

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)  
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting (Virtual meeting - held using ZOOM)  
7.30pm on Monday 3 May 2021

Present:	David Howie	Chair
	Nickie Southgate	Vice Chair
	Richard Harrison	
	Sarah Martin	
	Tim Ford	
	Bryan Swaddling	
	Kim Austin	Clerk
	Ed Connolly	Norfolk County Councillor
	Sarah Suggitt	Breckland District Councillor

Also present: 13 members of the public joined the group meeting.  
The meeting opened at 19:30. The Clerk took the chair.

**1. To elect Chairperson 2021 - 2021**

David Howie agreed to stand again as Chair. Cllr. Southgate proposed and Cllr. Harrison seconded the proposal. David Howie was duly elected as chair for another year. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office would be signed after the meeting together with a Declaration of Pecuniary Interest (DPI) if necessary. Cllr. Howie took the Chair.

**2. To elect Vice Chairperson 2021 - 2021**

Nicola Southgate agreed to stand again as Vice Chair. Cllr. Ford proposed and Cllr. Swaddling seconded the proposal. Nicola Southgate was duly elected as vice-chair. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office would be signed after the meeting together with a Declaration of Pecuniary Interest (DPI) if necessary.

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

There were no apologies.

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

Cllr. Southgate declared an interest in planning application 3SR/2021/0001/SCO - a scoping exercise. Agenda item 11.3.

**5. To approve the minutes of the last council meeting on Monday 8 March 2021**

The minutes had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. An amended version had also been circulated (minor changes to 9.3). All councillors approved the minutes. Approval was proposed by Cllr. Harrison and seconded by Cllr. Southgate. The Chair, Cllr. David Howie would sign the minutes after the meeting.

**6. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (8 March 2021) not on the agenda.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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

There were no comments from the public.

**8. To Co-opt a new Parish Councillor**

The vacancy had been advertised and Paula Bidmead had volunteered to become a Parish Councillor. Unfortunately, Paula was not present at the meeting. There was a unanimous vote from the councillors for Paula to join Rocklands Parish Council. All agreed it was an excellent application. Co-option was proposed by Cllr. Southgate and seconded by Cllr. Martin. The Clerk would forward the

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relevant forms (Declaration of Acceptance of Office and DPI) to Paula for signing. It was confirmed it was OK to co-opt a councillor in the absence of the applicant.

## **9. To receive village reports**

### **9.1 Village Shop and Post Office (Dave Seaton DS). No report.**

### **9.2 Village Hall (Sarah Good SG)**

SG report was delivered by Cllr. Howie. The Rocklands Village Hall committee held their last virtual meeting on Wednesday 14 April 2021. The Village Hall remains closed to the public at present. The committee is planning a working party on 1 May to prepare the village hall to reopen for a first hiring on the 6 May - Election day. The Line dancers hope to restart after the 17 May, with the Toddler Group starting soon after. A 'Cuppa and Catch-up' event is planned in the village hall grounds on Bank Holiday Monday 31 May. The event has been advertised in May edition of The Rocklander.

### **9.3 Little Rocky's Parent and Toddler Group (Sharon Brown).**

The Clerk delivered Sharon's report. Little Rocky's were delighted that they would be reopening for their first session on 21 May 9.30-11.30am although the sessions would look a little different, due to current restrictions. We will adhere to the Government guidelines and the Early Years' Alliance practice for reopening the toddler group. Naturally, we will do everything in our power to ensure parents feel confident about re-joining our group and with this in mind, we have decided to limit the number of parents to 10. Thankfully, children under 5 do not count towards our figures. We hope this will only be a temporary measure with the view to offering more places by the end of June.

To guarantee your place for the Friday morning sessions it is essential to pre-book to avoid disappointment. You will need to go to the Little Rocky's Facebook Page for booking details. In the first instance, our loyalty must be with our regular families so please be patient if you do not manage to book sessions for May.

It is our normal practice to have sessions during school holidays and invite older siblings to attend. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer a session for May half term as children who are 5 years and older count towards our maximum number of attendees. We do, however, remain hopeful that we will be able to offer additional sessions for 5-7-year-olds during the summer break. More information about our future plans will appear in the June or July editions of the Rocklander, on our Facebook Page and on the village website.

### **9.4 Rocklands Primary School (David Jones DJ). No report,**

### **9.5 Rocklands Playing Fields (Sarah Good SG)**

SG report was delivered by Cllr. Southgate. The Rocklands Playing Field committee held their last virtual meeting on Thursday 8 April 2021. The pavilion bar area and changing rooms remain closed to the public, although training and matches continue to be held on the playing field. Social distancing is encouraged and a one-way system is in place around the pavilion. A lot of work has gone into improving the condition of the playing field, the playground and the car park and we are pleased with the outcome. The children's playground has reopened and there are signs up to remind all users to sanitise their hands and adhere to social distancing rules.

#### **Adult and youth football (Amanda Buckland)**

Currently 2 evenings of training on a Tuesday and Wednesday. Floodlights off within 15 minutes of end of training, so by 9.15pm. Struggling to support the younger groups, so would like to increase sessions to 5, so youth and adults can train separately. Trying to get sponsorship for mobile lights (possibly with hoods) until can get planning permission. Lights would be on for more evenings but for less time. 4 nights youth would finish at 7.15pm. Adults at 7.30pm, gone by 8.00pm. Must consider the amenity of the residents of Green Lane and movement of traffic. Simon Jones had been involved with Rockland's Youth for ~20 years. Numbers were currently at an all-time high, so flourishing. Difficult taking a whole team to Watton for training. Hingham, which is closer, cannot unfortunately accommodate Rocklands.

