

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in Rocklands Village Hall
7.00pm on Monday 8 January 2018

Present:	David Howie	Chair
	Nicola Southgate	Vice-chair
	David Roberts	
	Cath Jones	
	Ian Scholes	
	Shirley Colenutt	
	Kim Austin	Clerk
	Bill Smith	District Councillor

Also present: 24 members of the public.
The meeting started at 7:02.

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllr. Witt who was on holiday.

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 November 2017

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

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (6 Nov 2017) not on the agenda.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation

Meeting adjourned at 19.04pm and opened to the public.

A resident at Chapel Green said he was fed up with the other residents' attitude. He had some hardcore delivered and someone came to see what he was doing. He felt he was being watched.

The meeting re-opened at 19.06pm.

6. To update on the Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) – Richard Golke

RG said there was not a great deal to report since last meeting. Reminded that Hastoe Housing Authority will be giving a 30 minute presentation at the next PC meeting in February. They will be looking at the possibility of working with Rocklands to provide a summary report of housing needs. There would be no cost for the survey and it would outline what type of houses would be needed and for what type of people. This report would remain the property of Rocklands to do with as they please. Fliers will be distributed before the February meeting encouraging villagers to attend. It would be good to have as many people attend as possible as Hastoe staff will be travelling a fair distance from Saffron Walden. It was asked if Hastoe would suggest locations for housing. They would, but they would look round the village themselves rather than being shown around which could be misconstrued. They would do their own survey.

ML mentioned Glemstead and Stanstead where affordable housing was built and fly tipping increased as a direct result. ML was highlighting that it can bring its own problems.

Last week, Susan Heinrich of Breckland planning committed RNP committee to get first draft out by 1/7/2018. It will go to Breckland for comment as an unofficial step in the process. RNP Committee will then have much work to do after a quiet 5 months.

Signed

Date

7. To update on Local Plan

Has moved forward to formal examination, probably March/April. Attleborough plan has been accepted.

8. To update on Village Gateways (DH)

White gateways have now been installed on the approaches to the village on the Attleborough Road and Brays Lane. They are not quite finished yet and will need to be inspected by the council for licencing. Many thanks must go to Andy Stevenson from Ridgeons for supplying the materials and to James Harrold and Cain Router for their help with erecting the gateways. This is something the PC has been wanting to do for a long time and between Andy, James and Cain they have made this possible for the village.

9. To discuss litter problems in the village (DH)

Litter in the village is not normally a problem but DH had received a letter from a lady saying McDonalds wrappers and cups had been littered. There were also drinks cans in a ditch and a bin had been knocked over (Could have been in the recent high winds.) Sometimes on a Friday night some litter is discarded by people in cars travelling back from Norwich to Watton after a night out. There is also some litter along the Mill Lane footpath. Some drinks cans are littered after football matches at the playing fields. ML mentioned he had found 2 pheasants on the footpath on Ridgeons boundary that had had the breasts removed, presumably for eating. Not sure why they hadn't been taken away for butchering. May have been shot and butchered at the same time.

6 large black bin bags of rubbish had been left on the Thieves Lane to Little Ellingham Road. The council would normally pick these up. John would phone the council himself.

10. To update on Chapel Green

Caroline, chair of the newly formed Chapel Green (CG) committee had asked for permission from RPC to put railway sleepers along the edge of CG to reinstate the barrier between the Green and the parking area. Old photographs of the Green showed that originally there had been some delineation, either sleepers or logs. Humps are still visible where the gravel starts, where the logs or sleepers had rotted or been removed. The Parish Council gave their permission for the sleepers to be sited.

The final cut of the year had been done so no more work to be done now.

Richard Day reported that his work's van had been damaged/vandalised whilst parked at Chapel Green on more than one occasion. Richard thought the damage may have been done on purpose because people didn't like him parking his van there. Cllr. Howie said he would be very surprised if anyone from the village would do this sort of thing. As Richard was obviously very upset about this, Cllr, Howie agreed to go and visit him to discuss.

It was reported that, in the last few weeks, laminated posters had been placed on cars parking in the CG area. It transpired that the previous chairman of the PC had produced some sort of notice, but this was not recent. And posting of notices would have been ~18 months ago.

It was suggested that a Chapel Green open day could be held to make people more aware of the Green, its maintenance and what the CG Committee were working towards. The village is lucky to have a nature area such as this, that can also be used as an educational tool. The CG committee could provide regular updates for the Rocklander.

11. To discuss NEW Rocklands Play Park (Kirsty Router and Laura Spratt)

No replies had been received yet to the grants recently applied for. Another meeting was planned for 31 January in the pub. Kirsty and Laura were vert enthusiastic and would be pressing on.

12. To update on dog poo problems

The notices posted seemed to have worked.

Signed

Date

13. To report on finance.

13.1 Financial position

The bank account balances as at Monday 8 Jan 2018

Barclays Community Account	£	3894.86
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	2326.65
TOTAL as per bank	£	6221.51

13.2 Money in since last meeting (6 Nov 2017)

4/12/2017	Barclays Saver A/C Interest	£	0.41
	TOTAL IN	£	0.41

13.3 Cheques out (to sign)

CHQ 614	K&M Lighting 2 months (Dec 2017 - Jan 2018)	£	27.56
CHQ 615	LCPAS Annual subscription	£	100.00
CHQ 616	Rocklands Village Hall - Hall hire PC meetings	£	69.00
	TOTAL OUT	£	196.56

LED streetlights and electricity costs.

