

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)
Minutes of Parish Council (AGM) Meeting held in Rocklands Village Hall
7.00pm on Monday 13 May 2019

Present:	David Howie	Chair
	Nicola Southgate	Vice-chair
	Shirley Colenutt	
	Sarah Eagleton	
	Tim Ford	
	Richard Harrison	
	Kim Austin	Clerk

Also present: 17 members of the public.

All councillors signed a Declaration of Acceptance of office before the meeting started and all were countersigned by the Clerk.

The meeting opened at 19:03. The Clerk took the Chair.

1. To elect Chairperson 2019 - 2020

David Howie agreed to stand again as Chair. Cllr. Southgate proposed and Cllr. Colenutt seconded the proposal. David Howie was duly elected as chair for another year. Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr. Howie and witnessed and signed by the Clerk. Cllr. Howie took the Chair. Cllr. Howie thanked the outgoing councillors, David Witt, Cath Jones and Ian Scholes and they were presented with a card and a gift. Cath Jones said she had served under three different chairmen over the years and said that Cllr. Howie was by far the best. The Clerk gave some flowers to Julie Howie to say thank you for posting all the notices on the Parish noticeboard throughout the year. Cllr. Howie welcomed the incoming councillors, Tim Ford and Sarah Eagleton. There was still a vacancy on the council, which may be filled by co-option.

There was a minute silence held in respect of the sad passing of Gina Ayres.

2. To elect Vice Chairperson 2019 - 2020

Nicola Southgate agreed to stand again as Vice Chair. Cllr. Howie proposed and Cllr. Harrison seconded the proposal. Nicola Southgate was duly elected as vice-chair for another year. Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr. Southgate and witnessed and signed by the Clerk.

3. To consider accepting apologies for absence

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Ed Connolly who was attending his own Parish AGM.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

5. To approve the minutes of the last council meeting on Monday 8 April 2019

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

6. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (19 February 2018) not on the agenda.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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7. To adjourn the meeting for public participation

Meeting adjourned at 19.10pm and opened to the public. There were no comments from the public. The meeting re-opened at 19.11pm.

8. To receive reports

8.1 Village Shop and Post Office (Dave Seaton) - No report.

8.2 Village Hall (Sarah Good)

Baby changing unit has been installed in the disabled toilet.

8.3 Rocklands Primary School (Dave Jones) - No report.

8.4 Rocklands Playing Fields (DH)

There has been some discussion about having some fitness equipment.

8.5 St. Peter's Church

Fundraising is crucial for the running of the church. The church has many visitors due to its historic interest and beauty. A new heating system now makes the church more comfortable. A sound system has been fundraised for so can now be used for talks. The church is open everyday and everyone is welcome. In 2018, St. Peters Church was highly commended in a competition to find the most welcoming church. The church is run by a small team of dedicated volunteers. They hold weddings, funerals and christenings and family services advertised on the notice board on the main road. Rockland's school celebrates at the church. There is a suggestion box in the church to find out what role villagers think the church should play. All suggestions are welcome.

8.6 Rockland All Saints Church

Cath Jones gave a report as John Scase was at a benefice meeting.

Cath thanked the Parish Council for including the two churches as village institutions and for giving them the opportunity to tell the people of Rocklands who they are and what they are about!

History has bequeathed our village two Parish churches, All Saints with St Andrew, which is outside the village as the original homes served by the church were burned down in 17th century because of the Plague, and St Peter's, in the centre of the village. Each of the churches has played an important role historically. The two churches work happily together, although each is separate with different PCCs each having to raise huge sums of money annually to pay to the Diocese.

Once there was a separate full time Rector for each church, which would each be run by two Church Wardens, a sexton to look after the grounds, a verger, a choir master and choir. Our churches are now part of a benefice of 5 churches, who share a part-time priest between them all. (Currently two retired priests fill this part-time post on an annually renewable agreement.) Each church has only one church warden, annually sworn in by the Bishop and voluntarily bearing huge responsibility for buildings, weddings, funerals and Sunday services, as well as the technical and legal aspects of burials.

All Saints Church shows evidence of Saxon origins, with two Saxon headstones in the present building which itself has 13th century elements. The whole building was considerably restored during the Victorian era. The school room (dated 1851) provided the first school for the village. Many of its original features still remain and it is of considerable interest to UEA researchers for that reason. When the present Rocklands School was built in 1875 the old school room was mainly used for Sunday School and it also accommodated the wartime evacuees when they first arrived in the village with their two teachers. I have been told, but don't know how true it is, that the evacuee children were not allowed to mix with the village children until they had been 'de-loused' and proved they would not contaminate the village children! Some seemed to like it here and were obviously accepted because they are still here, some 75 years later!!