Cllr. Howie will talk to Ian Scholes and offered help to expedite.

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Date .....

**Green Lane.**

There were concerns about the condition of Green Lane and speeding vehicles. Condition is awful. Residents had filled in some potholes. Highways not interested because Lane classed as a bridleway (No. 8) only for horses, cyclists and pedestrians. Vehicle movements allowed by permission of landowners only. Cllr. Harrison confirmed, it is not allowed to Tarmac a bridleway. Cllr. Swaddling, a resident of Green Lane has never been consulted about the lane and wonders if this is because he lives beyond the pavilion towards the end of the Lane. Would be happy to be included in any discussions. Cllr. Howie said he would organise a meeting and report back.

**9.6 Rockland St. Peter Church (RSP) (John Brown JB).No report**

**9.7 Rockland All Saints' Church (RAS) (Cath Jones CJ)**

The Clerk delivered Cath's report. After about 14 months of enforced hibernation, it now seems that the churches are beginning to be able to open again and services are being held more regularly. The congregations are required to wear masks (unless exempt), sanitise their hands and sign into a register on arrival. At the moment, no singing is allowed by the congregation, although a small number of singers are allowed to sing as a choir, if socially distanced. Service times will be published in the Rocklander.

As you have probably seen on the news, there has been a lot of discussion about the future of rural churches, almost all with old and decaying buildings and used largely by matching people! No decisions have been made about the churches in our benefice, but it is highly likely that we will not be able to continue as we are for much longer, especially after Rev Christina retires on her 80th birthday next February.

We are asked to provide about £26,000 for the Diocese of Norwich each year, from the 5 churches of Rocklands, the Ellinghams and Shropham. At All Saints, we have somehow managed to give a bit more than our share to help boost the coffers but most of the other churches give what they can, but it does not make up the shortfall. This means that we are unsustainable, and our future is in jeopardy.

At All Saints, we have been fortunate in having a series of strong dedicated church wardens who have managed to keep things afloat, certainly in the 45 years since we moved to the village. The latest is John Scase, who, together with his wife Barbara and others, has managed to keep the property and churchyard in very good order. John has now re-tired as church warden and sadly, there is nobody able to fill the position. He produced a 3-page document of 'jobs that have to be done' and the rest of us remaining on the PCC are looking in trepidation at them and dividing them up as best we can! Fortunately, Cor Dekker has agreed to take on the job of treasurer, so that is one job ticked off!

There is no further news about the state of the crack in the tower as Lockdowns have prevented the cherry picker man coming out for the engineer to check the tell-tales that were fitted in late 2019. Visually from the ground, the cracks appear to be unchanged, so we are hoping there is no immediate risk. More of a problem has been the invasion of rooks/jackdaws who have persistently broken through the netting covering the apertures in the tower and made a terrible mess with twigs etc. Climbing up into the bell tower is precarious, especially for old men, but John and Dave have done it many times to clear out the mess and to try and repair the damaged windows. They have now asked Josh Bates if he can help, and he is looking at ways in which a more long-term solution can be found. Fingers crossed!

Without services and fundraisers, our income has been very depleted. Barbara's Day has had to be cancelled for the second year running but Barbara and Cor are going to have a plant and books stall outside 39 The Street towards the end of May. The money raised will go towards the publication of the new Rocklander magazine, that started off as an All Saints church magazine many decades ago.

Sadly, we have lost 3 more supporters in the last couple of months. Herbert Houchen, who was born and raised in Rocklands died in March and was buried with his wife, Dorothea (a former parish council chair) and daughter in the churchyard. Isabella Rann died on 28 March in NNUH- a service of thanksgiving for her life is planned for the end of June in the church when restrictions hopefully will be over. Anne Ellis, a stalwart supporter, always working quietly in

the background, died suddenly on Easter Day and was also buried in our churchyard. We send our love and condolences to all the families. It brings the total of deaths in our church family since this time last year to seven...all sorely missed.

On a more positive note, we are planning to hold the Flower festival again, regulations permitting, on the weekend of 10-12 July, so that is something for us all to look forward to !

#### **All Saints Roll of Honour.**

The Clerk has received the framed Roll of Honour, from Simon Buggiey as was promised. It lists men from Rockland All Saints with St. Andrew who served in the Great War of 1914-1919. This is a wonderful piece of history with stunning artwork and bright colours. Looking at the names, we are sure that some of these men's families may still live in the village. Simon came across this when clearing his late parents' home. Originally it was thought it could be displayed in All Saints church, but we need to be mindful of the conditions it is kept, in order to maintain its beauty and colour. The Village Hall or Village Shop were also suggested. Or maybe it could be moved between locations to maximise the number of people that would see it. The Parish Council thanked Simon for his very kind donation of the Roll of Honour and a folder of old postcards. Simon Jones suggested contacting Heather Etteridge who has an interest in village history. Cllr. Howie will contact Roger Steel who has been involved with Rockland's History in the past.

