

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in Rocklands Village Hall
7.00pm on Monday 16 July 2019

Present:	David Howie	Chair
	Nickie Southgate	Vice Chair
	Shirley Colenutt	
	Tim Ford	
	Richard Harrison	
	Kim Austin	Clerk
	Sarah Suggitt	District Councillor

Also present: 23 members of the public.
The meeting opened at 19:00

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

RESOLVED to accept apologies for absence from Cllr. Ed Connolly who was on holiday.
RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllr. Sarah Eagleton who was unwell.

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 13 May 2019

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

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (13 May 2019) not on the agenda.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation

The meeting adjourned at 19:03. There were no comments from the public and the meeting re-opened at 19:04.

NOTE: Item 13 was covered at this point.

Cllr. Howie introduce Sarah Suggitt, our new District Councillor who was attending her first Rocklands Parish Council meeting.

6. To receive reports

6.1 Village Shop and Post Office (Dave Seaton DS)

The main focus is to recruit more volunteers. The shop has now been open for 5 years and it can sometimes be difficult to maintain momentum. The shop was once overstaffed, and this may have contributed to the reduction in volunteers. No one should feel guilty at not volunteering to help at their community shop as just buying at the shop, supports it in a different way.

Need to keep the current volunteers but add new ones too. Need to connect with the community and make them feel part of something rewarding. There are many positive aspects to volunteering. You will meet people. People are happier when they do good and kind things. Volunteering brings out the strengths and qualities in a person. It can counteract stress. It can enhance careers by having volunteering on one's CV. It is a relaxed and energising escape and makes us good role models for our children.

A volunteer should be passionate and positive. Volunteers do not have to sign up for particular shifts. Could chose a busy shift or initially could choose a shift that is not as busy, to settle in.

Signed

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Some jobs at the shop would not need a volunteer to use the computer or till. The Lottery system is a lot simpler now and easier to use. Lots of other jobs to do including stocking shelves etc. Minimum age for volunteering is 15. Good opportunity for schoolwork experience. Now have an arrangement with Bookers where they deliver every week. New fridges being installed today so will be able to stock higher levels of food. New EPOS system is just starting to pay dividends. Working towards a system that knows what and when to order. End of year stocktake is planned for Sunday 1 September 2019.

6.2 Village Hall (Sarah Good SG)

a. **Village Hall.** Cllr. Howie read out the report from SG.

The Rocklands Village Hall committee had their latest meeting in early June. We discussed advertising the village hall more to boost number of hirings for parties and events. It's surprising how bunting and fairy lights can transform the hall for an event.

We are proud to announce that a new baby changing unit has been installed in the village hall's disabled toilet in memory of Gina Ayres who used to run our village Parent & Toddler Group.

Our plans to re-site the cleaner's storeroom into the annexe and convert the existing storeroom into a mini-museum of Rocklands historical memorabilia is underway. We have builders and plumbers involved in costing this up and once we have received quotes, we will be able to apply for grants to help us fund the work.

During the morning of Saturday 20th July, we will have a craft day at the Village Hall. The idea is to encourage adults and children to create some arts and crafts in readiness for the Summer Show on the 3rd August. Art supplies will be provided for an entrance fee of £1 per person. Show schedules are available here at the hall, from the community shop and the village school. The summer show is our main fundraiser and we'd love to see lots of residents turn out for it. The committee work very hard all year round to keep the village hall running. If you can't support us on the day, perhaps give a small donation towards the upkeep please, as every little helps! One final request - please don't put your glass bottles into your black bins. Instead, please recycle your bottles in our bottle banks, as this generates an easy and welcome income for the Village Hall.

b. **Parent and Toddler Group (Sharon).** The group used to be run by Gina Ayres and Sharon and helpers are determined to keep it going. Has been supported by some people and also the Mann Trust. The shed had leaked, and some toys had got wet but now sorted. Numbers are currently, desperately low. 3 children have now gone to pre-school and only 2 new ones have started. Have produced a questionnaire to measure interest levels and find out what parents want. Will be advertising the summer programme and also increasing the age level to 6. Need everybody to promote the group. Sharon thanked Shena Scholes for co-ordinating and striving the drive the group forward. Thanks also to Richard (Father of one of the children) who very kindly printed the posters free of charge. The group will be advertised in the Rocklander, school, shop, Surestart centre, Attleborough library, face book and twitter. Keen to keep going and will change the day from Monday to Friday. The group has lovely resources and it's a shame if good use is not made of them. It costs £1.50 for 2 hours play including fruit snack, bread stick and 2 drinks for parents. Excellent value. Hopefully the themed summer programme will attract new parents and children. Cath Jones thanked Sharon and John for all their hard work.

