

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)  
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting (Virtual meeting - held using Google Duo)  
7.00pm on Monday 6 July 2020

<b>Present:</b>	David Howie	Chair
	Nickie Southgate	Vice Chair
	Shirley Colenutt	
	Tim Ford	
	Richard Harrison	
	Kim Austin	Clerk
	Ed Connolly	Norfolk County Councillor

Also present: 4 members of the public joined the group meeting.  
The meeting opened at 19:05.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr. Sarah Suggitt who is moving house and Cllr. Sarah Martin who had issues at home. 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 25 May 2020**

The minutes had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. All councillors agreed the minutes would be signed by the Chair, Cllr. David Howie after the meeting.

**4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (25 May 2020) not on the agenda.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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

There were no comments from the members of the public present.

**6. Update from our Norfolk County Councillor, Ed Connolly**

Cllr. Connolly thanked Cllr. Harrison for copying him into the correspondence regards drainage issues in The Street. The resident that is looking to recover costs of work from NCC should contact Cllr. Connolly if he has any problems doing so and he will try to help.

Economic recession restart has been launched. This is really good news as the lockdown begins to ease. Cabinet are meeting 7 July 2020 to discuss the plan. The restart will take between 6-12 months and the rebuild will take 12 months and beyond. The emphasis is still on prevention, so important to continue social distancing, hand washing and wearing face coverings in public. Cllr. Connolly will continue to send Coronavirus updates and any local outbreaks would be detailed on the NCC website. Cllr. Connolly reiterated that he can be emailed at any time should the Parish have any issues. Thank you to Cllr. Connolly for his support. Cllr. Connolly thanked the Parish Council for holding their meetings at 7pm which allowed him to get to other meetings. Cllr. Connolly left the group.

**7. Update from our Breckland District Councillor, Sarah Suggitt**

No report.

**8. To receive village reports**

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

**8.2 Village Hall (SG)**

The Rocklands Village Hall committee are hoping to hold their next meeting in July after which time they will report back to the Parish Council with any news. The Village Hall remains closed to the public. New fencing and a gate will be discussed at the meeting tomorrow, 7 July 2020.

Signed .....

Date .....

**8.3 Little Rocky's Parent and Toddler Group (Sharon Brown).** No report.

**8.4 Rocklands Primary School (David Jones DJ)**

Cllr. Howie read out a report from DJ. Further to the previous report, Rocklands School will remain closed until September, when current expectations are that schools will reopen fully. There are 88 children being taught at Great Ellingham, in isolated "bubbles" comprising vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers plus pupils from reception, years 1 and year 6. There are Rocklands children in all the groups. All children from both schools, who are not in attendance, continue to receive regular work set by teachers, who keep in contact and continue to monitor them closely.

Next week all pupils will receive annual reports based on their performance up until lock-down. Changes to the national situation in response to Covid 19 have been fast-moving and this is reflected in the advice being received by schools. Head teachers have needed to respond rapidly, often radically, to changing expectations, which, despite best efforts, have inevitably led to confused expectations among some parents. Governors have been kept fully informed throughout and remain in full support of the various challenging plans and decisions taken by Mrs Dekker, Federation Executive Headteacher, who has been a constant presence at school every day since 'lock down' began, except for bank holidays and week-ends. The Governors will meet on 15 September. The councillors agreed the situation was very challenging for the schools.

**8.5 Rocklands Playing Fields (SG)**

The Rocklands Playing Field committee had their last meeting, virtually, on the 24 June 2020. They are still discussing ways in which to improve the facilities at the site. Although the cricket and football clubs have both started coaching sessions again, the pavilion and bar remain closed to the public. Social distancing is encouraged, and a one-way system is in place around the pavilion. The Playground remains closed until the issues raised in the recent ROSPA safety inspection report can be addressed. They need to do a risk assessment and display the relevant signage. Cllr. Howie said that Alan Fisher was leaving and a man, Pete from Chapel Street would hopefully be taking over some of Alan's tasks. They have spent a few hours in preparation.