#### **9.8 White Hart Public House (Dave Thomas DT)**

Almost two weeks now we have been open and all appears to be going quite well. The 'Grill on the Green' is performing as expected and we continue to develop our menu, albeit we still field calls for people looking to order fish and chips for Friday evening. As I write this, we are preparing for the May Day Bank Holiday weekend. This year it will be in aid of Dementia UK, a disease which has, I am sure, touched too many of our friends and relatives. For the time being we are not taking bookings for seating as we were let down far too often following the re-opening post lockdown two. This appears out of sorts for some, although fits quite well within our business model and Covid Safe planning. We intend to continue using our open space throughout the summer and as such look to plan many exciting events. If only we could rely on our weather !

#### **9.9 To update on Chapel Green Meadow (Carolyn Emblen)**

As previously stated, the Parish Council are well aware the pond needs some work. The job has been in hand for a while, but due to Covid and the weather, having the wettest few months for years, the work has unfortunately been delayed. Cllr. Howie is in regular contact with Ed Stocker, ecologist at NCC. Work is planned for July/August when the ground around the pond is at its firmest and the water level should be lower. Ed Stocker confirmed funds have been earmarked to cover biodiversity enhancement of this pond (removing reed mace etc.) but not for hard engineering to cover retaining walls/gabions etc.

Post meeting note: The Clerk has contacted a local company about willow spiling.

#### **9.10 To update on VE Day Grant money (Shena Scholes)**

VE Day grant money of £379.22 remains. Agreed the memorial flower bed would be a permanent fixture so would need to be maintained. Councillors were not keen on pavers around the memorial especially with the close proximity to the bench (currently damaged by a vehicle and the subject of an insurance claim). SS explained the pavers would give it longevity and protect the wood from the grass and moles. A flag/flag pole had been previously suggested but not keen. There was also a suggestion the money could be used for a display cabinet to house the All Saints Roll of Honour in the Village Hall. SS keen to improve the area, maybe another bench or a table bench close to the memorial bed and the phone box library. A nice area to sit. It was reported that Serco contractors had recently been seen in the vicinity of the bench.

#### **10.0 To report on financial matters**

##### **10.1 Approval of accounts 2020/2021 (AGAR Part 2, PKF Littlejohn, External auditors.)**

March 31 was the end of the financial year. The Clerk had prepared the end of year accounts and completed the annual return for the external auditor (AGAR). The AGAR (Part 2) had been circulated to the councillors prior to the meeting for reference.

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Date .....

### 10.1.1 Internal auditor's report (p4) and Certificate of Exemption (p3)

Michaela Canham had carried out the internal audit of the accounts and confirmed all accounts are in order (p4). Michaela's invoice received for £30, same as previous years.

The Clerk explained that because both gross income and expenditure were less than £25,000, Rocklands Parish Council was eligible to apply for an exemption certificate for the year 2020/2021 meaning a limited assurance review would not be carried out by the external auditors. There would therefore be no fee of £200 this year which is good news. It was agreed the Chair would sign the form after the meeting and the Clerk would send the completed/signed form (p3) to PKF Littlejohn the external auditors.

### 10.1.2 To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021 AGAR Part 2. Section. 1 (p5)

The Chair read out the 9 governance statements. All councillors agreed with the statements; therefore the Clerk ticked the YES boxes for statements 1-8. Statement 9 was ticked as N/A. The Form would be signed by the Chair after the meeting.

### 10.1.3 To approve the Accounting Statements 2020/2021 AGAR Part 2. Section 2. (p6)

The councillors all agreed with the accounting statements (p6). The Chair would sign the form after the meeting.

## 10.2 Review of governance documents

### 10.2.1 To review the Constitution

### 10.2.2 To review the Code of Conduct

### 10.2.3 To review Standing Orders

### 10.2.4 To review Financial Regulations

All documents are on the Rocklands website ([www.rocklands.org.uk](http://www.rocklands.org.uk)). All councillors had been asked to review prior to the meeting and to confirm if there were any changes required or OK. No updates were suggested.

## 10.3 Financial position

### Bank account balances as at Monday 3 May 2021

Barclays Community Account	£	7147.70
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	336.79
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>7484.49</b>

### Summary

RPC Rocklands Parish Council	£	6904.67
RNP Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RG)	£	200.60
Norfolk Community Fund grant for VE DAY events	£	379.22
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>7484.49</b>

## 10.4 Money in since last meeting (8 March 2020)

9/4/2021	Precept - 1 of 2 payments - Breckland Council	£	3100.00
16/4/2021	VAT reclaim - HMRC	£	152.39
	<b>TOTAL IN</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>3252.39</b>

## 10.5 Money out since last meeting (8 March 2020)

### 10.5.1 Standing Orders/Direct Debits

16/3/2021	Eon-Electricity (DD)	£	32.17
1/4/2021	Clerk's wages (SO)	£	273.87
16/4/2021	Eon-Electricity (DD)	£	35.62
1/5/2021	Clerk's wages (SO)	£	273.87
	<b>TOTAL OUT</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>615.53</b>

### 10.5.2 Cheques out (to sign)

CHQ 719	Rocklands Community Park (DESTROYED)	£	0.00	FILLED OUT WRONG
CHQ 720	Rocklands Community Park (Money held on account)	£	50.00	ALREADY SIGNED
CHQ 721	Invotec Solutions - Grit Bin	£	130.80	ALREADY SIGNED
CHQ 722	Michaela Canham - Accounts - Internal Audit	£	30.00	

Signed .....

Date .....