6.3 Rocklands Primary School (David Jones DJ)

There was no report from the school.

6.4 Rocklands Playing Fields (SG)

Cllr. Howie read out the report from SG.

The Rocklands Playing Field committee had their latest meeting on the 11th June 2019. It was a long but productive meeting. Green Lane needs some attention near the car park entrance, although we are aware that the potholes do slow the traffic down. We are also hoping to improve the surface of the car park, but this comes at a considerable cost. Last year we paid thousands for new rabbit fencing which was installed around the perimeter of the playing field, new gates

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Date

and picket fencing around the newly laid patio. The patio and new picnic tables which the cricket club had organised and funded is yet another improvement to the site. This together with the high cost of insurance, equipment and running costs, meant the Playing Fields did make a significant financial loss last year. We will need help financially if we go ahead with the car park repairs.

We are trying to think of ways to raise funds other than run a fete next year and will keep you posted. Although we had good weather for our annual village fete on Bank Holiday Monday, the turnout was poor compared to past years.

We paid for our annual ROSPA health and safety inspection of the playground equipment in June. Along with a few repair works that will need to be carried out, the inspection also highlighted that the trim trail and swings will need to be replaced soon.

The cricket season is well under way and the cricket club are doing a fine job organising events for all. They held a 5k colour fun run in June and often sell hotdogs or fire up the BBQ to sell burgers on a Friday evening when the bar is open to the public. The bar is often open on Saturday or Sunday when we have football or cricket matches at home. We do have lager and IPA on draught this month, so please come along to help us drink it. Cllr. Howie added that there had been some minor issues with the new play equipment, but these are now remedied.

6.5 St. Peter's Church (John Brown)

The church is open every day. On average there are ~17 in the congregation and most of these are senior citizens. A family service is held on the first Sunday of every month. This is a fun service, hoping to attract children and more younger people to the church. The large notice boards will display all the children's work throughout the year. Liaising with Mrs. Dekker.

6.6 Rockland All Saints' Church (Cath Jones CJ)

CJ read out a report on behalf of John Scase.

I have been asked by the only church warden, John Scase, to thank all those who have supported All Saints' church once again. He apologises for not being here in person this evening but tonight he is wearing his school governor's hat and is at the Awards ceremony for the Federation of Gt. Ellingham and Rocklands schools. He has asked me to pass on the following information:

Latest on church tower repairs. At the last PC meeting it was reported that repairs may cost in excess of 200K! We have had a good response with people wanting to help. Further surveys have been done by various experts in the field of ancient buildings, and it has been agreed that the next stage is to install 'tell tales' over the cracks which will be inspected to see how much, if any, further movement there is. These will need to be checked using a tall 'cherry picker', which will entail hire costs. In the meantime, the five large bells will not be rung, as that could cause movement. We are assured that the tower will not fall down imminently!

Since the last RPC meeting, we have held two of our major annual fundraisers....Barbara's Day on May 22nd and the Flower Festival which finished its three day run at 5pm this evening! The clearing up and restoration to 'normal' may take a bit longer! We are grateful to all the villagers and those from outside Rocklands, who have supported. Money raised at Barbara's Day was slightly up on last year; it's too soon to tell about the profit from the Flower Festival, but certainly the footfall was much less than previous years. An enormous amount of preparation and work is put into both these events and they are enjoyed by all, but we have to wonder how long they can continue in the long term, looking at the ever-increasing ages of those doing all the organising. Serious thought is being put into sustainability and the future of the churches generally in Rocklands.

