

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)  
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in Rocklands Village Hall  
7.00pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Present:	David Howie	Chair
	Nicola Southgate	Vice-Chair
	David Witt	
	Shirley Colenutt	
	Cath Jones	
	David Roberts	
	Ian Scholes	
	Kim Austin	Clerk
	Cliff Jordan	County Councillor

Also present: 6 members of the public.

**1. To consider accepting apologies for absence**

RESOLVED to accept apologies from District Cllr. William Smith who had other commitments.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016**

Ian Scholes had been omitted from those listed as present at the meeting. Ian was added to the list and the councillors then 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.

**4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (22nd February 2016) not on the agenda**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation**

Meeting adjourned at 19.35pm and opened to the public.

There were no comments from the public.

The meeting re-opened at 19.36pm.

**6. To update on the Neighbourhood Plan - Richard Golke (RG) Richard Harrison (RH)  
Neighbourhood Plan Committee (NPC)**

Posters are now up. Leaflets have been delivered to every address in the Parish according to the Electoral Roll. It was agreed Richard Golke had done an excellent job with designing the leaflets. Letters have been sent to all organisations and landowners within the Parish who wouldn't be able to vote as they were not on the Roll. The leaflets/letters ask for comments and there is a box for replies in the Village Shop. Cllr. Witt noticed that there were more properties in the village than were on the Roll but this may be because they have not registered to vote ? There has been a feeling of demoralisation learning about the Regional Authority but the group presses on. The replies will be collected and the responses analysed and discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr. Howie added that hopefully the PC wouldn't spend too much on this project. An expression of interest form would be filled in to apply for a grant and fingers crossed for a good outcome.

Signed .....

Date .....

**7. Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations - 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May** there would be a quiz organised by Cllr. Colenutt to raise money for a Street Party. Michelle in the shop is dealing with the road closure for the Street Party. Cllr. Howie had also spoken to the council and they were not unduly concerned as it was a Sunday. Cllr. Howie mentioned a dance/music but was not sure if 'dancing' was allowed on a Sunday ! Ian Scholes would check and the event would be discussed at the next Village Hall meeting. Garden visits had been cancelled that weekend. There would be a special church Sunday church service.

**ACTION** Cllr. Scholes to find out about music/dancing..

**8. Wayland Road**

There had already been discussion about the parking problems in Wayland Road. Cllr. Howie had been involved in the discussions and really wasn't sure what the answer was. Flagship Housing wouldn't allow parking in front gardens. Elaine from Wayland Road had contacted the Clerk to ask the date of the PC meeting. The item was put on the agenda. It was noted that Elaine was not present at the meeting. County Cllr. Cliff Jordan said he would take this problem on. The Clerk would ask Elaine to write to Cllr. Jordan so he has all the facts.

**ACTION** The Clerk to contact Elaine at Wayland Road.

**9. Street Light replacement**

Streetlights should be replaced with a more environmentally friendly option. Cllr. Witt had already had a quote of £300 plus vat per light (£6000 for 20 lights). He had now had a quote from another company K & M Lighting Services, based in Huntingdon, Cambs., whereby the fittings would be kept and just the internals would be changed. Sounds sensible and would be much cheaper at £70 plus vat per light (**£1400 for 20 lights**). A dramatic difference in the price. They would not charge for checking if feasible. The PC agreed that Cllr. Witt should get this company to go ahead with the site survey. It was agreed we should get them to fit one light as a trial run. Cllr Witt would enquire re repairs, renewals and any maintenance contracts. It was suggested to use any funds generated from the sale of the Phone Box towards the new lights.

**ACTION** Cllr. Witt to arrange site survey and enquire about maintenance.

**10. Around the Village (Cllr. Howie)**

**Bridleways** are overgrown and in some areas the farmers are ploughing up a meter extra along the edges. Thieves Lane OK at the moment.

**Village Walks** are being held once a month. Refer to Alan and Elaine Johnson and Roger Steel.

Would like to have **flowers** on the approach to the village or under the village sign.

Would need someone to take responsibility for looking after the flowers.