CHQ 723	K&M Lighting - streetlight maint. (Apr/May21)	£	30.60
CHQ 724	Kim Austin (Clerk) Reimb. ZOOM subscription (02)	£	14.39
CHQ 725	Information Commissioner - Annual subscription	£	40.00
CHQ 726	Clerk reimbursements - postage, ink etc. 7 months	£	54.04
	<b>TOTAL OUT</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>349.83</b>

#### 10.6 Insurance renewal and claim

Insurance with Community Action Suffolk renews in June 2021 as year 2 of a 3-year LTA (Long Term agreement).

**Insurance claim pending for damaged bench.** A claim has now been submitted for a replacement bench as it is extremely unlikely now, we will find out now who damaged the Parish Council bench, despite numerous enquiries. The Clerk has sent photographs of damage and the cost of replacement and re-installation.

#### Notes:

**VAT reclaim.** Reclaim completed for the year 2020-2021 and £152.39 received.

**Chapel Green Licence.** Remains unpaid. Now 2 years in arrears.

#### 11.0 To consider planning applications

##### 11.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting

###### **3PL/2021/0269/VAR Warnes Magpie Lane/Removal of Condition No's 4 & 5 (215)**

Not surprisingly, this application has now been **WITHDRAWN**, after the agent made a monumental error. Removal of condition nos. 4 & 5 imposed under application ref. 3PL/2016/1039/F would still not allow the site to be used for commercial purposes.

###### **3PL/2020/1481/F Dunning/Magna Farm Barn/Agri to dwelling, cart lodge (209) NO OBJ**

The Parish Council had no objection to this application. **PERMISSION** has been granted.

###### **3PL/2021/0122/HOU Coe/Fairfield 65 The Street/Side/rear extension (213)**

The Parish Council had no objections to this application. **PERMISSION** has been granted.

###### **3PL/2021/0092/HOU Sams/Sage Cottage Annexe, Chapel St/Extn. To annexe (211)**

The Parish Council had no objections to this application. **PERMISSION** has been granted.

###### **3PN/2021/0005/UC Shadrack/Agri building Rectory Road/Agri to 2 dwellings CLASS Q (214)**

The Parish Council had some reservations including access, flooding, back land development.

**PERMISSION** has been granted.

**Model Farm.** A few issues with the Model Farm development have been reported. Unloading of heavy equipment, blocking residential access and the street. The police were called. A low loader has also been seen parked on the Chapel Green car parking area unloading metal fencing units and delivering them to the Model Farm site using a forklift. The Parish Council would ask that consideration is given to neighbours. Also, a complaint about removal of hedging during the nesting period with concern for nests and fledglings, which is against the law and specifically contravenes a planning condition imposed that no such work should be carried out between 1 March and 31 August. Need to check that development is adhering to conditions applied. Parish Council will write to the owner to explain concerns raised.

##### 11.2 Applications pending outcome

###### **3PL/2021/0027/F Free Range Chicken/Common Farm Scoulton Rd/Replace house (208) NO OBJ**

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

###### **3PL/2020/0780/F 2 Agriculture Ltd/Feed Mill Snetterton (210) OBJ, COMMENTS**

Although not in the Parish, Rocklands can understand and is sympathetic to the concerns of other parishes regards this application.

###### **3PL/2021/0133/F Jones/Swangey Lakes/Rural workers dwelling (212)**

Rocklands Parish Council had no objections as such but commented on items mentioned at last PC meeting, outside the settlement boundary and size of dwelling. Decision date delayed.

Signed .....

Date .....

**11.3 New applications since last meeting (8 March 2021)**

**3PL/2020/0780/F** 2 Agri Ltd/Feed Mill Snetterton/Enviro statements (216) **AWAITING OUTCOME**

**3PL/2021/0353/HOU** Borrill/Windrush Mill Lane/Single Storey extn. (217) **NO OBJ, PERMISSION**

**3PL/2021/0451/HOU** Shadrack/Fairview, Whittings Lane/Single Storey Extn. (219)

The Parish council agreed they had **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

**3DC/2021/0089/DOC** Cotes/Mill Lane Green Lane/Discharge condition 3 (220) 3PL/2017/0899/F  
Condition 3 is a construction statement. Setting timescales for loading/unloading.

**3DC/2021/0109/DOC** A revised landscaping plan has been submitted for Mill Lane Green Lane.  
Serious flooding issues remain a concern regarding this site. Any comments from residents should be posted on the Breckland Planning website.

**3SR/2021/0001/SCO 3SR/2021/0001/SCO/Southgate/Land Swangey Lane/8 poultry units (218)**

Cllr. Southgate had expressed an interest in this planning application at the start of this meeting at agenda item 4. Cllr. Southgate left the meeting and did not participate in any discussions regards this item.

Cllr. Howie explained that this was a scoping exercise from Breckland Council. Breckland did not ask the PC to comment, but the PC did offer a holding comment saying they would comment if and when a full application was made. This would be after discussion at a Parish Council meeting where all views of councillors and residents will be considered. The PC are aware of the strong opposition to this item due to the many comments on the Breckland Planning website.

Cllr. Suggitt explained that a scoping application determines what should be included in an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), for planning and the Environment Agency, Highways, Natural England etc. Will home in on the main significant areas. Registered under the planning portal to pick up on local knowledge. Views and opinions now gathered would become part of the bigger picture. The EIA would form part of the planning application. If and when a planning application is submitted, residents would need to resubmit their comments. The planning officer is Fiona Hunter, a well-qualified officer, who covers agricultural applications and is also covering the feed mill at Snetterton. Cllr. Suggitt will speak to Fiona after this meeting.

