Sadly, Rev Sue Strutt's husband, David is very unwell at the moment, so she is needing to take more of a back seat, which means more is falling on Rev Christina. We wish David and Sue, and their family, well and hope and pray that 2020 brings an improvement. No services are scheduled for January at All Saints as we always have just the one service a week in the Benefice this month, but we hope to see lots of people at the Candlemas service on February 2nd, which marks the official end to Christmas in the church calendar. This is an informal but meaningful service to which all are very welcome !

We also have the excitement of a visit from the brand new Bishop of Norwich to look forward to, as I heard last night that he is coming to Rocklands Community Shop next week for a quick visit... a real accolade for Rocklands as I gather he is coming to see an example of the Community in action! Praise indeed !

The All Saints PCC members have asked me to pass on our very best wishes to you all for 2020 and we wish you a very Happy New Year.

8.8 White Hart Public House (Dave Thomas DT)

An update from DT was read: The team and I would like to thank all our patrons for a fantastic 2019; although we all still struggle with the loss of our dear friend Gina. I am sure as we look forward to the start of a new decade everyone will join us in 2020 to celebrate VE Day followed by Gina's Day and much much more. Please keep an eye on our social media feeds and notices to be involved and taste new menus, new speciality ales and more.

DH said the Parish Council had a very good meal at the White Hart at Christmas.

8.9 To update on Chapel Green Meadow (Chris Sharpe CS)

Norfolk County Council funding for Chapel Green pond approved

On 8 October 2019 Councillor Edward Connolly kindly arranged a meeting with Norfolk County Council to discuss the possibility of funding for restoration and management of Chapel Green pond. As reported in the previous RPC meeting, a request for funding was made by Carolyn Emblen and Chris Sharpe of Rocklands Parish Council's Chapel Green Management Committee. Despite the enthusiasm and optimism of NCC's John Jones, Head of Environment, and Ed Stocker, Consultant Ecologist, our request was turned down, since funding had apparently been available only to mitigate flooding in the Rockland All Saints catchment (while Chapel Green pond drains north outside this catchment). Happily, after continued conversations between the interested parties, on 19 December 2019 we were informed that finance will indeed be made available as part of the new Natural England funding for creating and managing Great Crested Newt habitat. All agreed this was fantastic news. A meeting between CGMC and NCC will take place in January 2020 to determine the next steps. RG asked if they would look at unused ponds with the possibility of re-instating, as a means of tackling flooding.

The other good news is that Chapel Green has the largest ghost moth colony in East Anglia. It will be featured in a book and listed as a top experience as a county wildlife site.

CGMC is keen to thank Councillor Edward Connolly for his persistence in obtaining this funding, which will enable RPC to continue the traditional management Chapel Green as a conservation area to the continued benefit of wildlife and local people.

Chapel Green parking signs destroyed

The two signs located on Chapel Green by RPC in October were quickly removed and thrown onto the green and have now been destroyed. The parking area remains largely occupied as permanent overspill parking for residents with insufficient driveway parking and as overnight and weekend parking for commercial vehicles. Want it to be visitor parking for the meadow. There could be an impact from exhaust fumes, a nitrous environment causing stinging nettles to grow.

9.0 To report on financial matters

9.1 Financial position

Bank account balances as at Monday 6 January 2020

Barclays Community Account	£	1786.06
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	1335.93
TOTAL as per bank	£	3121.99

Note: £1000 transferred from Barclays Saver to Community Account

Summary

RPC Rocklands Parish Council	£	2871.39
RNP Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RG)	£	200.60
Rocklands Play Park (KR)	£	50.00
TOTAL as per bank	£	3121.99

9.2 Money in since last meeting (6 Nov 2020)

7/11/2019	Mann Trust donation towards SID	£	795.00
	TOTAL IN	£	795.00

9.3 Money out since last meeting (6 Nov 2020)

9.3.1 Standing Orders/Direct Debits

18/11/2019	Eon-Electricity (DD)	£	35.62
16/12/2019	Eon -Electricity (DD)	£	34.46
2/12/2019	Clerk's wages (SO)	£	273.87
2/1/2020	Clerk's wages (SO)	£	273.87
	TOTAL OUT	£	617.82