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The site at All Saints has no water or electricity but many love the church for its simplicity, particularly when lit solely by candles and a few oil lamps. Many love to attend the 10pm Christmas Eve service, singing carols by candle-light, accompanied by the hand-pumped organ. Visitors are struck by the simple beauty of the church and its extraordinarily peaceful setting. The well-maintained churchyard is appreciated by family members of the more recently departed, who regularly visit. There are many other visitors, often from further afield, engaged in researching their family history. Unfortunately, the church is now kept locked, following two serious incidents (burglaries), but the notice board gives details of where visitors can obtain a key.

Services are regularly held in the church, alternating with St Peter's, and there are many fundraising activities throughout the year, such as the Flower Festival that attracts visitors from all over and Barbara's Day (Quick plug....next Wednesday 22nd at Scases opposite the school from 10am!) the Harvest Supper, Advent Lunch etc. Fortunately, our two churches have become increasingly collaborative and fund-raising events have also become important social events in the village, all advertised in the Rocklander.

Maintaining old and historical church buildings is a major responsibility. A church architect visits every 5 years to conduct a thorough survey and produce a detailed report on the condition of the building. Although All Saints' church itself is well maintained, cracks have appeared in sections of the tower. Expensive investigations already suggest that repair costs are likely to involve 6 figure numbers. Quotes of £200,000 needs more investigation. There are 5 large bells in the tower, which exert considerable forces when rung. Have been advised not to ring them anymore unless repairs are carried out. Are they ever likely to be rung again? Would apply for grants if it were the right thing to do.

Parochial Church Council members meet several times a year to act as church "governors". The Warden and all PCC members are purely voluntary and, for the greater part, of advancing years. During the growing season just cutting the grass requires at least 6 hours per week, between March and November.

Despite all the input from volunteers, keeping All Saints Church running each year costs in excess of £8,000 before any "projects" are undertaken. Contributions to Diocese and insurance are the largest items of expenditure.

It is a matter of considerable regret that church members should find themselves so preoccupied with constant fund-raising when they believe that the church should offer the community so much more.

Church members are always receptive to comments and ideas from the local community. Any feed-back concerning the role and relevance of the church both now and in the future would be most welcome.

There were some discussions about the high cost of repairs. Michael McCarthur thought the quote was not realistic. Cath explained, one part of the spiral staircase in the tower was very thin and repairs were complex. The PC would discuss with the church. Maybe contact the Historic Churches fund. All agreed it would be a shame not to hear the bells and the tower should be saved. Cllr. Southgate has known someone for 40 years that specialises in churches in Norfolk and Suffolk. The Clerk suggested asking Thompson who they used for their church restoration work.

8.7 White Hart Public House (Dave Thomas, was on holiday)

There were comments that the food was excellent and Sunday lunches were very good.

8.8 Chapel Green Meadow (Carolyn Emblen)

A spring cut was performed towards the end of February using the lovely new mower that had been donated to the Meadow Committee. Not as many plants flowering yet as spring had a slow start but there are already a lot that are flowering. They are: White deadnettle, Cowslip (Just finishing), Ribwort Plantain, Common Knapweed, Germander Speedwell, Cow Parsley, Star of Bethlehem, Black Medick, Meadow Buttercup, Ground Ivy. Visible but not flowering are: Lady's

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bedstraw, Sheep's Sorrel, Yellow Rattle (Important to have in a meadow). We keep checking for the Bee Orchids and Common Spotted Orchids but they are not yet visible. Paths will shortly be mown through the meadow. We love people to come and visit the meadow but ask that they keep to the paths if they can.

One area of the meadow gives cause for concern. There is a swathe of very lush grass which is considerably longer than the rest. This might indicate that there is contamination from a nearby septic tank. A check with the environment agency has shown that nobody in the vicinity has a licence to discharge.

Given the surge in the awareness of the importance of urban wildflower meadows, Attleborough Academy has asked Chris for advice about converting several areas of grass on the school site into conservation areas. We are delighted to be able to help with this.