Stephen Howlett (SH) hoped that Fiona would be updated with how upset people were and confirming that the whole area did not want this. It was good that people had voiced their opinions on the website and imparted local knowledge. It was also good that the environmental assessments should be carried out by independent organisations and not the applicants' organisations as they should be looking for significant concerns.

Cllr. Harrison said the Parker planning document had some misleading statements. Queries about the HGV route. Safe access by HGVs to the proposed facility is a concern. HGV access appears to stop some way short of the proposed development, at the ford near Swangey Farm.  
Post-meeting Note: NCC Highways have explained that the published NCC maps are generally used for indicating maintenance requirements, and that posted road signage should be used for establishing HGV restrictions.

Maureen Marshall (MM) lives 100yds from the chicken units at the end of Penhill Road. In 40 years, they had not been bothered by air pollution or smell. Now, regularly affected by the stench of manure from the industrial size units and must have the windows closed. There is noise from the cooling towers. Unpleasant impact on our lives especially during lockdown. So much development going on in Great Ellingham.

Glen Hutton wanted to endorse the strong feelings of local residents. One person's profit is set to ruin Rockland and the environment.

Janean Holbrook lives between both poultry farms. Both have been extended. Like to think that Fiona Hunter will take heed of all the comments so far. Scoping is generic. More important from Highways and EA before the application proper. HGV traffic drives through the ford to the farm at the top. No passing places. HGVs use Swangey lakes driveway. All agreed the need to look at all these things before it goes to a planning application

Claire Ellis has lived at the top of Swangey for 14 years. The proposed poultry sheds would be 150m from her back garden. These huge sheds should not be built in a small rural, beautiful

community. This location should not even be considered. It will not bring anything positive for people or wildlife. Very pleased that Rocklands PC are behind opposing the application. MM agrees with Claire. Barbaric factory farming methods should, if based anywhere, should be in an industrial setting.

Simon Jones. Scoping does not mention the location of the lakes or Mrs. Hill's bungalow. Narrative is not good - sweeping things under the carpet. Will have a significant impact on the business at Swangey Lakes. Scoping says no to listed buildings in the vicinity but Kirk Hall is Grade 2 listed.

Trudi and Mark fully support all the arguments against. Have some drone footage. HGVs passing through Mount Pleasant/Shropham and Great Ellingham.

Alexandra Wright. Supports comments made about the scoping. Alarmed at the 'items set aside' and not included in the scope. Issues: noise from fans, smell when poo taken away, light pollution, Penhill Road, weight restriction not respected. This development is significantly larger than current sites.

Janean Holbrook. Ford is flooding more often. Artics couldn't cross and had to reverse. All roads have restrictions. On a borehole and worried about contamination. Flies have increased. Dropping in food whilst cooking. Friend had Environmental Health in to look. What about siting at Wroo Road or closer to the factory at Eye ?

In Summary. Cllr. Ed Connolly said he fully supports residents and the Parish Council. He has also spoken to Great Ellingham PC.

Cllr. Howie said the agencies reports were poor and of concern. The Parish Council appreciates the levels of concern and the strength of the opposition to this. It understands the concerns lodged on the website and those aired at this meeting. Would like this to go no further. RPC confirmed they would be opposing the application which is considered to have a significant environmental impact. Confirmed we could have an extra meeting to discuss if required for residents/Parish Councillors. Cllr. Howie thanked all residents for their input at this meeting.

**12. To update on the Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) and Local Plan (LP)**

Update from Richard Golke (RG). RG is continuing to work on the initial draft of RNP as and when time and other commitments permit; Also maintaining contact with Susan Heinrich at Breckland concerning planning and policy matters. I have made her aware of the Planning Inspectorate's recent appeal decision in the case of Thompson that, relative to the village housing quota limits established by HOU 04, they consider a 100% increase above the stipulated minimum 5% figure does constitute 'significantly more' dwellings over and above the 5% figure: As such, this would be considered as being 'contrary to Criterion 2 of Policy HOU 04' (she didn't know about that). I need to update the planning spreadsheet in order to confirm our exact status but I think I'm correct in saying that, taking account all recent planning approvals, Rocklands is now at a similar level in terms of the total number of approved new dwellings since the introduction of the current Local Plan i.e. around double the expected number versus Policy HOU 04. RNP should be updated to reflect this position; effectively, to use the situation to oppose any new housing developments except where specifically supported by the Parish Council and a majority of residents. In terms of the Government's proposed changes to national planning policy, Breckland have not heard anything further about this.

**13. To update on First Time Sewerage System for Rocklands St. Peter (RH)**

All technical surveying is now complete, and we await information from the @one Alliance on the next stage. Meanwhile, a second round of habitats surveying is being undertaken - including the two village ponds, and also private ponds. Savills informed the Parish Council and relevant residents accordingly. Two or more habitat surveys are standard practice - to cover changes in seasons etc. Groundwater levels in the St Peter area subsided to workable levels for septic tanks end of March/beginning of April. I have asked the @one Alliance for an update.

Signed .....

Date .....