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

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

Cath Jones provided the following report which was read out by the Clerk.

The Government guidelines for places of worship were amended last week so that we are now allowed to open the church for private prayer and carefully controlled services. At All Saints, we have followed the C of E risk assessment and we were open for the first time in several months on 5 July from 10.00 - 11.00.

Hand sanitiser and disposable gloves were in the porch and designated places to sit were marked in a limited number of pews, allowing for a 2m gap between each person. A handful of folk came to sit in quiet contemplation for however long they wanted to do so, but there was not a problem with overcrowding ! We will be open in a similar manner every Sunday in July.

On 2 August, the system is due to change slightly as the church will open at 10.00 and there will be a short and simple act of worship (lasting no longer than 30 minutes) at 10.30. There will be no Holy Communion or singing of hymns until further notice as these are not yet considered safe. Rev. Christina publishes a 'service' each week, with readings, prayers and some of her thoughts, on the Shellrock Benefice website, should anyone wish to use it. With a dwindling, largely elderly congregation across the benefice, a great deal of thought is going into how to operate in the future as it is no longer sustainable financially in the long term.

We were deeply saddened to lose two of the stalwarts at RAS in the last few weeks, when sisters-in-law Doreen and Norah Lincoln sadly passed away very close together. Under current restrictions, there were graveside funerals for close family only, but others congregated around the churchyard at safe distances to pay our respects to two lovely ladies who will be sorely missed in Rocklands.

Signed .....

Date .....

Another much-missed person is Gina Ayres who sadly passed away suddenly about 14 months ago and we are pleased to see a beautiful bench, bought in memory of Gina, in the churchyard, for anyone to use. The view across the field is lovely from that viewpoint and very peaceful.

There is no more news to report about the cracks in the tower, but the situation is still being monitored. The grass continues to grow apace and mowing is still being done by octa- and septuagenarians ! We did buy a 'new' mower just before lockdown which has made life slightly easier as it doesn't keep breaking down every 10 minutes ! The wildflower meadow is far from established yet but will be superb in time ! We are very grateful to Chris Sharpe for his expertise and guidance in maintaining it.

With loss of income for so long, and the cancellation of our two main fundraisers due to Covid 19, we are even more grateful than ever for the donation from RPC towards the cost of keeping the grass cut in the churchyard. Thank you very much.

**8.8 White Hart Public House (Dave Thomas DT)**

An email had been received from DT. This was read out by the Clerk.

The Pub continues to progress through this phase of the pandemic and looks forward to re-opening albeit in a considered and appropriate manner. After careful reflection we intend to develop and maximise our estate to provide the most pleasant and safe environment for our customers to return to. As such on 4 July we will continue to utilise the cabin bar area. We have erected two marquees and intend to employ a safe system of work, to provide a meet and greet table service to our customers. We will currently limit our opening hours to the weekend with food service (Fish & Chip Friday) only. This is something we will look to review as we travel out of this government guided phase. Further details are available on Social Media and posted on our Notice Board.

**8.9 To update on Chapel Green Meadow (Carolyn Emblen CE)**

CE provided the following report which was read out by Cllr. Southgate. We have been mowing the path from the parking area to the pond to allow for easy access. Access for mowing has been difficult due to the number of vehicles parked there. As it is probably sometime before the library bus is expected to restart, we suggest that we place sleepers across the parking area so that cars and vans cannot park by the access. We should be grateful if the Parish Council would sanction this.

We have been given a petrol mower by a kind gentleman in the village which makes mowing the path much easier. We have seen lots of visitors who stop as they walk by as well as parents with children who all read our notice board before accessing the meadow. The meadow is looking lovely and we have found 9 common spotted orchids. The water mint by the pond smells gorgeous. We have spotted about a dozen species of butterfly and about 10 species of dragonfly so far this year. There have been leks of ghost moths on several evenings which look amazing as they dance. The meadow provides important ecosystem services for soil conservation, pollination and flood relief. We plan to cut the meadow towards the end of August or early September when seeds have dispersed. On a very positive note (and with our collective fingers crossed) we haven't had any problems !