**Bus Stop** needs a working party to tidy it up.

Pat Robinson reported that Chapel Street pond is overgrown. Cllr. Howie to notify Chris Sharpe.

**ACTION** Cllr. Howie to notify Chris Sharpe.

**11. Rocklands Primary School (Dave Jones (DJ) school governor)**

DJ reported that the educational landscape is changing rapidly and massively. In 2011, Rocklands School became a Federation with Great Ellingham School sharing a Head Mistress. Now there are more and more Academies emerging. Academisation is driven by low attainment of schools in general. The art is to get a good sponsor - preferably someone who is interested in education. They are bigger units than Federations and they cut out the local authorities. Academisation is being pushed and we need to consider what this means to Rocklands School. There is a move for all schools to become Academies by 2020.

Smaller schools are considered inefficient as there is a higher cost per head. Rocklands School is stronger than it has ever been and there is a high demand for places. People living outside the Village are taking up places that should otherwise go to those living in Rocklands. Newcomers to the village are being denied places at the Village School.

Signed .....

Date .....

The current site of the School does not allow for the school to grow. A bigger school could be built adjacent to the playing fields. This would allow proper use of the playing fields and would alleviate car parking issues at school pick up/drop off times in The Street. Currently the school's Victorian buildings are well maintained and although old have double glazing and sensor lighting to save money. The school is as low maintenance as it can be.

The teacher: pupil ratio is 1:24 resulting in small teaching groups that offer teaching for individuals' specific needs. More than one year group is taught per class. It is common for the older children to look after the younger ones. It is a caring, nurturing and comfortable environment. It teaches pupils to be calm, strong and to recognise self-worth, attributes that set them up well for the next part of their educational journey.

Village school heads have been meeting together. Teachers may even take strike action over academisation. Mrs Ware the headmistress is retiring and her replacement's job may disappear should the school become an Academy.

The Parish Councillors all agreed they wanted to preserve the School and wanted local people running local institutions. Would an article in the EDP help ? to encourage feedback and other schools to come together.

Cllr Howie concluded that everybody wants the best for the school and the Parish Council would help with whatever they could. The School report should be fed into the Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan and should be put in the Rocklander.

## 12. To report on Finance

The Clerk delivered the financial report.

### 12.1 Financial position

The bank account balances as at Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Barclays Community Account	£	5540.08
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	702.63
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>6242.71</b>

### 12.2 Money in since last meeting

7/3/16	Barclays Saver Account - Interest	£	0.09
11/3/16	Pat Robinson - Chapel Green Licence	£	1.00
7/4/16	Breckland Council - Precept	£	2622.50
	<b>TOTAL IN</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2623.59</b>

### 12.3 Cheques out (to sign)

CHQ 561	Barkers Print & Design (Leaflets) (RNP)	£	64.00
CHQ 562	Kim Austin (Clerk) Reimbursements 3 months	£	43.34
CHQ 563	Cllr David Howie - expenses (Printer Ink)	£	27.49
	<b>TOTAL OUT</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>134.83</b>

### Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RNP)

It is the intention that any costs incurred as a result of the RNP will be reimbursed to Rocklands Parish council once some grant money has been received. In the meantime the Clerk will keep a list of any items to be repaid such as Barkers Print and Design for the leaflets that have now been distributed.

### Transfer of Money

The Clerk has transferred the sum of £2622.50 (10/4/16) from the Community Account to the Saver account being the amount just received as the PRECEPT.

Signed .....

Date .....

### 13. To consider planning applications

#### 13.1 Update on Chapel Street

With yet another revision submitted, comments are again invited by **2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016**. Highways are against the application but cannot rely on this. Chris Sharpe is contacting local MP George Freeman. Anybody that has submitted comments in the past should resubmit as they are not carried forward. The Clerk will email the PC's last response to Cllr. Southgate to be updated before resending. Cllr. Howie will call another meeting.

**ACTION** The Clerk to email Cllr. Southgate with last Chapel Street response.

Cllr. Southgate went through all the planning applications, outcomes, pending and new.