**14. To update on SID (Flashing Speed sign) (Cllr. Harrison RH)**

Cllr. Harrison had distributed this detailed report to all councillors prior to the meeting. Since our last meeting, a further deployment of the SID has been completed as follows:  
Attleborough Road, Vehicles from Caston

Deployed: 10:00 hrs 04 March 2021

Finished: 11:00 hrs 06 April 2021

The analysis results show:

38,508 vehicles detected

Average 1,165 vehicles/day

Morning peak time - 07:45 to 08:45

Afternoon peak time - 14:30 to 15:30

34,370 vehicles (89.2%) within 40 mph speed limit

4,138 vehicles (10.8%) exceeding speed limit

- of which 811 vehicles (2.1%) over 45 mph - and likely open to a fine\*

Top speed: 60 mph - 04/01/2021, and 6 further occurrences#

Since the last deployment at the Caston-facing position:

- vehicle movements averaged 1,165 per day - a 16% increase in daily traffic volumes.
- vehicles speeding numbered 4,138 (10.8%) - a 10.8% larger proportion of vehicles speeding.
- vehicles open to enforcement action numbered 811 (2.1%) - a 24.9% larger proportion of vehicles open to enforcement.

Together with an increase in daily traffic volumes, we have seen a greater proportion of vehicles open to enforcement action.

The increased traffic volumes are likely to be associated with the fact that - while major resurfacing works (2 months duration) are being carried out in the evenings on the A11 between Attleborough and Thetford - Highways England have seen fit to set up a diversion from the roundabout at Thetford, via Watton-Caston-Rocklands-Gt Ellingham. This means that, in addition to the aggregate lorries and greatly increased volumes of huge tractor-trailer units, we are currently subject nightly to convoys of large articulated lorries and other vehicles.

To add to all this, the planned closure (14 July-3 September) of Hingham Road and Chequers Lane in Great Ellingham - to allow for the creation of the roundabout and other road modifications, adjacent to the school and the Flagship housing development - means that further diversion of traffic, including lorry traffic to/from Kerry Foods, will send more vehicles along Attleborough Road towards/from Caston. See attached proposed plan and diversion route.

Kerry Foods will be advising transport companies and staff of the correct diversion route. However, if you see articulated lorries trying to use Thieves Lane (already clearly signposted as no access to Kerry Foods) please do let me know. Details of company/number plate would be useful.

A huge pothole opened-up around a grid on Attleborough Road and, following my reporting it to NCC Highways, was given a temporary repair. The road engineer attending is reported to have suggested that the damage is more likely to have been caused by the large agricultural tractor-trailer units than anything else - due to their weight and unusually wide track.

The speed sign is currently on The Street - facing towards the B1077 crossroads - and will shortly be relocated to monitor traffic leaving the village towards the crossroads.

Once again, sincere thanks to Cllr. Tim Ford for his help in relocating the speed sign.

\* 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  $\pm 0.5$ mph. Enforcement action is not always a fine - depending on circumstances, drivers may be offered a speed awareness course.

One of our local farmers has experienced ongoing problems with vehicles passing the farm, around a blind bend, at excessive speed. This poses a huge risk to farm workers and his livestock when they are crossing a narrow road. This is particularly prevalent at 'school run' times. Would everyone please drive responsibly and with care at all times in the countryside - paying particular attention near farms.

Signed .....

Date .....

**15. To update on Highways**

**Diversion route.** A roundabout is being built in Great Ellingham. Tim Betts, GE Chairman will keep us updated. Planned closure is 14 July-3 September. Worried that Kerry Foods will use the side streets. Thieves Lane is a no access to Kerry Food traffic. See attached plan and diversion route.

**16. To update on Flooding (RH)**

Cllr. Harrison had distributed this report to all councillors before the meeting:

I continue to challenge NCC Flood Risk Team on their policy relating to formally permitting the groundwater discharge from the Green Lane/Mill Lane 7-house development to enter the main surface water culvert system on the Street. They are currently of the stance that, if the proposed discharge from the site will be the same – or less – than existing, they are obliged to issue a permit. However, I have asked how they will establish that this is the case...

There are now two next-stage aspects of improving our drainage system that require addressing - and both will require external funding. None of us are drainage experts, so we will need to retain the services of appropriate advisors/consultants:

- As previously reported, work to repair/shore-up the sides of the ditch at the village hall requires prior approval from the NCC Flood Risk Team, and NCC Highways. To secure this, a schedule of works and specification need to be produced.
- A more significant need is a full survey of the existing village surface water drainage system, and then a report which clearly sets out costed options for making it more effective and robust.

Both will require significant external funding - funds which the Parish Council does not have. Therefore, I am investigating funding from the monies held by NCC for flood mitigation and defence projects, and possibly our County Councillor Ed Connolly. Cllr. Ed Connolly agreed that after the 7 May if he was re-elected, they would talk about helping Rockland. Thank you to Ed for this.

**Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance** - Chaired by Lord Dannatt.

A meeting was held on 26 April, where the 'Town and Parish Council Tier' was represented by the Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC). Also taking part were representatives from almost all the agencies concerned with flooding and water management.

Key points reported by the NALC representative:

Leaflet and One Emergency Number It has been agreed that these will be signed off at the next meeting at the end of May. NCC has committed to producing the leaflets and having them delivered to every household in Norfolk. There will probably be two: a short one to be pinned up next to the phone or to the fridge with a magnet - one will be a longer 'reference' type leaflet.

Emergency Plans Help will be forthcoming to formulate and update plans. From the Fire Brigade/ NALC.

Webinars More are being organised and Lord Dannatt will speak at them.