The Parish Councillors agreed that sleepers could be placed to create a pathway from the road to the meadow for access by mowers etc. when required. It was suggested that a notice be placed indicating when the next 'mow' would be so that residents knew when parking would be restricted.

Is the under cover vehicle that looks like a permanent fixture, still there ? No-one at the meeting knew for sure but thought the owner should be identified and asked to remove it. Cllr. Howie had included the following in the Rocklander this month: The parking area is for use of visitors, casual users and when operating the Mobile Library, not for permanent parking, and not for commercial vehicles. The Wildflower committee are having problems managing the site due to excessive vehicles parking there, please be considerate in using the parking area.

9.0 To report on financial matters

9.1 Financial position

Bank account balances as at Monday 6 July 2020

Barclays Community Account	£	3010.99
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	336.72
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>3347.71</b>

Summary

RPC Rocklands Parish Council	£	2597.11
RNP Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RG)	£	200.60
Rocklands Play Park (KR)	£	50.00
Norfolk Community Fund grant for VE DAY events (See note below)	£	500.00
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>3347.71</b>

9.2 Money in since last meeting (25 May 2020)

8/6/20	Barclays Saver Account	£	0.13
	<b>TOTAL IN</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>0.13</b>

NOTE: Vat reclaim still to do.

9.3 Money out since last meeting (25 May 2020)

9.3.1 Standing Orders/Direct Debits

1/6/2020	Clerk's wages (SO)	£	273.87
16/6/2020	Eon-Electricity (DD)	£	35.62
1/7/2020	Clerk's wages (SO)	£	273.87
	<b>TOTAL OUT</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>583.36</b>

9.3.2 Cheques out (to sign)

CHQ 698	K&M Lighting - 2 months maint. (Jun-July 2020)	£	29.08
	<b>TOTAL OUT</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>29.08</b>

**VE Day Road closure.** The Clerk is still waiting for a refund of **£37.64**. They will apparently only reimburse to the card used to pay so the Clerk will repay RPC when received.

**Chapel Green Licence.**

Letter posted to Pat Robinson in January for Chapel Green Licence payment of £1. **No money received.**

**VE day grant.** £500 was received from Norfolk Community Foundations for the VE day celebrations that did not go ahead. The Clerk has received an email from Shena Scholes asking if some of the grant money could be used to repay John Brown for the cost of materials etc. for the memorial flowerbed. Shena provided Cllr. Howie with receipts on the afternoon of this meeting. Cllr. Howie thought the costs were rather high. The receipts totalled £354.71. John Brown had already been reimbursed for £233.93 from the Village Hall quiz money. The Parish Council agreed the Clerk should write a cheque to John Brown for the remainder of £120.78. The Clerk would collect the receipts from Cllr. Howie.

10. To consider planning applications

10.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting

**3PL/2019/1058/VAR** Shadrack/Peels Farm/ Amend condition 2 (174)(182) **PERMISSION**

**3PL/2019/1091/F** Shadrack/Peels Farm/Retrospective, agri storage building (175) **PERMISSION**

Cllr. Southgate thanked Cllr. Harrison for attending and speaking at the Breckland Planning's virtual meeting in respect of the Peels Farm applications. Permission has been granted but there is a huge list of conditions, so hopefully the residents of Sandy Lane will have some comeback should they need it. Cllr. Harrison said all is based of estimations and the Environment Agency admit there may be breaches from time to time. If there are any future problems the Parish Council would best approach the Environment Agency as well as Breckland.

**3PL/2020/0395/F** Douglas/Magna Farm/Single dwelling and cart lodge (191) **PERMISSION**

Signed .....

Date .....

Permission granted and apparently has already been sold.