9.3.2 Cheques out (to sign)

Signed

Date

CHQ 680	All Saints Church Rocklands (Replaces chq 673)	£	85.00	ALREADY SIGNED
CHQ 681	Action Play & Leisure Ltd. - Play Park (£6250+VAT)	£	7500.00	ALREADY SIGNED
CHQ 682	Rocklands Village Hall - PC meeting hall hire (x7)	£	84.00	
CHQ 683	Reimburse RH - Screwfix padlocks for SID (x2)	£	24.98	
CHQ 684	Barkers Print & Design, Drainage leaflets	£	72.00	
CHQ 685	K&M Lighting - 2 months maint. (Dec19/Jan20)	£	27.56	
CHQ 686	Clerk's reimbursements, postage, ink, stationery etc.	£	51.50	
	TOTAL OUT	£	7845.04	

9.4 Precept setting 2020/2021

The precept amount needs to be agreed at this PC meeting and Form B signed to be submitted before 31 January 2019. Budget figures and projections etc. had already been circulated to councillors for them to look at prior to this meeting. The precept was increased by £700 last year to cover potential election costs. It was envisaged then, that the precept for 2020/2021 would not therefore be increased. There are a few items of expenditure identified: extra dog poo bin, new noticeboard and extra brackets for SID. There was a unanimous decision for the precept to remain at **£6200**, same as last year. Precept Form B was duly signed by Cllr. Howie. The Clerk would submit the form before the 31 Jan 2020 deadline.

10. To consider planning applications

10.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting

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** (Comments to PI posted by 1/11/2019.) No date given yet.

3PL/2019/1039/HOU REVISED Woodroffe/Allison's Farm 82 The Street/New dwelling, one bed annex (176,178) (Comments for revision by 8/11/2019) **PERMISSION**

3PL/2019/1299/HOU Anna Lightening/5 Chapel Street/Rear flat roof extension (180) **PERMISSION**

10.2 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 REVISED Woodroffe/Allison's Farm 82 The Street/New dwelling with one bed annex (172, REVISED 177) Decision by 17/1/2020.

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.

10.3 New applications since last meeting

3PL/2019/1440/HOU Robertson/St. Peters Vista, 8 Chapel St/Single storey front and loft ext. (183) The Parish Council agreed they had **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

11. VE Day Celebrations (Report from SS read out by the Clerk)

We are planning on having a 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.

Street party (Bring your own food - pub/shop open for drinks etc.)

Cake stall (possibly).

School Fete in the afternoon 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.

Sunday 10 May - Rocklands Remembers

Sunday service at St Peters Church.

Hopefully short blessing of new flower bed and statue on the green at Wayland Road.

Signed

Date

Vintage vehicles and hog roast at the pub/possibly village hall.

Funding of £500 will be applied for from Breckland Council. May do some fundraising events as well.

Next meeting will be end of January/first week February, date will be advertised in Village Shop, Village Hall, Pavilion, Pub and School.

Cllr. Howie went to the VE day meeting on 1 Dec at the White Hart. It wasn't very well attended but there was lots of enthusiasm. Lots of work to do so will need lots of help. Anyone interested in joining to help organise the event should please contact Shena Scholes on 01953 741741 or email to rocklandsvillagehall@outlook.com. The Parish Council agreed all sounds good.

12. To discuss a new Parish Notice Board and Ponds

Ponds. Cllr. Sarah Martin reported that the willows at the Wayland Road pond need attention. She had arranged for 4 people/companies to inspect and quote. Two have quoted - £1000-£2000 and £2400 to have all the trees removed. Two didn't reply/quote. The pond is the fullest it has been for years. Tree roots should be left for stabilisation of the ground. Trees should be pollarded and dealt with on an annual basis. As the willows are near the electricity lines Sarah will be contacting UK Power networks to see if they can help. When Ed Stocker, NCC visits Chapel Green Pond they will mention Wayland Road pond too just in case they can help here too.

Parish Notice Board. Cllr. Howie has received a quote for a noticeboard from the Parish Notice Board Company from their 'Classic' range. Aluminium, magnetic and comprising 2 x A2 size display areas, double doors at a cost of £620 plus Vat. Cllr. Howie proposed purchasing the new notice board and there was a unanimous decision to go ahead. Green was the colour of choice. Cllr. Southgate agreed to check the measurements.