Progress Overall the short, medium and long term plans are emerging with the core being firmed-up daily. Not surprisingly, there are lots of loose ends to tie up because it is a hugely complex issue developing a plan which must last many years. There were 51 people invited to the meeting representing probably 30+ relevant organisations which gives you the idea of the complexity.

Key issues still to be properly addressed Planning: at the moment is in the hands of seven (City, District and Borough) planning authorities plus a little by the County, all of which are a little constrained by National guidance & legislation which will take a lot longer to change. Enforcement of statutory duties: the current consensus is that as much as possible should be achieved by persuasion rather than enforcement.

Drought There was some discussion as to whether the Alliance should also look at ameliorating the effects of drought but, because it is a key part of what WRE (Water Resources East) has to consider, it was left on the table for the moment.

**17. To discuss any correspondence.** There was no correspondence.

**18. AOB** There was no AOB.

**Note:** A resident suggested that Cllr. Southgate, who had declared an interest in an agenda item, should have gone offline from the meeting, rather than just muting herself.

**19. Date of next Meeting - Monday 5 July 2021, 7pm.**

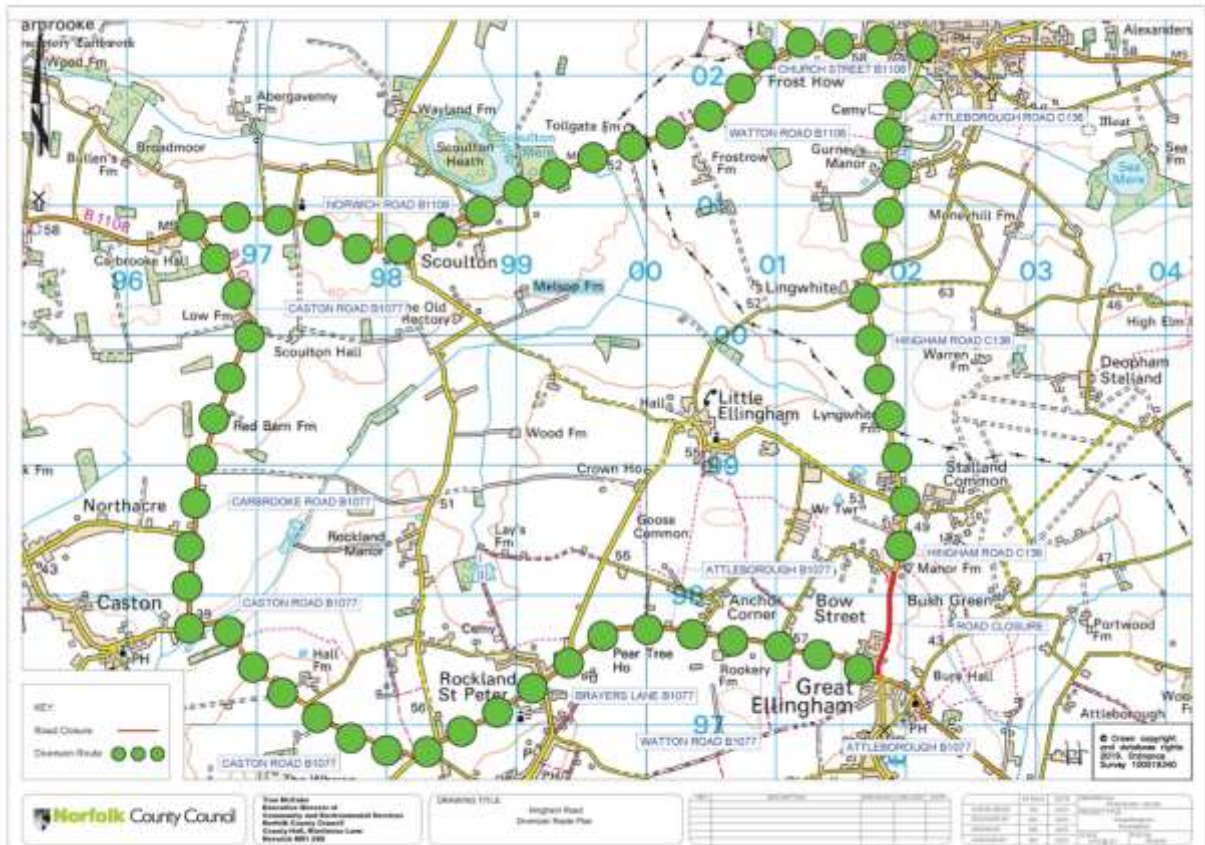
**The meeting closed at 21.52**

Signed .....

Date .....