Services continue to be held at All Saints on a regular basis and we alternate with St Peter's so that there is never a service at both churches on the same day. As well as the usual Holy Communion and Morning Prayer, we have some special services too, with a very informal and fun atmosphere. The latest was the Pets Service held outside in May.....the rain just about held off for us! It was a lovely service, with about 40 adults, 20 children and lots of animals, ranging from a pony to a guinea pig. Despite a scary moment when a puppy slipped her collar and decided

Signed

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to charge at full pelt round the churchyard before being rugby-tackled by an athletic Dad, all went well. The service started with a moving tribute to our friend, Gina Ayres, whose funeral had taken place a few days previously with about 300 people present. All were invited to light a candle in memory of Gina, led by her three young children, Phoebe, Ellie and Eric as the song 'This little light of mine' was sung and a few moments of silence were held. Like many other organisations in Rocklands, we will all miss Gina.

The details of the services are always published in the Rocklander and are on display at both churches, so you are warmly invited to join us you might be surprised at how things have changed over the years, whilst still retaining the feeling of peace and love that has been there for so many hundreds of years, and still remains !

6.7 White Hart Public House (Dave Thomas DT)

There was no report from the White Hart.

6.8 To update on Chapel Green Meadow (Carolyn Emblem CE)

Thanks to Chris Sharpe, the meadow was visited by James Lowen on 6 June to witness the lek (bit like a disco!) of ghost moths on our meadow to be included in his forthcoming book which will be published by Bloomsbury. He was accompanied by Will Soar who is an expert on moths. Both were envious of our wildlife rich meadow. James told us that the moth lek was the most impressive phenomena that he has covered in his book. Other national moth experts have contacted Chris to say that they have never seen anything like it. This really puts our meadow on the map regionally and perhaps nationally as an important conservation area. I was lucky enough to be there on that evening and it was truly a magical sight - even for someone who is not particularly fond of moths in the bedroom !

Both Bee and common spotted orchids have appeared again this year.

Chris has been advising Attleborough Academy and they have now established 4 areas of meadow having sourced seed from Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew's Grow Wild programme.

Cath Jones and members of Rockland All Saints' Church asked to discuss the possibility of a wild flower meadow at the church and the land has now been set aside ready to go !

We will be cutting the meadow during late August or early September and will put a note on the Rocklands website of the date. Anyone who would like to join us in some old fashioned haymaking is welcome.

Helen from Norfolk Wildlife Trust will be visiting the meadow and the pond with a view to advising us on the best way to regenerate the pond.

So, there are 3 things that we can celebrate, all of which spring from the vision of the Rockland Chapel Green Restoration Group at the turn of the millennium, and the continued effort of Rocklands Parish Council and of the volunteers in the Chapel Green Management Committee.

We would like to pursue the idea of obtaining local nature reserve status for Chapel Green Meadow and we would like the Parish Council, as the owners of the land, to carry this forward.

The email address is: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

Finally - a small reminder - we still do not have a sign reminding people that commercial vehicles should not be parking by the meadow.

An important note: It would appear that every time Chris goes onto the meadow, someone throws dog poo into his garden. And the last time, the bench which has been on the verge at the back of his garden for people to sit was thrown into the hedge. Whoever is doing this must stop.

6.9 Rocklands Play Park (Kirsty Daynes KD)

There was no update from the playpark.

7.0 To report on financial matters

7.1 Financial position

Bank account balances as at Monday 13 May 2019

Signed

Date

Barclays Community Account	£	8254.40
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	2333.61
TOTAL as per bank	£	10588.01

Summary

RPC Rocklands Parish Council	£	6610.41
RNP Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RG)	£	200.60
Rocklands Play Park (KR)	£	3777.00
TOTAL as per bank	£	10588.01

7.2 Money in since last meeting (13 May 2019)

21/5/19	Chapel Green Licence Fee - Pat Robinson (Cash)	£	1.00
3/6/19	Barclays Saver Account Interest	£	1.16
2/7/19	HMRC VAT Return - year ended 31/3/19	£	3886.34
	TOTAL IN	£	3888.50

7.3 Money out since last meeting (13 May 2019)

7.3.1 Standing Orders/Direct Debits

15/5/2019	Eon -Electricity (DD)	£	34.46
17/6/2019	Eon -Electricity (DD)	£	35.62
1/6/2019	Clerk's wages (SO)	£	273.87
1/7/2019	Clerk's wages (SO)	£	273.87
	TOTAL OUT	£	617.82

7.3.2 Cheques out (to sign)

CHQ 664	K&M Lighting 2 months maint. (Jun/July 2019)	£	27.56
CHQ 665	Rocklands Playing Field - Hall hire - Flood meeting	£	20.00
CHQ 666	David Howie (Chair). Ink and paper	£	22.74
	TOTAL OUT	£	70.30