Carolyn has contacted the volunteer that she met on the Master Composter's course who works for Norfolk Ponds as a volunteer, to find out how we start the process of regenerating the pond, but as yet have not had a response. We do know that a lot of volunteers will be needed to help with the regeneration and will possibly need some funds - in the region of £150 for a digger. Carolyn has also purchased a water testing kit to see if the pond water is contaminated with pollutants. Hope it will be accurate and will test for nitrates.

Michael McCarthur said he would cut the grass as he did last year.

Everybody hoped there would be no more problems on the green now that the police had been involved as it had been very upsetting to all concerned.

8.9 Rocklands Play Park (Kirsty Daynes)

Kirsty was not able to attend the meeting but sent an update. The Parish Council is holding £3777 for the Play Park. They had had little response regards when they asked for ideas what to spend the money on. They had lots of comments however, that there was no shade, so may spend the money on a sun shelter. Waiting for quotes.

9.0 To report on financial matters

9.1 Approval of accounts 2018/2019 (AGAR Part 2, PKF Littlejohn, External auditors.)

A copy of the Annual return and prepared accounts had been circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting. A Certificate of Exemption was not appropriate for Rocklands this year as their income and expenditure for the year was over £25,000. This was due to the new Rocklands Play Park money going through the Rocklands PC bank account. The accounts would need to be submitted to the external auditors PFK Littlejohn and RPC would incur a cost for this audit of ~£200.

9.1.1 Internal auditor's report (p4)

The internal Audit had been completed by Michaela Canham. The Internal Audit Report (Page 4) had been completed and signed off by.

9.1.2 To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019 AGAR Part 3. Section 1. (p5)

The Chair referenced the governance statements. All were agreed and the Chair and the Clerk/RFO duly dated and signed Page 5 of the document.

9.1.3 To approve the Accounting Statements 2018/2019 AGAR Part 3. Section 2. (p6)

The Clerk/RFO had previously dated and signed the Accounting Statements to confirm they were a true and accurate financial position of this Parish Council. All agreed with the Accounting Statements and the Chair duly dated and signed Page 6 of the document.

9.2 Financial position

Bank account balances as at Monday 13 May 2019

Barclays Community Account	£	5357.06
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	2332.45
TOTAL as per bank	£	7689.51

Signed

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Summary

RPC Rocklands Parish Council	£	3711.91
RNP Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RG)	£	200.60
Rocklands Play Park (KR) (Including £2000 from Groundwork)	£	3777.00
TOTAL as per bank	£	7689.51

9.3 Money in since last meeting (8 April 2019)

No money in since the last meeting. **TOTAL IN** £ **00.00**

9.4 Money out since last meeting (8 February 2019)

9.4.1 Standing Orders/Direct Debits

16/4/2019	Eon -Electricity (DD)	£	35.62
1/5/2019	Clerk's wages (SO)	£	273.87
TOTAL OUT		£	309.49

9.4.2 Cheques out (to sign)

CHQ 660	Michaela Canham - Internal Audit	£	30.00
CHQ 661	K&M Lighting 1 months maint. (May 2019)	£	13.78
CHQ 662	Information Commissioner - Data Protection Fee	£	40.00
CHQ 663	Came & Company Ltd, - Annual Insurance	£	288.40
TOTAL OUT		£	372.18

9.5 Insurance renewal

Parish Council insurance is with Came and Company Ltd. We are in the middle of a 3-year Long Term Agreement (LTA) which runs till May 2020. The renewal premium for this year is £288.40. Next year we will get some quotes for comparison.

10. To consider planning applications

10.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting

APP/F2605/W/18/3214123 (3PL/2018/0203/O) Ridgeons/Thieves Lane/6 Self builds (163) REFUSED
3PL/2019/0130/VAR Rutter/Yeomans Cottage/Change roof material and design (164) PERMISSION
3PL/2019/0269/LB Rutter/Yeomans Cottage/Raise roof of garage (165) PERMISSION

10.2 Applications pending outcome

3PL/2018/1533/O CORCORAN/Land south of the street/1 dwellings, parking, turning/access (157)
APP/F2605/18/3210970 (3PL/2017/0899/F) Cotes/green lane-mill lane/7 dwellings (162)
APPEALED

10.3 New applications since last meeting NONE

3PL/2019/0020/UC Douglas/Magna Farm/Change of use to 2 dwellings (166) PC NO OBJECTION
3DC/2019/0092/DOC Annison/Mill Lane/Discharge of condition 3 (168)
3PL/20190344/VAR Annison/Mill Lane/Enlargement and changes, Variation of condition 2 (167)