13. Dog Poo problems and bins

Cllr. Martin had picked up 25 discarded poo bags in one spot - a drainage ditch. She had posted a notice and the problem had currently stopped. It was agreed extra dog poo bins were probably not needed.

14. To update on First Time Sewerage System for Rocklands St. Peter

Cllr. Howie had been told they needed to analyse OFWAT's determination and then an update would be forthcoming.

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

New Breckland Local Plan has now been adopted by Breckland, therefore a new set of policies will apply to applications in the Parish. Breckland have a 5-year housing supply for building land. RG now working on RNP can now go ahead to be finalised. There has been some discussion to extend the RNP and turn it into a blueprint for more than just development. Could cover drainage, green spaces and long-term plans for community facilities. Yaxham NP includes a similar blueprint. RG thinks we should take the opportunity to extend. Would need input from PC and to expand the RNP committee. Committee members would take on specific aspects or issues.

The Clerk will ask Sarah Suggitt if she can provide a copy of the Local Plan for the PC.

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

First set of figures were reported at the last PC meeting. The SID was moved to The Street on 11/10/19, facing towards the Village Hall. It was then moved to Attleborough Road on 11/11/2019, facing towards Caston. However, the same day, a resident living across the road from the sign complained that light emissions from the sign were unacceptable - so the sign was switched off pending further investigation. After RH had consulted the manufacturer's design and development engineer (significant emissions are restricted to just 7 degrees either side of straight ahead), and the Norfolk Constabulary Traffic Management Officer (regarding alternative locations), he fed back information to the resident and the sign was tweaked by 2 degrees and reactivated on 12/12/2019. No further issues were raised. The SID was finally moved to the other monitoring location on Attleborough Road on 06/01/2020, facing towards Great Ellingham. RH thanked Tim Ford for his continued help with moving the SID to new locations.

Signed

Date

The data gathered since the last meeting was:

The Street - facing towards Village Hall (30mph limit)

11/10/2019 - 11/11/2019 (31 days)

9,292 vehicles

9,083 (97.8%) within speed limit

209 (2.2%) exceeding speed limit

of which 14 (0.2%) would attract prosecution

top speed 40mph

Morning peak: 09:30-10:30 Afternoon peak: 16:15-17:15

Attleborough Road - facing towards Caston (40mph limit)

12/12/19 - 06/01/20 (25 days)

24,913 vehicles

22,051 (88.5%) within speed limit

2,862 (11.5%) exceeding speed limit

of which 588 (2.4%) would attract prosecution

top speed 60mph

Morning peak: 07:45-08:45 Afternoon peak: 15:15-16:15

RH will report the SID data to the Police at the next SNAP (Safer Neighbourhood Action Plan) meeting on 16/01/20. He will particularly highlight the data obtained from the first placement - Attleborough Road, facing towards Great Ellingham - where 21.2% of vehicles had been found to be exceeding the speed limit, of which 7.5% would have attracted prosecution. This will enable the Police to prioritise the location of officers to monitor traffic.

Residents on the North end of The Street have suggested additional SID locations. RH agreed that additional locations would be good, and will investigate with TF and residents. 2 new brackets will be required, and RH will apply to NCC Highways for a new memorandum of understanding as appropriate. PC agreed to purchase/obtain 2-3 more brackets. RH would sort.

17. To update on Highways

Claudette had twisted her ankle due to a pothole in Green Lane. Cllr. Howie had spoken to Highways who had carried out the work.

A pothole was reported in Fen Street where the horses are at Beacon Farm.

18. To update on Flooding (RH)

The water table is high, but water appears to be running away freely. Blockage in a culvert in The Street has been dealt with and water now flowing through previously damaged section. Not sure if repair to culvert has been approved. Need to get drainage survey done. Information leaflets were delivered on 2 December. Have had lots of positive comments. There will be a Public Meeting in the Village Hall, including NCC representatives, Breckland environmental reps and Highways.

19. To discuss any correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

20. AOB

Just a reminder that there is a hunt meeting at Kirk Hall 7 January 2020.

21. Date of next Meeting

Monday 17 February 2020, 7pm, Rocklands Village Hall

The meeting closed at 20.57

Signed

Date