8. To consider planning applications

8.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting

APP/F2605/18/3210970 (3PL/2017/0899/F) Cotes/green lane-mill lane/7 dwellings (162) APPROVED
 Councillors were very upset that this application had been approved. They deemed it a bad decision by Breckland considering the flood risks. RPC had met with various organisations including the NCC Flood Risk Team. After a site visit they realised the seriousness of the flood risk in this area, saying they would have strongly objected. Normally, NCC flood risk team would not automatically be consulted for developments of less than 10 properties. However, they had commented on the appeal, but that was before the visits to the village. They would see if anything could be done at this late stage. A resident mentioned going to the press or going outside the broken Breckland planning process if the decision is technically flawed. Breckland Planning Committee totally ignored the flooding/photographs. There was talk of ombudsmen, the High Court and judicial reviews. A resident even talked of corruption in the planning department considering the applicant's agent.

RG explained that Breckland has objected originally and then it went to appeal where Breckland could have been stronger in their objections. Rocklands have done very well in opposing inappropriate or detrimental applications which, had they been approved would have resulted in ~60 extra houses ! This application is in a particularly sensitive location and if there were any chance should be overturned. We are over our quota of a 5% increase in housing. This application uses up our quota in one hit. Inspector had all the information on which to base his decision. Developers/House buyers should not be interested in these houses due to the flooding control requirements.

There was a round of applause in appreciation of the hard work over many months by the PC and other members of the village in respect of these matters. Lucky to have people in the village that can help.

Signed

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3PL/2019/0020/UC Douglas/Magna Farm/Change of use to 2 dwellings (166) REFUSED (PC - NO OBJ)
3PL/20190344/VAR Annison/Mill Lane/Enlargement and changes, Variation of condition 2 (167) APPROVED
Despite the size of the dwelling being increased by ~30% the enlargement has been approved. It doesn't seem right that the Planning Inspectorate can set the conditions at appeal and then Breckland can overturn the decisions of the Planning Inspectorate when the PI is considered the higher body. There will be a formal complaint to the Breckland Director of Place, Robert Walker.

3DC/2019/0092/DOC Annison/Mill Lane/Discharge of condition 3 (168) APPROVED

8.2 Applications pending outcome

3PL/2018/1533/O CORCORAN/Land south of the street/1 dwellings, parking, turning/access (157)
This application will go before the Planning Committee at which RPC will make representations.

8.3 New applications since last meeting:

3PL/2019/0609/HOU Spratt/The Cottage/Rear window, first floor landing (169) APPROVED (PC - NO OBJ)

8.4 Planning enforcement issues

No update on Peels Farm.

Enforcement order on Rutters/Yeomans Cottage. 3PL/2019/0130/VAR & 3PL/2019/0269/LB.

9. To update on First Time Sewerage System for Rocklands St. Peter

This has been confirmed as planned for the 5 year time slot from 2020-2025.

10. To update on the Defibrillator (TF)

The defibrillator has a new battery so is now working and will be re-registered with the East of England ambulance service as functional.

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

Breckland Local Plan was examined by the Planning Inspectorate (PI) and there was a long list of amendments. There was a consultation in January 2019 for 6 weeks. Breckland made mistakes in presenting the PI amendments which led to another 6 week consultation. Comments made by RPC/RNP had highlighted the discrepancies in HOU04. RG had looked at HOU04 today 8/7/2019 and found more transcription errors. RG has notified Breckland. Can't get on with RNP until LP has been delivered. RG received invitation to attend a meeting organised by CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England.) Good for networking and making contacts. Some councillors may attend. Cllr. Howie said that the deletions to HOU04 were not useful. The original had given some protection. Wait to see the final version.

12. To update on Flashing Speed sign (RH)

Very disappointing that PC Paula Gilluley, earlier at this meeting, had said not to bother with SAM2/SID ! RH had thought he had finalised the 4 locations for the unit until he was told at the very last minute that it could not be put in a 40mph zone. However, we have now been given permission. Blue tooth connection to download the data. The Police are not interested in the data as they do not have the resources to analyse it. Memorandum of undertaking has been signed. Parish Council need to pay £1175 after grant money has been taken into consideration. Cllr. Harrison needs to do a risk assessment; manual handling, working alongside traffic etc. Note: High viz jackets have been donated - thank you. Volunteers include: Richard, Frank, John, Tim, Dave and Sue.