The clerk was doing the end of grant report for the grant for the streetlights and she had hoped to report the amount that had been saved on electricity. However, she noticed the monthly payments for electricity had remained the same at ~£70. The clerk discovered this was because Rocklands were on an unmetered supply and it is up to them to update their inventory, should it change. David Witt was able to describe the old lamps and the new lamps in term of wattages and the clerk forwarded this information to the supplier. The cost should reduce considerably, and the supplier suggested the saving could be backdated to when the new LED lights were installed back in October 2016 ! The clerk will report back at the next meeting.

Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) - Accounts

Balance same as at previous meeting **£272.60.**

13.4 Precept setting

The Clerk had distributed summary accounts and projections for 2018/2019 to all councillors prior to the meeting to aid discussion. Precept Forms for 2018/2019 needed to be returned by Friday 26 January 2018 so the level of precept needed to be decided at this meeting. It was noted that an extra 'grant' amount of £84 would also be paid to Rocklands on top of the precept amount. After this year, the extra 'grant' amount payable with the precept will be zero.

After looking at extra items that might need funding in the future, such as upkeep of footpaths, and other community areas such as Chapel Green and the need for some traffic calming feature such as a flashing SAM2 unit, it was agreed the precept should be set at **£5500**. The PC had in fact requested the same amount (£5000) for the last few years. Cllr. Howie signed the precept forms. The clerk would post before the precept deadline.

14. To consider planning applications

14.1 Planning OUTCOMES since last meeting

3PL/2017/1225/F Annison/Mill Lane/Single Storey Dwelling - Reply by 10/11 (128) REFUSED

3PL/2017/1278/F Warnes/Land adj. Magpie Lane /Change of use to new stables (129) PERMISSION

3PL/2017/1338/EU Brady/Self contained dwelling (RETRO) (126/130) REFUSED

14.2 Applications PENDING outcome

3PL/2016/1445/VAR Kerry Foods/Little Ellingham/Variations (110) - UNDECIDED

It was agreed to remove this item as had been pending for such a long time. Reinstate if needed.

Signed

Date

3PL/2017/0899/F Cotes/Green Lane & Mill Lane/7 New dwellings (122) - STILL UNDECIDED.

It was asked if the PC knew when a decision would be made, but they didn't know. The applicant/agent originally had until 30/10/2017 to reply. They didn't reply until just before Christmas but still accepted. PC were not happy that timescales/deadlines had been completely ignored. Highways and flood risk department had redone their report and were very dissatisfied. To support Rocklands objections to this application, an urgent letter would be sent to Breckland Planning detailing the recent flooding in The Street together with photographs. Now on 3rd case officer Debbie Sharman. Earliest listing at committee would be March.

14.3 NEW applications since last meeting

3PL/2017/0993/F Nixon/Adj. Laurel Bungalow/New bungalow (131) Already commented NO OBJ

HRN/2017/0003/HRN Howlett/Kirk Hall Farm/Hedge removal (132) Already commented NO OBJ

The PC would not normally support hedge removal but the Howletts had previously been putting in hedging showing they were responsible landowners.

3PN/2017/0021/UC Upstone/Foxhill Sandy Lane/CU Agri to House/Garage (113)(133) APPEAL

3PL/2017/1554/F Firman/Old Fish Shop, 68 The Street/New double garage (134) NO OBJECTION

14.4 Planning ENFORCEMENT issues

Planning enforcement: Annison Mill Lane. NOTICE ISSUED FROM 1/10/217 - 1/7/2018

Planning enforcement logged: Suggitt vehicles at speed after permitted hours.

15 To update on Neighbourhood Watch

Surplus bin stickers are available from the Village shop. Any donations would be given back to the Mann Trust to distribute to other causes. There have been two oil thefts recently so need to be vigilant. Beat Officers have gone. The main one trained to become a policeman.

16 To update on Village Shop and Post Office

One part time manager has left for a new job. The other is off long term sick. One of the suppliers has gone bust and the shop has recently won an award. Well done !

17 To update on Rocklands Village Hall (SC)

Just a note that the wood has been removed from the ditch and the Village Hall committee will meet next week.

18 To update on Rocklands School (DJ)

No change. Thriving and bursting at the seams as reported at the last PC meeting.

19 To update on Trees

A tree had fallen blocking Thieves Lane/Bell Lane ~200 yards into Thieves Lane. Cllr. Howie will have a look and maybe get Richard to deal with.

20 To update on Playing Fields (DH)

Cllr. Howie reported that Fred Skitmore that used to do a lot of work at the Playing Fields was unwell and Alan Fisher had moved away. Resources had dwindled. Some work had been done on the man hole covers and the fire door had been replaced. Parking in Green Lane is a problem on Sunday mornings.

21 To update on Highways

None

22 To update on Flooding

There had been flooding in the Street which appeared to be caused by a blockage under the road. Highways and Cllr. Jordan had been informed. They said the road would need to be dug up. Cyril commented on a pipe that should be acting as a dam that was not working because the diameter was too large. It should be a smaller 6" pipe so that the water dams and runs over the top. Two new

Signed

Date

houses across the road have been built on what was the water pit/water holding area. Even in the summer there is normally water running through these pipes but at the moment the water is not moving, indicating there must be a blockage. It has been rodded and 'spiralised'. RG mentioned another area that used to be a water holding area that had been filled in. Cllr. Howie will contact Highways to see if they are willing to put the ditch back in.

23 To discuss any correspondence.

No correspondence.

24 AOB

None.

23. Date of next Meeting

Monday 19 January 2018, 7pm, Rocklands Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.

Signed

Date