**3PL/2020/0452/F** Annison, Griffin Lodge/Variation, cond.2, Realign to N boundary (192) **PERMISSION**

**3PL/2020/0413/F** Ridgeway, Post House 57 The Street/Proposed stables (193) **PERMISSION**

## 10.2 Applications pending outcome

### 10.3 New applications since last meeting (25 May 2020)

**3PL/2020/0494/F** Free Range Chicken/Land opp. Mill Lane/3 concrete bases (194) **PERMISSION**

The 3 bases were too large for an AG application, so was withdrawn and resubmitted as a F (Full) application. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTION to this application. Permission has been granted.

**3PL/2020/0549/F** Rockland Herefords/Tuppin Farm/Cattle shed (195) - Comments by 10 July 2020

There was much discussion regards this application. Four residents with an interest had also joined the meeting. There had also been correspondence and information sent to the Parish Council prior to this meeting. Environmental health had issued their report and recommended approval subject to conditions. They said they had 'looked at the application' but there was no mention that they had actually visited the site. **RPC feel strongly that both Environmental Health and Breckland case officer Tom Donnelly need to visit the site before they are able to make an informed decision and a more balanced judgement.**

The neighbours said planning is a minefield. They believe there are buildings on the site that shouldn't be there. They have trouble with vermin invading the house during inclement weather. The noise is horrendous with 6 adult cows and calves, plus one bull, and actually sounds like they are in the house with us. Imagine the noise from 30 calving cows that are intended to be housed in the proposed new building which is 22m from our boundary. Flies are a problem all year round. This is a step too far. The site is too small for further development and too close to neighbours.

The applicant farms ~200 acres, renting meadows and buildings. He is anxious to expand due to association with local butcher, Tony Perkins.

Another member of the public commented that there is only one access to the site on Brown's Lane which is a public highway. Builders vehicles may cause significant damage to this unmade road. However, there is no highway's report on the planning website.

The neighbour is an elderly lady of 80 years. This is her family home and she is fed up. The family has tried to contact the Bidmeads to get the hedge between them cut as it is overshadowing her house and garden. The Bidmeads said if the application goes through, they will cut the hedge.

In light of the strong feelings regarding this application, RPC have asked Cllr. Suggitt to have the application called in, so that both parties can present their cases to the Breckland Planning Committee. The PC would lodge an objection on the Breckland Planning website before the deadline.

**Post meeting note:** The Case officer was changed from Tom Donnelly to Fiona Hunter. The applicant was asked for more detailed information and reports, some of which were posted on the Breckland Planning website. Then the application was WITHDRAWN.

**3AG/2020/0013/AG** Garrod/Peels Farm/New Dutch straw barn (196) - Comments by 12 July 2020

The Dutch straw barn is an open sided barn used to protect straw bales from the weather. It would be sited some distance from the road and any neighbours. All councillors agreed they had NO OBJECTION to this application.

## 11. To update on Broadband

County Broadband had jumped the gun without consulting the Parish Council and had caused confusion amongst villagers.

## 12. To update on First Time Sewerage System for Rocklands St. Peter (DH)

Cllr. Howie had received the following from Claire Wootton at Anglian Water. 'I am pleased to confirm that as part of our 2020-2025 capital programme we intend to provide a public foul sewer to those properties within the locality of Rockland St. Peter. We are currently prioritising the schemes according to their environmental and amenity value and application acceptance date, our delivery team, the Anglian Water @One Alliance, will be in contact to provide more details on the timing of this scheme once the construction programme has been finalised. There will be a letter sent out also confirming this and the area that will be looked at during the detailed design stage.'

Signed .....

Date .....

Cllr. Harrison confirmed that having seen the map and the boundaries for work, this includes Rocklands All Saints, not just Rocklands St. Peter.

### 13. To update on the Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) and Local Plan (LP)

Cllr. Howie read out the report provided by Richard Golke.