13. To update on Speed watch and Neighbourhood Watch (PC Paula Gilluley)

Cllr. Howie introduced PC Paula Gilluley of Norfolk Constabulary. Paula handed out the All Saints and Wayland police newsletter. Paula is the Breckland Engagement Officer, the link with what's going on in the area. She has several hats, co-ordinating scam awareness, fetes, support, special constables and volunteers and compilation and distribution of newsletters. 'Nextdoor' is a new social media website to stay connected with your neighbourhood. The site was trialled 12 weeks ago.

Rural crime is more prevalent in the north side of Breckland. Paula talked about a prolific shed/farm burglar in the Watton area and a spate of thefts from cars in East Harling. Try to make rural people

Signed

Date

feel less vulnerable. She promoted that both Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speed Watch are a good idea. Paula said she had received the feedback regards speeding on the Attleborough Road in Rocklands. Visibility in the Watton direction is not good especially when cars are speeding. Cllr. Harrison said the issue of speeding is brought up at every SNAP meeting. Rocklands used to have Community Speed Watch and, after having provided 18 months of data to the Police, the Police having provided a good supportive report with recommendations to NCC Highways, there was no follow up/action with Highways - so the watch was reluctantly disbanded. Paula explained that because the speed guns are not calibrated the data cannot be used for prosecution, but speed watch has been proven to reduce traffic speed. Cars slow down as soon as they see the teams and guns. There is no revenue from cameras/fines. Cllr. Harrison said speeding had doubled in Rocklands since 2015. The Police do not have enough resources to provide frequent speed monitoring in every parish.

A member of Rocklands speed watch team said they had been told they needed a fatality for action to be taken. Some people do reduce their speed. Some just swear and shake their fists. The team were met with some aggression. Cllr. Harrison explained Rocklands were working closely with NCC Highways on a SAM2 flashing unit. Paula was not keen on SAM2 units. Cllr. Harrison explained, the stretch of road from Great Ellingham to Rocklands is 60mph. The warning sign for 40 mph is too late on the double apex bend - need earlier warning, but Parish Council have no remit. NCC Highways accept that the 40mph sign could be moved, but lack of funds. NCC Highways do not attend SNAP meetings, probably due to low resources. Cllr. Howie said that any contact with NCC Highways used to be awful but is now better with John Cotton, who is very helpful and managing to build a much better relationship. Paula said she was pleased to see such a full audience at this Parish Council meeting before leaving.

14. To update on Highways

John Cotton from NCC Highways is the best contact Rocklands has ever had ! Outstanding work has miraculously been completed. The signs at the ends of Low Lane have now been done after many years of trying. Jennie Bartlett says thank you to John for the dropped kerbs/slopes that she can now manage in her wheelchair. These have made such a big difference. Thank you.

15. To update on Flooding (RH)

Following the multi-agency flood meeting more local info/flooding data came to light. Met with Nathan Harris (NCC Flood Risk Team) and the documents were very useful. NCC Flood Risk Team want to do a full survey of The Street, Low Lane and surrounding areas showing all ditches/culverts/manholes/gardens etc. but a significant point of damage/blockage needs to be sorted first. Cllrs. Harrison and Eagleton have spoken to the resident regarding riparian responsibilities. Once unblocked, NCC Flood Risk Team will arrange for the survey and remove any minor blockages they may find with a remote cutting tool as they go. Sections of culverts do run across peoples' properties. Some may not even know they are there. The legislation regarding culverts/drains is complex. A leaflet will be prepared and provided given to Rockland's Parish residents explaining proposals and responsibilities in law. This information will be kept as simple as possible. NCC Flood Risk Team and RPC will approve the leaflet. There will subsequently be an open meeting for the whole parish, where we hope to have representatives of NCC Flood Risk Team present. Thank you to Ed Connolly for facilitating the multi-agency involvement.

16. To discuss any correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

17. AOB

There was no AOB.

18. Date of next Meeting

Monday 2 September 2019, 7pm, Rocklands Village Hall

Signed

Date

The meeting closed at 21.20

Signed

Date