#### 13.2 Planning outcomes since last meeting

3PL/2016/0126/HOU **Hickman**/Sequester View, Aboro Road/2 storey extension (90) **PERMISSION**

3PL/2016/0147/F **Howlett**/Rodwells/Barn to dwelling (91) **PERMISSION**

3PL/2015/0986/F **Annison**/Moorfield/Mount Pleasant - Retrospl. conservatory (81) **PERMISSION**

#### 13.3 Applications pending outcome

3AG/2014/0019/AG **Bidmead**/Tuppins Farm/ Extsn to exist agri build - (53) **PRIOR APP REQ ?**

3PL/2015/0384/F **Paske**/Chapel Street Rear of Fredena **11 Dwellings (Was 10)** (62/75) (87)

#### 13.4 New applications since last meeting

3PL/2016/0180/VAR **Amy Gray**/Monarch/Variation of Condition (92)

3PL/2016/0240/HOU **Dan Barnard**/Kimberley Chapel St./2 storey Extension (93) **PERMISSION**

3PL/2016/0287/HOU **McIlwhan**/Nerine, Bell Road/Extension & Alterations (94)

3PL/2016/0312/F **Barham**/Adjacent 2 The Street/House & Double garage (95)

The PC agreed NO OBJECTION to McIlwhan (94) and NO OBJECTION to Barham (95) except there were concerns about the drainage. The Clerk would add comments to the Breckland Planning website to this effect.

**ACTION** The Clerk to update planning website

### 14 To update on the Breckland Local Plan

A draft copy would be available by 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

### 15 To update on telephone boxes

**Mount Pleasant**. NOW disconnected ! Al Bainbridge and Cllr. David Howie were thanked for all their hard and frustrating work in organising the disconnect. Now back to selling it. Was offered £700 on Ebay initially. Offers above £500. Sealed bids/best offers by or put back on Ebay ? Advertise in Rocklander and on website. Cllr. Southgate will produce advert.

**ACTION** Cllr. Southgate to advertise Phone Box for sale.

**Library**. Sue Steel takes the books out over winter to stop them getting damp.

Sue Bunnywell will arrange working party to paint and tidy up. Need ~2.5 litres RED paint as agreed at the last meeting.

### 16 To update on Neighbourhood Watch

A speaker (Mr. Evans) was expected but didn't turn up. Cllr. Howie expressed his disappointment. The initial enthusiasm for the project has been lost and now needs revitalising.

### 17 To update on Village Shop and Post Office

Cllr. Jones reported that the Shop was doing fine.

### 18 To update on Village Pub

The only comment was that it was very sad what was happening to the pub.

Signed .....

Date .....

**19 To update on Trees**

It was agreed there would be a collection to buy an oak tree in remembrance of Richard Smedley. It would be looked after by the Playing Fields Committee.

**20 To update on Playing Fields**

The Clerk had received an email from Alan Fisher who said that at the last Playing Field meeting the committee decided they would like to press ahead with extension plans and in first instance obtain planning permission and obtain an idea of costs before making any grant application. He said the PC members had seen the plans but he needed an email from the PC giving consent to go ahead and make the planning application in the PC's name. He noted that also as trustees any future grant application would also have to be in the PC's name. He asked that consent could be given at this meeting. Carried forward from the last PC meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 the Parish Councillors agreed they were happy with the basis of the extension but asked for something in writing to say there would be no cost to the Parish Council. This is still pending.

**21 To update on Highways**

Cllr. Howie had spoken to highways re the 40mph sign and they said it would be re-instated. Cllr. Scholes would look into the cost of 'Slow Down' stickers for wheelie bins although there were concerns that the bins were only roadside for one day a week.

**22 To update on Flooding**

There were no reports of flooding.

**23 To discuss any correspondence**

Newsletter from Came and Co. Insurance company.

**24. AOB - To receive items for next agenda**

No items were received.

**25. Date of next Meeting**

Monday 9th May 2016, 7pm, Rockland's Village Hall - AGM Annual Parish Council Meeting

**The meeting closed at 8.40pm.**

Signed .....

Date .....