Further to ongoing, extensive correspondence between RPC and Breckland Council concerning clarification of our expected housing quota as per Local Plan Policy HOU 04, the most recent written response from Andrew D'Arcy has confirmed that - as far as the LPA is concerned - there is no defined limit in terms of the number of new dwellings that might be built in the parish. The LPA acknowledges that the wording used under qualifying criterion no. 2 - that appropriate development '...would not lead to the number of dwellings in the settlement increasing by significantly more than 5% from the date of adoption of the Plan' is entirely subjective and open to individual interpretation. In eventually approving the recent planning application submitted in respect of Allison's Farm, the fact that we had already exceeded our 5% quota limit by around 60% was clearly not considered to constitute a 'significant' issue by the delegated Case Officer (or by the Planning Committee - although I would still argue that they were not properly made aware of the true position). This is worrisome and is potentially open to abuse in terms of future planning applications that our residents might consider as being inappropriate.

In my opinion, no further useful purpose will be served by prolonging this correspondence; however, we have highlighted our concerns to the LPA in the strongest possible terms and I think have made them understand that we will rigorously defend against, what we consider to be, any attempts by developers to subvert the planning process in our parish. I have suggested that it might be to our advantage to meet with George Freeman to make him aware of this policy loophole that, after all, was not introduced by Breckland but instructed by the Examining Inspector on behalf of the national Planning Inspectorate.

It might be that this situation can be mitigated by introducing a suitably worded amendment via a policy written into our neighbourhood plan (RG to discuss with Breckland's Neighbourhood Planning Co-Ordinator and report back).

Cllr. Howie agreed with RG. The problem is Breckland Planning's interpretation. Totally subjective. No objective factors which is wholly unacceptable. Breckland has done a complete 'U' turn and is not protecting the rural villages at all. George Freeman MP is campaigning about the broken planning process.

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

RH read his report that had been distributed before the meeting: Since our last meeting, a further two deployments of the SID have been completed as follows:

- a) Attleborough Road, facing towards Caston  
Deployed: 15:00 hrs 04 May 2020  
Finished: 12:00 hrs 03 June 2020  
The analysis results show:  
24,850 vehicles detected  
Average 832 vehicles/day  
Morning peak time - 10:30 to 11:30  
Afternoon peak time - 16:15 to 17:15  
21,279 vehicles (85.6%) within 40 mph speed limit  
3,571 vehicles (14.4%) exceeding speed limit  
- of which 815 vehicles (3.3%) over 46 mph - and likely open to a fine\*  
Top speed: 60 mph - 05/05/2020 @ 05:50 hrs#
- b) The Street, facing towards School  
Deployed: 11:00 hrs 03 June 2020  
Finished: 16:00 hrs 03 July 2020  
The analysis results show:  
6,511 vehicles detected

Signed .....

Date .....

Average 216 vehicles/day  
Morning peak time - 11:45 to 12:45  
Afternoon peak time - 12:00 to 13:00  
6,445 vehicles (99.0%) within 30 mph speed limit  
66 vehicles (1.0%) exceeding speed limit  
- of which 7 vehicles (0.1%) over 35 mph - and likely open to a fine\*  
Top speed: 40 mph - 03/06/2020 @ 19:25 hrs#

Since the last deployment at the Caston-facing position:

- vehicle movements decreased by 168 per day (that's a decrease of 16.8%)
- vehicles speeding increased slightly from 13.4% to 14.4%
- vehicles open to enforcement action increased very slightly from 3.2% to 3.3%

These figures are not as shocking as those for the Gt Ellingham direction because, I guess, the bends from Caston leading up to the crossroads act as a speed limiting chicane. Nevertheless, 11 vehicles managing to get up to 55-60mph by the time they trigger the sign is not good - particularly in view of the crossroads.

It is noticeable that, since the partial 'relaxing' of lockdown, the volume of Frimstone and other aggregate vehicles traversing Attleborough Road during the day is now hugely significant. Whilst the numerous housing developments in Watton and Great Ellingham are progressing at a pace, I guess we are going to be plagued with these for some time. Of course, when they are finished, we then have a hugely increased commuting community to look forward to...