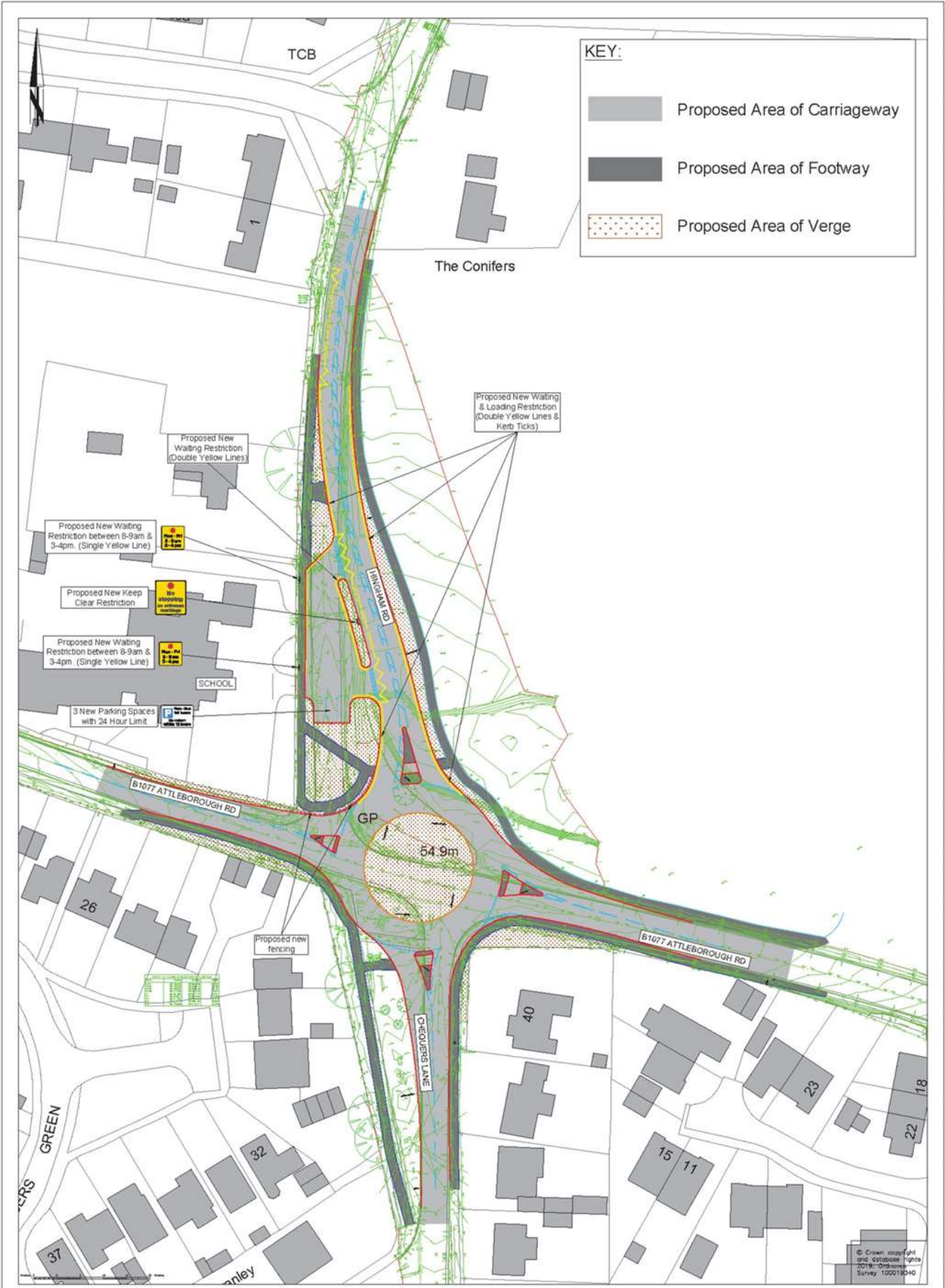
**Rocklands SID - Vehicles from Caston Direction**

Start	04/03/2021	02/11/2020	04/05/2020	05/03/2020	12/12/2019
Finish	06/04/2021	03/12/2020	03/06/2020	03/04/2020	06/01/2020
Total Vehicles	38,508	31,201	24,850	29,009	24,913
Average Vehicles/day	1,165	1,007	832	1,000	993
Morning Peak	07:45-08:45	07:45-08:45	10:30-11:30	07:30-08:30	07:45-08:45
Afternoon Peak	14:30-15:30	15:30-16:30	16:15-17:15	16:00-17:00	15:15-16:15
Max Speed (date)	60 (05/03/21 - 07:05)	60 (11/11/20 - 14:35)	60 (05/05/20 - 05:50)	65 (12/03/20 - 05:35)	60 (13/12/19 - 18:50)
0-40 mph	34,370	28,173	21,279	25,125	22,051
%	89.25	90.30	85.63	86.61	88.51
40+ mph	4,138	3,028	3,571	3,884	2,862
%	10.75	9.70	14.37	13.39	11.49
45+ mph	811	528	815	915	588
%	2.11	1.69	3.28	3.15	2.36
45-50	693	470	692	751	501
%	1.80	1.51	2.78	2.59	2.01
50-55	111	50	112	148	80
%	0.29	0.16	0.45	0.51	0.32
55-60	7	8	11	15	7
%	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.03
60-65	0	0	0	1	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
65-70	0	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
70-75	0	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
75-80	0	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Signed .....

Date .....



**Norfolk County Council**

Tom McElduff  
Executive Director of  
Community and Environmental Services  
Norfolk County Council  
County Hall, West Street Lane  
Norwich NR1 2EG

**DRAWING TITLE**  
PVA078 Great Ellingham  
Roundabout  
Traffic Regulation Order Consultation Plan

REV	DESCRIPTION	ISSUED BY	CHECKED	DATE

METHOD	DATE	DRAWING NO.
SURVEYED BY: OS/PC	2019	PVA078-01-001
DESIGNED BY: BR	11/20	PROJECT TITLE
DRAWN BY: BR	11/20	Great Ellingham
CHECKED BY:		ROADS
		SCALE: 1:250 @ A4
		FILE NO. PVA078

Signed .....

Date .....