An email had been received summarising this latest application. In summary, a number of residents had expressed concern about the latest application by Mr. Annison to significantly increase the overall footprint of his proposed new dwelling on the plot of land owned by him behind the White Hart Public House. The proposal clearly breaches one of the conditions imposed by the Planning Inspectorate that the dwelling should be constructed strictly in accordance with the originally submitted drawings and potentially opens the door to further such breaches in the future. In other words, nobody can now be sure as to what other subsidiary buildings might be constructed on the site or how extensive the development might eventually become. No sort of justification is provided by Mr. Annison as to why this enlargement is necessary; only that it is in order to improve the design, in particular the living environment (surely the design should already have been optimised prior to it being submitted to Breckland and/or the Planning Inspectorate following his first, unsuccessful attempt to obtain planning permission in 2016 - except, of course, that a larger-sized dwelling could

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potentially have jeopardised his chances of obtaining approval at that time, so this is clearly an attempt to play the system). According to the Inspector's report, the condition was imposed to provide certainty to residents that the scheme would not mushroom into something bigger and to minimise the effect on the surrounding countryside (one of the Inspector's primary concerns).

Comments were invited from the floor. The enlargement was for a substantial ~extra 4 metres, 40% increase in footprint. It was always expected the applicant would gradually change the approved application until it moved towards the specification of the refused application. A resident called this corrupt behaviour and it would appear that Breckland Planning were allowing it to happen. Should be built as specified and Breckland should reject it. Surely the Planning Inspectorate is the higher authority? It was agreed this was a creeping development.

Cllr. Howie asked if anyone wanted to speak for the application. No-one wished to speak. The unanimous decision was to oppose this application. An objection would be written. Residents should submit their own comments too.

10.4 Planning enforcement issues

Peeles Farm. No update.

11 To update on the Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) - Richard Golke (RG)

No update since the last meeting except that there may be another delay. A 6-week consultation for the delegated inspector to see if any other changes need to be made. Unworkable as it stands.

12 To update on Neighbourhood Watch

No update. Cllr. Howie is forwarding police reports to Parish Councillors.

13 To update on Highways

Highways is involved in the flooding issues in Rocklands.

CJ reported that the sign is up at the end of Low Lane. It has only taken 12 years but is much appreciated.

Have applied to the Parish Partnership fund for money for a SAM2 flashing speed sign but haven't heard yet whether we are successful. The Clerk will contact them to find out as have waited a long time. Ed Connolly is very supportive of this initiative and has offered some funds towards the total cost which is much appreciated.

14 Flooding

David Witt has passed the historic flooding file to Cllr. Howie. Cllrs. Harrison and Eagleton will look at the contents of the file for useful documents.

On 20 February, Ed Connolly had organised a meeting between the Parish Council and residents. This included a site visit, also visiting land south of the sports field. John Cotton now has better understanding of the flooding issues. Findings will be passed to the flooding and water management team. Lots of organisations now involved. Showed photographs. Surface flooding map clearly shows that The Street used to be a riverbed. Scoping report identified problems and gave some solutions. Mark Henderson is the senior flooding person.

On 29 April, there was a multi-agency visit with another full tour. Some progress with options and actions, including to control the 'source' of the flooding. Get existing system working properly. It appears the 'system' not working properly is exacerbated due to residents' actions where ditches have been piped and covered over with shingle, and where ditches are blocked. There needed to have been a co-ordinated approach to culverting. A full survey will be done of the 'whole system'. Will need to consult with the homeowners. Highways will identify where their responsibilities lie and may be able to raise funds for this portion. Important to know that flooding of a garage constitutes flooding at a property. It was noted that Anglian Water didn't turn up for this meeting. Cllr. Harrison thanked the Clerk for taking the minutes. Thank you to the residents that attended. And thank you to Ed Connolly

Signed

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for being marvellous. The PC will be looking to provide a full list of property/garage flooding and any insurance claims in Rocklands.

The good thing is that Breckland Planning are now fully briefed for the future.

15 To discuss any correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

16 AOB

Churches and flooding will be on the next agenda.

17 Date of next Meeting

Monday 8 July 2019, 7pm, Rocklands Village Hall - Parish Council Meeting

The meeting closed at 20:41pm.

Signed

Date