Since the last deployment at the School-facing position:

- vehicle movements decreased by 48 per day (that's a decrease of 18%)
- vehicles speeding decreased slightly from 1.2% to 1.0%
- vehicles open to enforcement action stayed virtually the same at just 0.1%

Overall, a modest decrease in the total number of vehicles since 'lockdown' began - not surprising in the circumstances. The proportion of speeding vehicles remained relatively very small but, of course, no speeding vehicles are acceptable - particularly in a village street with no pavements.

I would again like to thank my partner Sue for helping me to move the SID during lockdown.

The SID is currently back on Attleborough Road, facing towards Great Ellingham.

I have emailed the sign manufacturers for the additional brackets we need for the new locations at the North end of The Street - I have yet to receive a response.

\* 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.

Thank you to RH for his detailed report.

New sites. 2 new sites have been submitted:

1. 3 houses up from Green Lane junction.
2. Post opposite the track to the church.

Westcotec. RH has a letter quoting £135 plus vat for 3 extra mounting brackets.

All councillors agreed the new brackets should be purchased.

## 15. To update on Highways

Nothing else to report.

## 16. To update on Flooding (RH)

As reported at our last meeting, on 18 May, the NCC contractors returned to the culvert in the area of No.38 The Street, to identify the location and nature of the blockage downstream. They subsequently clearly marked the location of the 'Roots' blockage, in yellow paint, on the road - just inside the boundary of No.48 The Street. NCC Flood Risk Team subsequently sent a letter to the residents at No.48, requesting that they have the blockage cleared. The residents responded very promptly and arranged for a local drainage contractor to further investigate and clear the blockage.

Signed .....

Date .....

The investigation involved significant works and disruption - including removal of a section of fence and hedge, excavations and camera survey. It was extremely annoying therefore that no blockage was found at No.48. A hidden inspection chamber was found, but that was clear of obstructions. Further camera work from the chamber revealed that the blockage was, in fact, further upstream at the Northern end of the front garden of No.46 The Street. Excavation at that point revealed a large tree root ball and, when this was removed, the flooding in the area of 38/36 The Street quickly subsided. As a result of errors by the County Council's contractors, the residents at No.48 incurred serious disruption and expense in trying to deal with the reported problem promptly. The residents are seeking redress and compensation from NCC, which the Parish Council have fully supported.

The Parish Council would like to first thank David and Mary at No.48 for their prompt response in having the drainage problem investigated and apologise for the wholly unnecessary disruption and expense they have experienced. We would also like to thank Simon and Nina at No.46 for agreeing to further investigation and works on their property - which ultimately located the true location of the blockage and enabled its removal.

These works have additionally revealed that the last full survey results and drawings commissioned by Breckland Council in 2003 - which the Parish Council have a copy of - have some errors/omissions which we should be mindful of going forward.

Further investigation of issues around Nos.38/36 The Street are yet to be undertaken.

We still await sight of the report on the survey/works carried out by NCC contractors. Will raise with Ed Connolly.

Open ditch at Village Hall will be on the next agenda for Village hall Committee.

**17. To discuss any correspondence.**

There was no correspondence.

**18. AOB**

**TPO** - The Clerk had sent an email to the Tree officer regarding a TPO on 21 June 2020 but has not yet had a reply. The Clerk will contact again.

**Hedge/verge cutting.** Cllr Southgate confirmed that the Mill Lane/All Saints area would be cut using a small tractor/cutter next week. The Parish Council thanked Cllr. Southgate's son's men for cutting.

**Potholes - Green Lane.** Richard Seaman has filled some of the potholes in. The PC thanked Richard.

**Parking at the Playing Fields.** Donation of aggregate.

**19. Date of next Meeting - PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE from 7 Sept.**

Friday 18 September 2020, 7pm (Will be a virtual meeting)

**The meeting closed at 20.39**

Signed .....

Date .....